



IPC GOVERNING BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

- Name: Miki Matheson PLY
- IPC position: Member at Large
- Elected: In 2021 as Member at Large
- Position (outside of IPC GB): DEI consultant
- Nationality: Japanese
- Languages spoken: Japanese, English
- Paralympic Games participated in: Nagano 1998
- Paralympic medals won: 3 gold, 1 x silver
- Social media channels: [Twitter](#)



When and why did you first become involved in the Paralympic Movement?

I was involved in many sports as a little girl and sports were always a very big part of my life. However, I didn't know anything about the Paralympic Games or that people with a disability can participate in sports. In 1996, when my doctor introduced me to Para sport and explained about the Paralympic Movement, I was locked on and decided to be involved and spread this movement.

What has been your career path?

- News article writer / motivational speaker
- Banker
- Human rights activist
- Teacher
- Programme manager of an NPO
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) consultant

What do you enjoy most about the role that you have on the IPC Governing Board?

I particularly enjoy the exchange of ideas, learning from each other and gaining new perspectives. I enjoy being part of a true and meaningful dialogue.

INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

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What is your personal highlight(s) from all the Paralympic Games you have attended?

- Nagano 1998:
 - I won medals and met my husband.
- Sydney 2000:
 - I worked for Japanese broadcaster NHK and Asahi newspaper and added a Paralympian's perspectives to the stories for a Japanese audience.
- Salt Lake City 2002:
 - I was reunited with Taiki Morii who I first met in 1998. Shortly after the Nagano Games, I was invited to schools to give motivational speeches. Taiki was the first and the only student who asked me "How can I become a Paralympian". Today, he is a six-time Paralympian and multi-medallist in alpine skiing.
- Vancouver 2010:
 - I attend the Games with my entire family and was part of Team Canada.
- Rio 2016:
 - I was an IPC volunteer overseeing activities around Proud Paralympian and IPC Athletes' Council elections
- Tokyo 2020:
 - It was an absolute honour to be a flag bearer at the opening ceremony. My name was the first to be heard in the ceremony.
 - Served as a Deputy Chef de Mission for Japan
- Beijing 2022
 - This was the first Games I attended as an IPC Governing Board member and my first duty was to present a medal to Taiki Morii.

Why for you are the Paralympic Games the most transformational event on earth?

The Paralympic Games are a beacon of hope and possibility for economic, cultural and community growth. As the Games grow in size and scale, the impact of the change is also increasing. When the eyes of the world turn to the Games host country, the agenda for accessibility and disability inclusion

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are prioritised and enforced. The Games provide opportunities to showcase new technologies and innovation which result in increasing quality of life for many people.

Beyond the Games, what are your passions?

Family, health, sports and education, and disability inclusion.

Over the next decade, what changes would you like to see that would improve the lives of the 1.2 billion persons globally who have a disability?

I would love to see a world where...

- there is no awkwardness between people with and without disabilities
- the word 'disability' doesn't provoke any negativity, pity or prejudice and doesn't hinder equal opportunities
- all people with a disability can enhance their self-confidence, sense of belonging, and fulfil their sense of purpose
- a wide range of disability representation is wanted, welcomed and embraced in society.

Who for you embodies the Paralympic Movement?

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, a Canadian Paralympian and Minister of Employment, Development and Disability Inclusion.

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