

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (31)
October 15th Issue

【Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD】

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

Since last Oct 9th till 11th, 「Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD (promotion)」 had been held in Okayama city. About 700 people from 29 countries in the world participated in it. During 3 days of the conference, the following topic was debated, key note speeches and presentation of cases on the 1st day, discussions at the each 7 subcommittees on the 2nd day, and a collection of reports for results on the 3rd day.

My impression remaining in my mind from the 3 days of conference is that situations, conditions and grasp on ESD at each country is different even ESD is a universal concept.

For example, a Kominkan in Japan has an emphasized aspect as a place used for exchanges and learning among local people. Whereas one of the main functions of a CLC (Community Learning Center) in other Asian countries is to supplement school education for people who stopped learning at the school without a completion of the curriculum.

In the final commitment, there is a sentence of 「Let's build a safe environment in a family and a society by making no difference in the literacy between a man and a woman 」

ESD is practiced in the form which reflects conditions and situations of each country. In addition, my idea, which there are the number of methods with an equal number of people who are getting involved with it became stronger again.

The reports for results named as 「Okayama Commitment 2014」 were produced by the accumulation of the discussion from participants sitting next to each other at the each subcommittee and the efforts bore fruit. I am so delighted with a completion of the excellent Commitment and have a thought on a great effort made by people who are involved with the collection of the reports.

Now, I have a concern about if our Okayama's “Omotenashi” was enough for people who visited Okayama for ESD conference. My own judgment for the concern is that we received a reputation from people who visited Okayama from each country. However, it is just my subjective impression and there might be different with the truth. Although I am able to have a feeling of relief now, I need to prepare and polish up my “Omotenashi” even more toward various conference in November.

In the end, I would like to introduce this following story which might sound as self-praise. The farewell party held after the conference was so warmed up and received a favorable reputation on my last speech since I greeted people visiting Okayama with a word of “thank you” in their own language. The languages spoken with “thank you” were chosen as order with the many numbers of guests at it.

Lastly, I would like to introduce the word of “thank you” in different languages which is unfamiliar to you.

Terima Kasih (Indonesian)

Knob Khum Kiab (Thai)

IME NNA (Nigerian language)

Dhanyabaad (Nepalese)

Tashakur (Afghan)