

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City (24) July 16th Issue

**【History of inundation tactics of the Bicchu Takamatsu Castle “Muneharu Lotus”】**

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

In the early morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>, I joined to see “Muneharu lotus” which is pretty and light in color in the Bicchu Takamatsu Castle in the heavy rain.

When City of Okayama started to restore this lotus pond which is located near the castle keep in 1982, it was discovered that the lotus seeds deep inside the soil from 400 years ago around the era of Muneharu Shimizu were naturally bloomed and grew wild until now. It was very moving to see the lotus with the same DNA that Muneharu was thought to see.

On NHK Taiga drama “Kuroda Kanbei”, the inundation tactics of the Bicchu Takamatsu Castle is aired now. According to the historical fact, Muneharu who dedicated to Mouri clan is depicted as a very loyal person in the drama so we are very proud of him as Okayama citizens.

The drama will have a climax with “Honnouji no hen”, Muneharu will kill himself the next Sunday, and “Chugoku Daigaeshi” that the history tremendously moves based on the land of Okayama.

At the lotus gathering, Chairman Yokota of the foundation of preservation of the Bicchu Takamatsu Castle took me to a tour. There were pictures of the overflow of Ashimori River at the annex around the last period of Showa.

I feel like I found a source book because I remember the scenes of the inundation tactics in the drama was very similar to the pictures such as the height of the surrounding mountains and the location of the castle in the lake. I was very impressed by the detailed description, too.

It was very delightful that the castle was featured in the drama. I hope many people who saw the drama will visit the castle and directly feel the land of historic change in the Sengoku era.