



【President OGATA: JAAF Centenary Statement】

I am Mitsugi Ogata, President of the Japan Association of Athletics Federations (JAAF)

100 years ago, on 8th March 1925, JAAF was founded with the mission of promoting and developing athletics in a healthy and sustainable manner. Today, we proudly celebrate our 100th anniversary.

To all who have supported and contributed to the growth of athletics, I express my deepest appreciation. As we reflect on the aspirations of our founders, we stand at the threshold of a new century, ready to take bold steps forward.

Athletics is the foundation of all sports—the "Mother of Sports"—as it encompasses the essential human movements of running, jumping, throwing, and walking. It has the power to inspire, energize lifestyles, and enrich society. We believe that the advancement of athletics will continue to serve as a cornerstone of Japan's sporting culture, fostering personal growth and contributing to a healthier society.

The outstanding performances of Japanese national athletes in recent years reflect a century of dedication and progress, showcasing the vast potential of Japanese sports.

As we celebrate our centennial in 2025, Tokyo will host the World Athletics Championships. The sight of the world's greatest athletes competing at the highest level will undoubtedly ignite the dreams and aspirations of the next generation.

。

Amidst this remarkable momentum, JAAF has been dedicated to advancing "Wellness Athletics"—an initiative to ensure that athletics remains accessible to all, enabling people to enjoy the sport throughout their lives.

Over the past century, the world has undergone significant transformation. The rapid advancement of technology and AI has underscored the importance of sports in nurturing fundamental human qualities.

At the same time, diversity and inclusion are now essential values. We must build a society where all individuals are treated equitably and where sports serve as a powerful tool for addressing social challenges and fostering unity.



Guided by the legacy of the past 100 years, JAAF will continue to take on a leadership role in shaping the future of athletics. Our vision is to elevate athletics beyond the boundaries of competition and integrate it as a fundamental part of people's daily lives.

The realization of this vision is not something JAAF can achieve alone. It will take a collective effort, uniting those who share our aspirations and commitment to the future.

Expanding our network of athletics family who will walk this path with us.
Passing down the values of athletics to the next generation.
Connecting the passion of those who love athletics and sports, transforming that passion into the power that will shape the future.
This is our mission.

Together with all of you, we will think, challenge, and take confident steps toward a new era. This is the unwavering commitment of the JAAF.