

## OLYMPICS/ Japanese factories form 'cool' partnership with Jamaican bobsled team

- 1) After repeated rejections by their home country's team, a group of factories in Tokyo will provide the bobsled for Jamaica at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.
- 2) The Jamaican national team on Jan. 16 decided to use the "Shitamachi Bobsleigh" (downtown bobsleigh) developed by small independent factories in Ota Ward after a test run in Nagano Prefecture.
- 3) "We are happy that the world has recognized technological advantages of back-street factories," said Junichi Hosogai, the 49-year-old manager of the bobsled development project. "By closely collaborating with the Jamaican team, we will make further efforts to surprise the world at the Olympics."
- 4) The team from the tropical island nation made a dramatic debut at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympics and helped to draw much attention to the sport. The 1993 Hollywood film "Cool Runnings," based on the team's experiences, fueled its popularity around the world.
- 5) Bobsledding, a high-velocity sport, has been described as "Formula One on ice." World famous automakers, including Ferrari and BMW, are involved in bobsled manufacturing.
- 6) While no large Japanese manufacturer has entered the bobsled-making competition, the small factories in Ota Ward joined hands in 2011 to develop a bobsled to show off their technological edge to the world.
- 7) The group initially hoped the Japanese national team would use the Shitamachi Bobsleigh, but it was rejected for the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Further refinements to the sled still could not bring the Japanese team on board for the Pyeongchang Olympics.
- 8) The entrepreneurs pitched the bobsled to various embassies in Tokyo before the Jamaicans decided to use it.【January 17, 2016/Asahi Shimbun/By KANAKO MIYAJIMA】



The Jamaican national team tests the "Shitamachi Bobsleigh" at a course in Nagano Prefecture on Jan. 15. ↑

technological advantage:技術的優位 collaborate with:〜と協力する draw attention:注目を集める fuel:あおる、刺激する high-velocity:高速の technological edge:技術面での優位性 refinement:改善、改良 on board:〜に乗って、一員で entrepreneur:企業家 pitch:売り込む、宣伝する embassy:大使館

### ★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. Have you watched the movie "Cool Runnings"? How do you like it?
2. The bobsled for the Jamaican team will be provided by some small independent factories in Japan. What can you say about this?
3. Bobsledding is one of the high-velocity sports. Can you name any other similar sports?
4. Why do you think some people love extreme sports? If given a chance, would you like to try one of them?
5. Which winter sport are you looking forward to watch during the next winter Olympics?
6. Make sentences using the following words: rejections, back-street, collaborate, velocity, technological edge, refinement, entrepreneur, pitch and embassy.

ボブスレーのジャマイカチームは、1988年、カナダカルガリーオリンピックに初出場し、映画「クールランニング」のモデルにもなった。その後4大会連続出場をしたが、資金不足等でソチ五輪まで欠場が続いた。一方、大田区の高い職人技術を持つ町工場は後継者不足やPRに悩んでいる。世界が注目する五輪の舞台で、もの作りの技術を世界に発信することが出来るか期待が寄せられている。