

Topic V: Situation of International Terrorism and Efforts of the Police – Toward the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games

Currently, the international community, including Japan, is facing a wide range of threats of international terrorism. In 2016, terrorist attacks occurred in various parts of the world, including the truck attack that occurred in Nice, France in July of the same year, and some of these attacks also victimized Japanese nationals living overseas. In addition to the fact that ISIL has repeatedly pointed out Japan and the Japanese nationals as targets of terrorism, some people in Japan express their support toward ISIL.

Under such circumstances and considering the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games to be hosted in 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the “Tokyo Games” in this section), Japan must take full security measures in order to fulfill the responsibilities as a host country.

(1) Terrorist Attacks Targeting Major Sporting Events

Two major sporting events are scheduled to be held in Japan: the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the Tokyo Games. These major international sporting events will be attended by a large number of foreign VIPs, athlete groups and visitors and will attract an enormous amount of attention from around the world, which makes them potential terrorist targets.

In fact, there have been a number of terrorist attacks that targeted major international sporting events. For example, during the World Cup in South Africa in 2010, two suicide bombings that were targeted at World Cup watchers in a restaurant, were carried out in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, killing 76 people. In the Boston Marathon bombing that occurred in April 2013, two bombings near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, which had more than 20,000 entrants, detonated and killed 3 people. In November 2015, a series of coordinated terrorist attacks occurred in Paris, France. Suicide bombers struck and exploded near the stadium during a friendly soccer match between France and Germany and some of the suicide bombers tried to get into the stadium where the French President and German Foreign Minister were also watching the game.

Considering the fact that ISIL has been proclaiming its intention to attack outdoor events and gatherings on its online magazine, it is undeniable that terrorist attacks arising from this propaganda will continue to occur at major sporting events or other mass-gathering areas.

[Column] Security for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit

The G7 Ise-Shima Summit was held in Kashikojima, Shima City, Mie Prefecture on May 26, 2016. After the summit on the 27th, President Obama (former) visited Hiroshima, the atomic-bombed city, for the first time as the sitting U.S. president. Eight meetings were concentrated in about a month and a half, between the Foreign Ministers’ Meeting held in Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture on April 10 and 11 and the Finance Ministers’ and Central Bank Governors’ Meeting held in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture on May 20 and 21. Also in September, the Health Ministers’ Meeting and the Transport Ministers’ Meeting were held in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture and Karuizawa Town, Nagano Prefecture respectively.



The 42nd G7 Summit Meeting in Ise-Shima
(Provided by: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan)

The National Police Agency (NPA) established the Committee of Security Measures on G7 Ise-Shima Summit headed by the Deputy Commissioner-General of the NPA in June 2015. In addition, Mie, Hiroshima, Miyagi and Aichi Prefectural Police established the Summit Countermeasures Division and all other prefectural police formed a committee for security measures. Through this system, the police nationwide strongly carried out comprehensive security measures in a unified manner and fulfilled the responsibility to provide a safe and secure environment as a host country.

The police will closely examine the effects of security measures implemented for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and accurately reflect them in future measures to deliver thorough security at the Tokyo Games.

(2) Efforts of the Police toward the Tokyo Games

In January 2014, the police established the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic Games Preparation Office at the NPA and the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department Olympic and Paralympic Games Task Force at the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and are carrying out the examination on various security measures at the Tokyo Games. In addition to these efforts, various preparations necessary for the success of the Tokyo Games are underway. For example, the Deputy Commissioner General of the NPA has been assigned as “senior security commander”, which is to lead related organizations at the planning/management stage of security at the Tokyo Games. Also, the security information center that conducts information gathering, risk analysis on the Tokyo Games and other functions has been established in the NPA. During the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro in the summer of 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the “Rio Games”), local security conditions and other factors were also studied to make the best of their experience in security measures and other efforts for the Tokyo Games.

Unlike the Rio Games of which competition venues were concentrated in four areas, those of the Tokyo Games are dispersed around and outside Tokyo. Therefore, it is necessary to examine effective and efficient integration of vigilance to ensure a high security level for each venue. As it is currently under consideration that the Olympic torch relay, which takes place prior to the start of the Tokyo Games, will pass through all prefectures in Japan, measures to prevent any disruption of the relay, which occurred in previous Olympic Games, need to be examined by the police nationwide.

Furthermore, as the Internet is becoming a social infrastructure that is indispensable for people’s lives and socioeconomic activities, we must be prepared for the threat of cyber-attacks that can paralyze the functions of society. Major international sporting events are increasingly becoming the targets of cyber-attacks as seen in the Rio Games, where websites of government agencies and organizations related to the Rio Games were made inaccessible and information was stolen by cyber-attacks. To be prepared for the Tokyo Games, the police are promoting information gathering, analysis and other measures concerning cyber-attacks and attackers in collaboration with related agencies, and are also conducting joint drills that assume the occurrence of cyber-attacks.