

Speech by WADA President, Witold Bańka Japan Anti-Doping Agency's International Anti-Doping Seminar in Asia and Oceania

14 December 2022: Tokyo, Japan

Dear Mr. Ide Yosei, State Minister, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and WADA Executive Committee member representing the Governments of Asia; Madam Vice-President of WADA Yang Yang; Dr. Murofushi Koji, Commissioner, Japan Sports Agency; Professor Akama Takao, Chair of the Japan Anti-Doping Agency; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. In particular, I thank Professor Takao and his team for this invitation and for your commitment to anti-doping in Japan and throughout the Asia region. I apologize that my schedule means I cannot attend the seminar in person this year. But I know that WADA is well represented by several key individuals. They are giving you the benefit of their considerable experience and expertise over the two days of this meeting. This event began way

back in 2008. It is a regular and important fixture in the anti-doping calendar. WADA is happy to support it.

WADA has always recognized the importance of partnerships in the pursuit of clean sport. JADA and the Government of Japan are key partners for us. You play a major leadership role in this region. You make an important contribution to the anti-doping landscape. That is why I want to thank the Japan Sports Agency and JADA for running this conference in partnership with WADA. It is a great opportunity to listen to one another, strengthen existing connections, make new ones and reflect on our role as leaders of the anti-doping movement. All this with the objective of raising the game for athletes, wherever they happen to be.

I also acknowledge that Japan has been very supportive of National and Regional Anti-Doping Organization development over the years. Through an annual funding agreement with WADA, the Government of Japan has contributed more than USD 2 million to support the RADOs in Asia. JADA has a memorandum of understanding with the South-East Asia RADO whereby it helps in the development of that RADO's member countries. I

know that JADA also helps with building capacity in the Indonesia NADO and assisting in its ongoing development. And of course, this seminar is an important annual event in the Asia and Oceania regions. JADA covers the costs of the attendance of many NADOs and RADOs at the meeting so they can benefit from it.

I am delighted that JADA's influence will continue to be felt around this region and, indeed globally, as Ms. Chika Hirai was recently elected to WADA's NADO Expert Advisory Group. We look forward to her contributions to that forum.

It is great to see many Governments, sports organizations and National Anti-Doping Organizations of the Asia and Oceania regions working together, with WADA's support, for the good of the overall system.

This seminar is an opportunity to take a step back from the day-to-day business and reflect on what we should be doing as a community. Under the theme "Re-uniting the Clean Sport Community", the conference will help to make our global anti-doping community stronger. WADA is here to support in every way we can. We will continue to encourage clean sport as we highlight the values of honesty, respect and integrity. This is this same

philosophy that led to WADA's creation 23 years ago. It remains true today. If we work together as one, we can achieve anything.

To do that we must constantly be adapting and innovating. Later today, WADA Director General Olivier Niggli will go through some of the details as to how WADA is doing just that. The Agency's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 is delivering on our mission to lead a global collaborative movement for doping-free sport and is raising the game for athletes of the world. As you will hear from Olivier, meaningful governance reforms are equipping WADA with the tools it needs to do just that. I am proud of the work carried out since 2016 to reform our governance model. As a result, we are seeing a significant swing towards more independence and enhanced representation for athletes and for NADOs such as JADA.

Another important area which will require creativity and a capacity to adapt is funding. To deliver on our mission, WADA must be adequately resourced. Our 2023 budget is just over USD 50 million, which is modest when one considers the scale of our mission to protect athletes in all sports and from all countries.

Every year, WADA is being asked to do more and more to protect athletes around the world. We are up for the challenge. This is why it was so rewarding to receive the full support of our Foundation Board members in May as they approved increases to WADA's budget of 8%, 6% and 6% for the next three years, from 2023-25. We are encouraged and grateful to receive this financial commitment from Governments and the Sport Movement. It is a clear endorsement of the work being done and a vote of confidence in our ability to deliver on our strategic and operational plan.

Moving forward, it is very important to find new ways of generating resources so that governments and sports do not shoulder the burden alone. We are actively pursuing private funding from other sources and we recently announced a sponsorship deal, with South African broadcaster, SuperSport. Although the current economic environment is very difficult, we are confident that there will be other partners that will join us.

Additional funding will strengthen WADA's and the community's ability to deliver in important areas such as:

- Intelligence and Investigations;

- Compliance monitoring – making sure high standards are maintained all over the world;
- The capacity of Anti-Doping Organizations;
- Values-based anti-doping education; and
- Scientific research and innovation.

Speaking of scientific research, this is extremely important for the future of WADA and the success of the anti-doping system. Research grants are critical because they increase the volume of research dedicated to developing new and improved detection methods for performance-enhancing substances and methods. They also attract high-level researchers to this cause. That is why we are going to invest up to USD 4.5 million in the next three years. But this amount is still very limited and that is why WADA is seeking to partner with existing research funds or governmental programs that so far do not focus on anti-doping in sport. We have been successful in partnering with the Fonds de Recherche du Québec. We are currently in discussion with the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the United States. But we do not want Asia and Oceania to be left out. We hope you will support us in that effort.

Before closing, I want to say something about education. I know this is one of the topics up for discussion today and it is very important. In September, we held a landmark Global Education Conference in Sydney, Australia. I understand Dr. Yamamoto will shortly offer more details on the outcomes of that conference. In Sydney, I called on Anti-Doping Organizations to focus more on education and make it one of the key pillars of their strategic plans.

Put simply, education is the single best long-term solution that we have for protecting the values of sport – clean sport. It is a critical component of the global anti-doping system. Testing and investigations are important – of course they are – but detection and punishment cannot be the only angle of attack. More and more, we are seeing the real results that education delivers in preventing doping and supporting athletes in their efforts to compete clean throughout their careers. We need to balance the anti-doping system between ‘catch and punish’ and ‘support and prevent’. This is the new era.

That is why education is a central part of WADA’s core functions. It is the key to providing athletes with the support they need to compete clean

throughout their careers. It is time to put it front and center and take it as seriously as we take other key areas of anti-doping, like science, medicine and the law.

Ladies and gentlemen, as the global anti-doping regulator, WADA is constantly evolving. We remain vigilant to the threats and also the opportunities. Many of our stakeholders are showing progress and a real determination to collaborate and reach sustainable solutions – in a harmonized and cohesive way.

There is, of course, still a lot of work ahead of us to protect the dreams of clean athletes. We continue moving forward – always aiming to be ahead of those who would cheat the system. We don't rely on one or two tools – we are ready to protect sport from all angles, with innovation. Anti-doping is all about partnership. With the commitment and dedication of governments, sports, athletes and many other stakeholder groups, including the authorities in Japan, we can achieve our mission.



We at WADA look forward to your ongoing support. Together we will work with you all to further strengthen the global anti-doping system. Bit by bit and day by day.

Thank you all for your efforts and ongoing commitment to clean sport. And please, enjoy this excellent seminar.