# e-Services at the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics

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When this article is published in February 2018, the 23rd Winter Olympic Games will be happening in PyeongChang, in our neighboring country, South Korea. The much anticipated Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics will be held two years and five months later, in July 2020. In preparation for the Olympics and Paralympics, various hospitality initiatives throughout Japan are currently in progress.

One such hospitality initiative is to develop new e-services using ICT technology. These are not so-called black-box services, but will be provided as services using open products. In particular, the technologies needed to implement these e-services are open from the early stages, not only through demonstrations and testing, but also through open system functionality and interface requirements, and discussion at international standardization meetings. Through discussion in such international venues from an early stage, we hope to develop these technologies globally in the future.

This special feature focuses on work being done in ITU-T SG16 to standardize e-services, and in particular, e-services related to the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

In the first article, Rapporteur of the question under study on digital signage (Q14/16), Mr. Kazunori Tanikawa from NEC, will introduce initiatives related to digital signage. Standardization of digital signage is proceeding as a means to provide information outdoors, on Olympic and Paralympic competitions and also on tourism and disasters, if needed.

The second article, titled "New style of sports watching by Immersive Live Experience (ILE) and its standardization status," was contributed by Mr. Hideo Imanaka, from NTT Advanced Technology and Mr. Yoshihide Tonomura and Mr. Kiyoshi Tanaka from the NTT Service Evolution Laboratories. They work on standardization for question under study on Immersive Live Experience (ILE) (Q8/16), which can provide realistic remote viewing that is almost like being at the sports venue or theatre. The fundamental parts of this technology have already been standardized, and technical standards for international interconnectivity will be standardized in the future.

In the third article, the history and current state of standardization for multilingual speech translation are described by Mr. Shoichi Senda, from the National Institute of Information and Communication Technology (NICT). He describes how an R&D group was formed in Asia, lead by Japan, and later, another at the international level through the ITU-T, together with the efforts, achievements, and future prospects of these pioneers.

The final article, regarding accessibility, was written by Prof. Masahito Kawamori from Keio University, who is Rapporteur of question under study on accessibility—making it easier for disabled and elderly people to access information (Q26/16). Since the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, it is increasing in importance in countries around the world. This article gives an overview of standardization efforts in Q26, not limited to the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

We expect to accelerate standardization efforts in the future, towards realization of standardized hospitality e-services for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. At ITU-T SG16, we will also continue to work on standardization for other new e-services not discussed in this special feature, such as e-health, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), IPTV, and digital financial systems. We invite all those interested to participate in discussion regarding standardization of new e-services and other issues.