



## Security measures heightened ahead of the Tokyo Marathon 2015

1) Organizers of the Tokyo Marathon 2015, which will be held Sunday February 22nd, are strengthening security following the deaths of two Japanese hostages last month at the hands of the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq (ISIS).

2) "We have held anti-terrorism drills and have worked closely with the police agency so we are confident of delivering a safe race," Koji Sakurai, the race's president said in an interview with the Associated Press.

3) In 2013, the race was listed on the World Marathon Majors including Boston, Chicago, London, Berlin and New York. Around 30,000 runners are expected to take part in the marathon and more than 1.5 million spectators are going to cheer them on, but fears of a possible attack are heightened.

4) Two years ago, the Boston Marathon was the target of a bombing that killed three and injured over 250. Following this incident, the Tokyo Marathon 2014 had increased security and an increased number of police officers present.

5) The number of police officer will be the same this year as it was last; however, 64 "Running Police" with nightsticks, whistles and tear-gas will run in groups covering 10 km each of the 42 km race to mingle with the runners.

6) "Ensuring the safety of everyone involved is the top priority when holding this marathon," a foundation official said. "The marathon will be held under tight security, but we want participants to run with peace of mind."

7) The runners are also not allowed to carry plastic water bottles while running; however, they will be allowed to carry a wearable banana from Dole, so not everyone is taking the increased security measures too seriously. 【Feb 20, 2015/Nikkei Voice】

confident: 自信がある nightstick: 警棒 whistle: 警笛 tear-gas: 催涙ガス mingle: 混ざる peace of mind: 安心  
~~※~~wearable banana について <http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/2015/02/20/wearable-banana-watch-coming-to-tokyo-marathon/>

## Tokyo Police Conduct Anti-Terrorism Drill in Ginza in Preparation for Tokyo Marathon

8) With one month to go until the Tokyo Marathon, the Tokyo police department carried out an anti-terrorism training drill on Jan. 22 on the section of the course running through the Ginza area of Tokyo. Roughly 80 people took part, including riot police, Tsukiji officials and members of the local shop owners association.

9) The exercise revolved around a scenario in which officers on patrol before the race discovered a suspicious man in a parking lot near the course. Police dogs detected the smell of gunpowder on the man's bag, leading to the discovery of explosives. Riot police wearing protective clothing transported the explosives to a safe location.

10) Tsukiji director **Shinya Mito** spoke after the exercise, touching upon the threats by the group calling itself Islamic State to kill two Japanese hostages and warning, "Terrorism is not just a foreign problem. It happens right here in our midst in Japan as well."

11) According to the police department, this was the second time they have conducted an anti-terrorism exercise in preparation for the Tokyo Marathon. Last year they performed a drill in response to the bombings in the United States at the April, 2013 Boston Marathon.

### ★Ice breaker for active discussion★

1. How significant is the Tokyo marathon? Why is it so popular among amateur runners?
2. Have you ever tried joining a marathon? If not, would you like to try? Why or why not?
3. Do you remember the attack in a Boston marathon 2 years ago?  
If you do, please tell something about it.
4. The host city plays an important role in ensuring security during big events.  
What are the implications of any accidents or disasters that might happen?
5. What do you think about the idea of "Running Police"?
6. The article mentioned about a "wearable banana". What is your image about it?
7. Make sentences using the following words: hostage, confident, mingle, tear gas  
heighten, ahead of, participant and peace of mind.

東京都庁をスタートして皇居周辺や銀座、日本橋、浅草など東京の中心地をめぐる東京マラソンは、石原慎太郎都知事が強行して2007年にはじまった。定員はフルマラソンが3万5500人、10キロマラソンが500人だが、フルマラソンは抽選の倍率が10倍以上となる人気ぶりだ。毎回およそ1万人ものボランティアが、給水所などでのランナーたちへのサポート業務、沿道の見物客の案内・誘導などに携わっている。計64人のランニングポリスは、2人1組で8組が5分おきにスタートし、約10キロごとに次のチームに交代するリレー方式で走りながら警戒に当たった。