

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (15)

May 7th Issue

[Creative play based in Okayama, “Momotaro”, was successful in Taiwan]

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

In April 29th, a creative play “Voice reflected on the Moon's Mirror” which was based on Momotaro was played in Hsinchu city as a commemorative performance of the 10th anniversary of the friendship between Taiwan and Okayama city by drama lovers (“Drama move ON”).

The audience more than the seating capacity gathered at the venue. Despite the fact that they didn't know the language, some of them were wiping tears with their hands or handkerchief because they were deeply moved by the performance.

The story is that Momotaro spent drunken days after finding out he killed an ogre (Ura) 20 years ago which was one of his childhood friends. He talked about this to his dog, monkey, Japanese pheasant, and the villagers and made up his mind to live again with passion. When I first heard the story, I wondered if the people of Taiwan will understand it. So I asked the leader of the theatrical company. He said that the story of Momotaro is also well known in Taiwan and this story was added some dramatization so they would understand the story. To be honest, I was still half-convinced. However, after I heard that the performance was very successful, I thought the story of Momotaro is surely infiltrated in Taiwan.

I watched the play performed in April 20th at Renaiss Hall previous to the performance in Taiwan. The story was of course great and Miss Sakura Suda who played child ogre was lovely. I spent a very good time. I hope many people can watch the play but it is regrettable that there is no future performance at this point.

Hsinchu city is the 6th largest city in Taiwan with the population of 430,000 people. There are 6 universities in the city and is called the Silicon Valley of Taiwan.

I have never been to the city but I personally feel an affinity since my daughter's roommate when she was abroad is living in the city. And she often visits her. I hope to visit there soon.