

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (Feb. 4, 2019) – Demonstrating a continued commitment to support the game around the world and inspire future generations of golfers, the USGA will welcome champion golfer and coach Shigeaki Maruyama and Olympic gold medalist Koji Murofushi as the keynote speakers for its USGA Golf Innovation Symposium in Tokyo on March 12-13.

Conducted in partnership with Cisco, the official technology partner of the USGA, the fifth edition of the global symposium will bring together some of golf's best minds and leading voices to present research, share best practices and technology, and engage in dialogue in an effort to improve facility productivity, enhance golfer experience and provide increased access for all who wish to enjoy the game.

The symposium, held in collaboration with the Japan Golf Association (JGA), will feature presenters from the United States, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Australia, Hong Kong, Iceland, New Zealand and France. Leading the contingent of speakers from the host nation are two of the most popular sports figures in Japan.

Moderated by leading golf television commentator and JGA co-managing director Sho Tobari, the informal "fireside chat" will feature three-time PGA Tour winner Maruyama and Murofushi, who won the hammer throw at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. They will discuss the upcoming Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, the Games' potential impact on Japanese golf, and their experiences in their respective sports.

Maruyama, who was the head coach of Japan's golf teams during the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro, will serve in the same capacity for the 2020 golf competition, which will be conducted at Kasumigaseki Country Club. Maruyama, who turns 50 later this year, has represented his country in numerous international golf events. Maruyama went 5-0 for the International side in its 1998 Presidents Cup win, and he teamed with Toshimitsu Izawa to capture the 2002 World Cup for Japan.

"In Rio de Janeiro, I witnessed the tremendous impact the Olympic Games can have on the host country," said Maruyama, a 10-time winner on the Japan Tour. "I am looking forward to seeing how the Japanese people embrace the 2020 Olympics and especially the golf competition. Hopefully, a great performance by a Japanese golfer will inspire the next generation of golfers and champions in our country."

After a long competitive career in which he earned a bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics and won the 2011 world championship, the 44-year-old Murofushi is serving as the sports director for the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"It is my great pleasure and honor to participate in the USGA Innovation Symposium," said Murofushi. "As our Games' vision says, the Tokyo 2020 Games will be the most innovative Games in history. I sincerely hope the Tokyo 2020 Games trigger the innovations that contribute to athlete performances as well as sport industries, leaving a lasting legacy for the sporting community in Japan and beyond."

Murofushi's focus mirrors the themes of the Innovation Symposium, which seeks to foster greater opportunities and enhanced experiences for golfers in order to secure a stronger future for the game, both in Japan and around the world.

"The successful return of golf to the Olympics is an opportunity for all of us to use these international games to advance our sport," said USGA CEO Mike Davis. "We look forward to incorporating the Tokyo 2020 Games as a key component of the symposium, from providing a forum for our keynote speakers to utilizing host venue Kasumigaseki Country Club as a platform to showcase innovative USGA technology that will strengthen the future of the game."

The keynote is scheduled to take place at 8 p.m. (JST) on Tuesday, March 12. All the sessions from the symposium, including the keynote, will be streamed live in both English and Japanese. More information

can be found at [usga.org/symposium](https://usga.org/symposium).

## **About the USGA**

The USGA celebrates, serves and advances the game of golf. Founded in 1894, we conduct many of golf's premier professional and amateur championships, including the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open. With The R&A, we govern the sport via a global set of playing, equipment and amateur status rules. Our operating jurisdiction for these governance functions is the United States, its territories and Mexico. The USGA Handicap System is utilized in more than 40 countries and our Course Rating System covers 95 percent of the world's golf courses, enabling all golfers to play on an equitable basis. The USGA campus in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, is home to the Association's Research and Test Center, where science and innovation are fueling a healthy and sustainable game for the future. The campus is also home to the USGA Golf Museum, where we honor the game by curating the world's most comprehensive archive of golf artifacts. To learn more, visit [usga.org](https://usga.org).

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