

7 November 2022

OBITUARY

We deeply regret to announce that Hirobumi Kawano, honorary president of the Japan Sailing Federation, passed away on 5 November 2022.

According to his family's wishes, the funeral will be held only by his relatives, so we would decline condolence flowers, messages, or telegrams. We plan to hold a farewell event with related organisations at another time.

Over the years, Mr. Kawano has made significant contributions across sports and cultural development of Japan's sailing scene and he believed passionately in the potential of Japan's sailing future.

His lifelong passion and leadership inspired us a lot and that apparently led Tokyo 2020 Olympics' Sailing Competition to success last year. As President of the Japan Sailing Federation and Vice President of the Japanese Olympic Committee, he dedicated work with various stakeholders to ensure the big sports event success in the difficult circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, and such efforts realised the top sailors' exciting and truly spectacular games in Enoshima which were broadcasted worldwide.

His passing is a great loss to us, however his achievements in Japan's sailing industry will be long remembered

Hirobumi Kawano

1 January 1946 – 5 November 2022 (Age 76)

Main Career

1999-2002: Chief Secretary, Ministry of International Trade and Industry/Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Agency for Natural Resources and Energy

2008-2016: Corporation Chairman, Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National

2011-2021: President, Japan Sailing Federation

2013-2017: Vice President, Japanese Olympic Committee

Sports Organisations (current positions only)

Honorary President, Japan Sailing Federation

Chairman, Tokyo Golf Club

Honorary Committee Member, Japanese Olympic Committee

Auditor, Japan Sportsman Club Foundation

Honorary Chairman, Enoshima Yacht Club

Board Member, Tansei Sailing Club

Other careers

Graduated from Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo

Ministry of International Trade and Industry

(Former) Senior Managing Executive Officer, JFE Steel Corporation

(Former) Outside Director, Sony Corporation

Outside Director, Secom Co., Ltd.

(Former) Outside Auditor, San'ai Obli Co., Ltd.

Advisor, J Will Co., Ltd.