



Our team really enjoyed our time in Aikawa. Everyone we interacted with was so hospitable and helped make our stay the perfect preparation for the Olympic Games. It truly felt like whatever we were doing -eating, traveling, competing at the hockey venue - we always had someone there to help out and make our stay as simple as possible. Alongside the great food and fantastic hockey venue, my memory will be of all the people who were so generous with their time and so eager to help make us feel at home.'

Scott Tupper – Captain, Men’s National Team

I would like to sincerely thank the city of Akaiwa and Hotel Granvia Okayama for the amazing reception that we had in preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. As our previous pre-games training camp got cancelled due to COVID-19 last minute, we only a few weeks to pull this entire thing together, and I would like to extend a special thank you to Ranna Hewitt and Yutaka Hirao who went above and beyond for creating a welcoming environment for our team.

The food at the hotel was fantastic, the diligence around COVID-19 protocols made the entire group feel safe, and the staff made us feel extremely welcomed.

The team also had the benefit of training and playing two matches on a world class hockey venue that provided an excellent preparation ahead of performance. We thank all the volunteers during our training sessions and during the matches that helped all of this run smoothly.

A big thank you to the Mayor who was kind enough to meet with us twice, and also provide some crates of the famous peaches in the area which were delicious. The team also benefitted from the generosity of a local woman who hand made masks for everyone to wear.

Field Hockey Canada is extremely grateful for the hospitality and welcome showed to the team by everyone. Our time in Akaiwa helped our athlete adjust to heat, time zone, and play two much needed international matches in a year when finding teams to play has been so difficult. We will be looking to continue our relationship with Akaiwa and hope to be back in the not so distant future.

Adam Janssen – High Performance Director