

“Paralympics!! Catch the Excitement”*

The Winter Paralympic Games will be held following the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano, from 5 to 14 March, at the Olympic facilities in Nagano, Yamanouchi, Nozawa Onsen and Hakuba. These Games, with the theme Friendship and Excitement, are the first Winter Paralympic Games hosted outside Europe.

The Games will consist of 34 events in five disciplines: ice sledge racing and ice sledge hockey in Nagano, alpine skiing in Yamanouchi, cross country skiing in

Hakuba and biathlon in Nozawa Onsen. Almost 1,000 athletes and 500 officials from 30 countries will be attending and staying at the Olympic Village. Furthermore, the official logo represents the kanji character Naga of the word Nagano, in the shape of a rabbit jumping and playing on the snow and ice as athletes competing.

The first Winter Paralympic Games were held in Sweden in 1976. The 1998 Games will be the second Games hosted by

Japan, the first being organized in Tokyo for the Summer Paralympic Games in 1964.

Nagano Prefecture has taken steps to create an environment that allows people disabilities to enjoy winter sports in Nagano.

*Motto of the Winter Paralympic Games in Nagano. Excerpts from the *Official Guide to the Olympic Winter Games in Nagano*.



Alpine skiing competition at the Winter Paralympic Games in Albertville in 1992.