**Annual Report Japan Winter 2022/2023**
It was for sure our milestone season.  Since 2020, I have been promoting all winter sports together in order to have Winter World Masters Games in Japan in future.   Getting to know each other with many friends of Cross country skiers in Japan, we have established a group of Cross Country Ski lovers.

Cross country skiing is popular mainly in Tochigi, Akita, Nagano, Hokkaido and Toyama.  Akita and Nagano had All Japan Masters Championship in 2021/22 and 2022/23.  Hokkaido is a popular Biathlon and one of the cities, Date-city wants MWC in future. Toyama presented their first Masters competition this season after Katsumi Saeki, local skier, was awarded the Guinness record as the oldest female cross country skier at age 87.  Then she participated in her first Cross country race overseas.   She was really happy to have two golds there last month.   With 5 other people, we accomplished our first participation at MWC 2023 in Seefeld and had a huge impact on our group of people.  Some have already talked about coming to WWMG in Italy and going to Finland in February 2024.  I think more numbers from Japan will gather in Finland next year.

Kenji Takai

National Director Japan