My research focuses on the Olympism of Pierre de Coubertin, and I am specifically interested in how Olympism came to be accepted in Japan when the country had no knowledge about the Olympics. I investigated this question by comparing Olympism to the pedagogical ideas of Jigoro Kano, the founder of Judo.

Most of the students in my Faculty of Global and Inter-cultural Studies are not interested in sport or the Olympics. However, students who attended my course entitled Sport and International Society understood immediately that the Olympics is a topic that is closely related to the faculty. Learning that the number of the participating nations of the Olympic Games is more than that of the United nations, that a wide variety of races and peoples with different cultures interact through the Olympics, and that there are international conflicts and problems resulting from political and economic issues related the Olympics, they realize that the Olympics serves as a tool, whether good or bad, that connects people around the world.

The next topic I would like to introduce is the Partnership Arrangement concluded between the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Organising Committee and 552 universities from all over Japan on 23 June 2014. Currently, 773 universities, which account for over 60 percent of all Japanese universities, have signed this arrangement.

There are three principal purposes of this Partnership: promotion of Olympic education; development of global human resources; and promotion of understanding about the Paralympics. We have so far organised seven regional forums and collected ideas and opinions concerning the 2020 Games from students all over Japan. In 1964 when the Tokyo Games were held, the college-going rate was 23 percent. The figure doubled after 50 years to reach 48 percent in 2014. Therefore, we can expect that initiatives to be taken by the students who are aware of the significance of the Olympics and Paralympics will certainly affect not only people in Japan but also throughout the world in a very positive way as part of the 2020 Games' legacy.

Now I will explain how ancient Olympism is connected with my studies and lectures, and also with the Tokyo 2020 Partnership Arrangement with universities.

Coubertin created Olympism, a unique modern pedagogical concept, by making use of the mythical power of the Ancient Games held here in Olympia. We will look at the three ancient Greek ideas that had a significant influence on Coubertin.

The first is Kalokagathia, the idea that the realisation of virtue and beauty by harmonious development of mind and body lead to the ideal accomplishment of human beings. Coubertin linked this idea to athleticism of modern sports. When we prepare for the Tokyo 2020 Games, we
must connect this Kalokagathia to the Paralympics. In fact, the first sport festival for the disabled known as the “Paralympic Games” at that time was held immediately after the Tokyo 1964 Games. In spite of this fact, there has been insufficient understanding of the Paralympics in Japan. I must admit that I myself was not keenly interested in the Paralympics until I met with some paralympians last November. I am now making lecture plans that review the human mind and body from the Paralympic point of view. If we can use lecture as an educational model for the 2020 partnership with universities, Asia of the 21st century will be linked to Kalokagathia.

The second is Ekecheiria, the spirit of truce during the Olympic Games. We understand that the modern Olympics is a celebration of peace which we inherit from Ekecheiria. We must reinterpret this idea by focusing on a certain characteristic of modern sport, especially because of the fact that conflicts break out and dispute arise incessantly among nations and peoples in this century. The characteristic I refer to is that “there is only one winner and the rest are all losers.” Enormous number of losers are created in the long process to the creation of winners in the Olympic Games. How many losers are created in national qualifying rounds and in regional eliminations? I believe that losers have a very important role to play in the modern societies for those who experience losers' feelings. Of course they may have aggressive feelings and naturally want to beat their opponents. We know that all losers suffer from a sense of defeat. People who experience this sense will be sensitive enough to understand the pain of others. I am sure that if sportspersons who know the sense of defeat make an appeal against war, global peace will be achieved by the loser's logic, not by the conventional approach by winners. The loser's logic will give new meaning to existing health-oriented physical education at universities in terms of building peace through sports.

The last idea is the fusion of "physical power" and "artistry and intellectualty." This idea can be found in cultural programmes during the Games today. I think that we have to interpret this idea as a methodology to gain a deep understanding of the perspective of the world, "an intellectual aviation" named by Coubertin. Coubertin presented this pedagogical methodology in 1925 immediately after he resigned from the office of IOC President. He thought that mutual incomprehension, indifference, misunderstanding, and prejudice as a result of "ignorance" would trigger wars. "Ignorance" is not just lack of knowledge, but it also means the mental state that does not accept other worlds existing outside of one’s own framework. Coubertin insisted that in order to get over “ignorance,” which may lead to wars, one should get on a plane and look down to see how and in what context you and others live in this complicated world”. A new liberal arts education overlooking the full picture of body and intellect must sound the alarm about today's university education, which has become overspecialised.

This is the theoretical framework of how ancient Olympism is connected to the Tokyo 2020 Games. This framework has an important meaning concerning which we, educators of higher institutes of PE from all over the world, can engage in interaction, here in Olympia.