

Press Release

13 October 2022

Japan Sailing Federation

Japan Prime Minister set to welcome

One week to go: World Para Sailing Championships in Hiroshima



Japan will make Para Sailing history in just 7 days by hosting its first simultaneous Para World Sailing Championships with the Hansa Class Asia Pacific Championships on 20-23 October in Hiroshima Kannon Marina.

Over 120 sailors from eleven countries will compete in Japan in the Para World Sailing Championships (Hansa 303 male and female, and Liberty classes) and Asia Pacific Championships (Hansa 303 single and double, Hansa 2.3 single and Liberty).

The Prime Minister of Japan, Fumio Kishida, has been a vocal supporter of the Para World Championships ever since the decision was made for dual hosting.

Speaking at the launch event in his home town at the fully accessible Hiroshima Kannon Marina, Kishida championed the role of Para Sailing and Para sports in creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive society:

“It is a challenge common to the international community to create a society



where all people, young and old, people with disabilities, men and women, can feel a sense of purpose in life.

“I am convinced that the many participants from all over the world who will gather in Hiroshima to compete in the scenic Setonaikai (Inland Sea) will inspire and encourage people with their bright and shining lives and help Japan to develop a society in which diversity is respected.”

Japanese Paralympic sailor Yoko Sone, competing in the Hansa 303 single at the Para World Sailing Championships, reflects on what this means for global Para Sailing:

“It is very important for the Japanese people to see that Para Sailors and non-Para sailors can both enjoy this sport.

Before sailing, I tried wheelchair basketball and wheelchair skiing but they are very different - in sailing, we sail in the same water and in the same boats.

We are showing that sailing is an inclusive sport and now with our first official world championship for Para Sailors in Japan, we can show the world that Asia has good venues and opportunities for Para Sailing - this will encourage other Asian nations to start Para Sailing programmes, even non-Para sailing programmes.”

In the championships, not only the sailing race but also the SDGs race will be held. Aiming to further raise awareness of SDGs, this is a race to compete for contribution to environmental conservation. Using a dedicated web application developed by the Japan Sailing Federation, 15 evaluation items are added daily and points are accumulated, and the top three will be awarded on the final day of the competition.

Masuhiko Bamba, President of Japan Sailing Federation, concluded:

“Para Sailing is a vital sporting force for creating an inclusive society. Building a



society that recognises and celebrates diversity will raise awareness, tolerance and acceptance, and create new levels of respect within the community.

“Hiroshima, the International Peace Memorial City, has been hosting Hansa Class events for more than 20 years and being chosen to stage these two international competitions will inspire growth in sailing across the region and give courage to sailors to pursue their dreams on the water.”

The 2022 Hansa Class Asia Pacific Championships and Para World Sailing Championships are being organised by the Japan Sailing Federation, International Hansa Class Association, Japan Hansa Class Association and Hiroshima Sailing Federation, supported by World Sailing and fourteen local media, sports and education partners including the Japan Para Sports Association and Hiroshima Prefecture and City Para Sports Associations.

【For more information and Contact】

www.hansaclass-hiroshima.com
media.hansahiroshima2022@jsaf.or.jp

【Media registration】
<https://forms.gle/cdfoxf7Bxcug2JtA9>