



TAKAYUKI SUZUKI

Country: Japan

Date of Birth: 23/1/1987

Sport: Para swimming

Discipline: Freestyle, Breaststroke, and Individual Medley



Sports Career

Paralympic Games : Competed in 2016, Bronze medals in 2012 (2), Gold medal in 2008, Bronze medal in 2008, Silver medal in 2004

World Championships : Silver medals in 2019 (4), Bronze medal in 2019, Silver medal in 2015, Gold medal in 2013, Silver medal in 2013, Silver medal in 2010, Bronze medal in 2010, Silver medal in 2006

Why do you wish to become a member of the IPC Athletes' Council?

In the APC Athlete Forum, I learned challenges of athletes were varied according to their respective circumstances. When elected as a member of the IPC Athletes' Council, I hope to be a bridge between the IPC Athletes' Council and the regional Athletes' Councils, especially in the Asian Region, to promote such opportunities so that the athletes can access appropriate information to support their respective struggles.

Fairness in classification is also critical, however, my study at university showed athletes felt the current classification system and process were not fair somehow.

I believe one of the solutions is to amplify the voices of athletes to reach decision making process of classification policy. Education on classification is also important and I wish to contribute to them.

Why do you wish to run for the IPC Athletes' Council?

I want to be a bridge between the IPC and the athletes to promote the Paralympic Movement, especially in Asia, so that the athletes' voices reach the IPC.

What special skills, background and expertise will you bring to the IPC Athletes' Council?

My experience and knowledge about sport management, which I have gained from the undergraduate and masters' degrees and PhD course, would help the IPC Athletes' Council to achieve its goals.

How has sport impacted your life?

Through Paralympic Games, it made me realise that even disability is various in each person and taught me it is amazing to create the state as "Unity in Diversity" through sport.

What is your vision for the IPC Athletes' Council?

My vision is to contribute to make Paralympic Games more sustainable for both athletes and stakeholders with athletes' voices and scientific evidence.

Why is the athletes' voice important to you?

Paralympic sports should be of fairness. Only the athletes with integrity and dignity can give the inspiration to the sports. That is why a voice of the athlete is important in any situation.

What is the biggest challenge you have experienced as an athlete? How did you overcome it?

To have approval from my bosses and family about studying in the UK. With the vision for my future career, plan and passion, I explained my aspiration, and finally, they supported my challenge.