

**2020 TOKYO OLYMPICS:
GAME CHANGER FOR JAPAN?**

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Executive summary

1. In September 2013, Japan's Prime Minister Abe Shinzo clinched the bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo after assuring the IOC (International Olympics Committee) delegates that the radioactive Fukushima nuclear plant will not endanger the Japanese capital.
2. Abe declared the 2020 Games as his "fourth arrow" for economic recovery. His earlier "three arrows" were the bold doubling of money supply in two years, Keynesian stimulus (including massive public work spending) and "structural reforms".
3. Prime Minister Abe believes that the Tokyo Games will showcase Japan's resurgence after the March 2011 Triple Disasters (9-Richter scale earthquake in Northeast Japan, tsunami and nuclear meltdown in Fukushima).
4. At least US\$6 billion will be pumped into the preparation of the Tokyo Olympics. The Games are expected to create 150,000 new jobs from 2013 to 2020.
5. The construction and tourism sectors are expected to gain substantially (with an anticipated 290,000 visitors to the Games). The 2020 Tokyo Olympics is forecasted to reap a windfall of US\$30 billion.
6. Ishiba Shigeru, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is optimistic that the Games will "have a great effect" on Japan's economy, and will be a morale booster.
7. Conceivably, the Games will galvanize the Japanese state and society to put up a good show to impress the international community.

8. The Tokyo Olympics as a “single arrow” is unlikely to be a game changer for Japan but, along with the other three arrows of Abenomics, it is set to speed up the recovery of the Japanese economy.
9. Abe’s popularity with the electorate is likely to increase with the clinching of the Games and its attendant public work spending to stimulate the economy. He may then be tempted to pursue a nationalistic agenda (including constitutional revision) which is likely to anger China and South Korea.
10. What could cast a pall on the Tokyo Olympics could just be one accidental but deadly collision or clash (at sea or air) that may trigger massive anti-Japanese demonstrations in many Chinese cities followed by an Olympics boycott.
11. Whether athletes and tourists could enjoy a peaceful 2020 Tokyo Olympics depends largely on Japan and China avoiding a Cold War mentality and keeping their relations on an even keel.