

**【World Cup Brazil will open soon!】**

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

World Cup Brazil 2014 will open tomorrow in early morning on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Japan time.

The first match is Brazil versus Croatia. Brazil is expected to win the World Cup as a soccer kingdom and as the host country. Croatia separated from former Yugoslavia and was once called “Brazil in East Europe”. People all over the world will get into swing with the World Cup for a month.

The Japan's national team will have their first match with Ivory Coast on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

The team includes the players who are active in powerful teams abroad such as Shinji Kagawa and Keisuke Honda. Among the team, there is a player who is from Okayama, Toshihiro Aoyama, who plays in Sanfrecce Hiroshima.

At a final pre-match with Zambia team before the World Cup on the 7<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Aoyama set up a winning goal of a long forward pass using his limited time from a center line to near the goalpost.

Team Ivory Coast has very strong players such as Drogba and Yaya Toure who play in European teams. It is important how to deal with various offends that come from the unique African rhythm.

Looking back the last 4 tournaments that the Japan's national team played, it is a key if they can win at the first match. I hope they will gain momentum to beat the best 16 that they ended up at the last tournament.

The first match will be kicked off on Sunday at 10am. It is a good time slot to watch it among the group league 3 so let's send them cheers for their victory.

Let's go to the top of the world! Go for it, Japan!