

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (18)

June 2nd Issue

【Nao Ikeyama, a boxer as well as a staff of Okayama city hall has become the world champion.】

Hello. This is Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

On this 17th May, a boxer Nao Ikeyama who works at Okayama city hall beat Jezzabell Pagaduan (from the Philippines) by a large majority and won the championship at WBO atom weight title championship match.

According to news, Ikeyama let Pagaduan come into an attacking position in the first round. However, after the first round, Ikeyama kept going forward and giving strong right and left punch that drove Pagaduan into a corner and overwhelmed.

What's more, she achieved the brilliant feat of winning the World Championship by the age of 44 throughout men and women.

She herself paid a visit to the Mayor's office to inform of it. She was calm and charming directly opposite from aggressive games (but still, her muscles in both arms were beyond description according to a staff that was there with me).

She usually is engaged in welfare related business and has a good reputation. I'd like to visit her office one day.

I am very proud of her balancing her work and boxing well (yet she never accepts fight money since she is a public servant) as a colleague and a graduate of Okayama Sozan High School and would like to support her.

Her first defensive battle will be held in this autumn. I expect her best to defend her championship.

<P.S.>

There's only 10 days left until the World Cup Opening in Brazil. Japan is living up soccer fever.

Okayama city has joined "the Local Government Association of Supporting Japan Soccer" which is established last year and I have assumed the post of vice president of it since this April. Japanese players' successes give us a dream and a hope.

Okayama city is willing to support the Japanese players and Japan soccer in many ways and would like to cover information of the Japanese players who have tried to be top of the world in newsletter to come.