

【The update of 「UNESCO World Conference on ESD」】

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

This time, I would like to talk about ESD. It's been a while since I did last time.

Though some people may forget, ESD stands for 'Education for Sustainable Development'.

This concept was indicated much to be difficult to understand during the world conference of the last fall, to put it simply, it's aiming to take over the ideas and behaviors to children from parents, furthermore, to grandchildren's generations towards problems-solving such environmental preservations, international understandings, disaster preventions and so on.

For this ESD's further promotion, a new action has been just started, based on 'Global Action Program about ESD' which was planned during world conferences in Okayama and other places of the last fall. I have a feeling that the evaluation of Okayama is getting highly regarded throughout the world due to steady ESD activities at Community Halls and UNESCO Schools, in addition with the success like world conference.

When I give a couple of examples,

1. Okayama was chosen as the key-partner to lead the world for promoting ESD in future from UNESCO. Only three cities were chosen at a city level, which are Okayama City, Mexico City, and Hamburg, Germany.
2. Okayama ESD project (Okayama ESD Promotion Commission) was nominated by Japanese government as a candidate for an award by UNESCO to honor the excellent efforts of ESD of all the countries of the world.

It's a really pleasing thing that Okayama receives a high evaluation for ESD activity and it has also led to the dissemination for information of Okayama City.

Incidentally I called on Tongyong City which is a thriving city for ESD activity like Okayama City on 23rd May, where is located at west of Busan, Korea.

At that place, I attended an opening ceremony and conferences which are related facilities of ESD. I had a first greeting in front of hundreds of people (most of them are local Koreans, although there are some ESD people from every country) and asked “Ladies and Gentleman, do you know Okayama?”, then, there was a happy answer that “of course” from many people. I had felt indeed that the name of Okayama is spreading throughout into the field of ESD.