



26th December, 2011

Greetings from Japan, to all our sincere friends in the World,

We are happy to inform you that Tohoku region where it was hit by the disaster, has hosted the first regional Championships since the disaster. It is the 37th Tohoku Regional Baton Twirling Championships. It was originally planned in this August, since this region usually covered by snow during the winter. However, due to the devastating disaster, they almost had to give up having the regional championships this year. Yet, with strong determination of regional officials, twirlers, parents, fans, and support received from friends throughout the world, they succeeded to host this regional championship.



The Championship arena, covered with snow

The championship was held on the 24th and 25th of December in Yamagata Prefecture. It is the Japan Sea side where damages from the disaster were less than the Pacific side. Despite of the snow blizzard warning, 25 clubs with about 400 entries participated at the championships. Even in the freezing weather, the championship was heated up.



Adding to the excitement of the championship, the Gold medalist Keisuke Komada came to give exhibition performance. He performed 1, 2, and 3 baton freestyle program to the music “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”. His performance was so splendid that the audience requested encore. He gladly accepted the encore, and showed his famous “4 illusions” with the perfect catch.

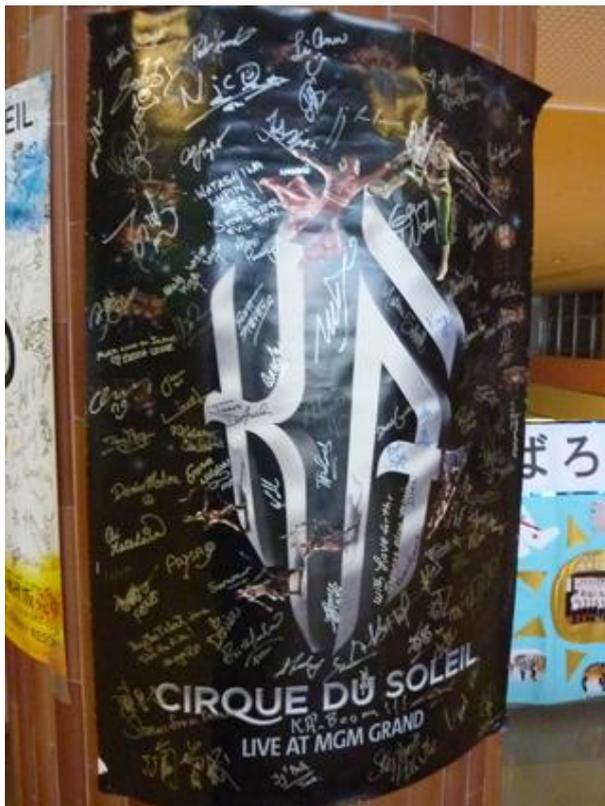


Exhibition Performance by Mr. Keisuke Komada

The final rounds were held on the Christmas day, and 53 athletes were selected to represent their region to compete at the Nationals in March, 2012. Now, they have few months to sharpen up their skill, and to be ready for their best performances.



Many messages were sent to Tohoku Regional championships, including from casting members of “KA” and “ZED” of Cirque Du Soleil.



On behalf of people from Tohoku, we thank all of you for your kind supports throughout this year. Slowly, yet surely, we are recovering from the disaster. We thank the sport of baton twirling for uniting all of us together.

May God bless you all, and wish you Happy New Year!

Japan Sport Baton Association
International Affairs