

**【The City Guides of Okayama's History】**

Hello. I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

Although I hesitate to talk about the history again following the last one, this time, I'd like to introduce guide plates "The City Guide of Okayama's History" which advance the installation from this fiscal year to make familiar with the history and culture of Okayama.

Even now, guide plates have been already installed in the main facilities in the city including Okayama castle and Korakuen Garden, however, there are many historical and cultural resources exist even in other places.

"The city guide of Okayama history" widely introduces the origins such precious history, and culture resources to create the environment where citizens and tourists can enjoy a town walk. The plates are based on dark gray color, and moreover it's a quiet chic looking.

This fiscal year, it has been decided to set up 62 plates of the old castle town area as a candidate, and push forward maintenance sequentially from this fall.

I'd like to also promote the construction of the system which is able to take advantage for each region other than the old castle town such as Saidaiji, Kibi, Ashimori, Takebe, and Nadasaki. Every year, I'd like to develop the idea to protect and nurture the love and pride to the home town of Okayama citizens through this project.

Below, I would like to introduce the extract of the guidance sentence about the main thing of "city guide" which is scheduled to be installed in this fiscal year.

●Okayama Castle outer moat **【Twenty days moat】** (present: Yanagawa-suji Ave.)

By the time Kobayakawa Hideaki was a lord (Keicho era 5 yrs to 7 yrs), the outer moat was built in order to harden the west side of the castle. It was built by the rush construction of the 20 days that vassals including citizens were mobilized. That's why it's told to be called in this name.

●Yukinaga Konishi(present: in Shimonochō shopping street)

Yukinaga Konishi was a military commander known as a Christian feudal lord. He became the adopted son of kimono merchant of the land. His resource was accepted by a general, Naoie Ukita, and became a vassal of Hideyoshi afterwards.

●The mansion site of Nagatada Tsuda(present: in Omote-cho 3chome)

Nagatada Tsuda(1640-1707) served a feudal lord, Mitsumasa Ikeda and a feudal lord, Tsunemasa Ikeda for two generations. He instructed many businesses such the Hyakkengawa River excavation, designing Korakuen Garden, establishment of Shizutani school, and so on.

●The factory site of Torao Yamaba(present: in Sennichimae shopping street)

Torao Yamaba(1874-1957) produced Yamaba expression steam automobile in April, 1904, and it gave a test run to the next month. It was the first car which was produced by pure domestic production.

●Junnosuke Yoshiyuki's birthplace(present: Togiya-cho)

A novelist, Junnosuke Yoshiyuki was born first son of Father of poet, Eisuke Yoshiyuki and Mother of hairdresser, Aguri in Kakiya-cho within the city in 1924.

●Ishizeki-cho(Stone Barrier Town)

A feudal lord, Hideie Ukita built a barrier with boulders to construct a castle town by leading water of the Asahigawa River to Uchibori (inner moat), that's why it's told to be called "Ishizeki-cho".

●Aioibashi Bridge

As the ceremony of golden wedding anniversary for last Okayama feudal lord, Akimasa Ikeda, both families built and named the bridge, and it was opened to traffic in April, 1904.