

A complaint from

**The Building and Wood
Workers' International (BWI)**

to the

**Tokyo Organising Committee
of the Olympic Games (TOCOG)**

regarding violations of

the Sustainable Sourcing Code (SSC)

This complaint has been brought by the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI) alleges that a supplier of construction services to the Tokyo 2020 construction has engaged in behaviour in violation of Section 4(4)(viii) of the Sustainable Sourcing Code (SSC).

We are requesting that the Tokyo Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (TOCOG) take swift action to arrange a mediation between the parties with a view to remedying the issues immediately.

1. This complaint is being filed by the Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI),¹ with reference to a news report that was published on the youtube channel of Japanese-based news agency Tokyo Metropolitan Television Broadcasting Corporation on 29 January.² The report is available only in Japanese.
2. The report alleges that a male worker in his 30s was killed on 26 January on a construction site of the Olympic Athlete Village in Harumi Chuo-ki. The man's body was crushed between a tower crane and metal scaffolding. He was immediately knocked unconscious and, after being taken to hospital, died soon after. It is understood that the site had been recently visited by the Tokyo Labour Bureau.
3. Further investigation undertaken by the BWI indicate that the man had been working on the site since 16 January and at the time of the accident was in charge of guiding suspended materials. It is believed that in the course of doing that work the man may have entered a restricted area.
4. It is believed that the particular construction work was being undertaken by the contractor Maeda Construction, however it is not known at this stage who the man was directly employed by.
5. Since the Tokyo Olympic Athletes Village construction work is being undertaken by TOCOG, the project is comes directly under the jurisdiction of the Sustainable Sourcing Code.
6. Accordingly, the BWI is demanding a joint investigation into the fatality, including trade union representation, that addresses the root causes of the accident. To the extent that actions of the employers have violated their legal responsibilities and those under the SSC, we would expect criminal legal action to follow and for TOCOG to implement measures to prevent further fatalities from occurring.

¹ The BWI is the global union federation for workers in building and construction, wood and forestry, building materials and other allied sectors. We currently represent over 12 million workers globally, including in both Malaysia and Japan.

² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQWE_bcKNUg

Relevant Section from the Sustainability Sourcing Code

(4) Labour

While labour is involved in each phase of production, distribution and other processes, and other labour-related problems, including child labour, long working hours, and issues related to foreign workers, have been pointed out in Japan and abroad, Tokyo 2020 will require suppliers etc. to ensure proper labour management and an appropriate working environment. In addition, promotion of good work life balance is necessary.

(viii) Safety and hygiene of workplaces

Suppliers, etc. shall create physically and mentally safe and healthy working environments and conditions, including the establishment of a safety and health committee and mental health care, for workers, etc. engaged in the production, distribution and other processes of procured products, etc. in accordance with laws and ordinances relevant to health and hygiene. Suppliers, etc. also should give due consideration to fostering working environments that bring workers a favorable work-life balance.