

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (32) October 17<sup>th</sup> Issue.

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

Do you remember the athlete; Nao Ikeyama who is a civil servant of Okayama city and became a first atom weight champion of World Boxing Organization (WBO) with the oldest age (age of 45) among Japan last May 2014, and appeared also on this E-mail magazine before?

Well, she won the first defensive fight last September in 2014 and defended the title successfully. This is also a remarkable achievement with the oldest age throughout both sexes.

Okayama city praised her for her historically great achievement and decided to present the Civil Sports Honor Award of Hitomi Kinue Sports Honor Award to her. There was the ceremony yesterday.

She is the second recipient for the award. The first recipient is Masahiro Kawai who went to Okayama Minami High School. He is a former Yomiuri Giants baseball player and established a world record for sacrifice bunts among professional baseball teams. Anyway the mayor's room was packed with people including her superiors, colleagues, city council members to celebrate her award.

It's hard to imagine that she is an actually fighting boxer in the ring because she is such a calm and charming lady when we see her in ordinary life. She must burst her condensed energy all at once when she is in the ring. I hope she keeps defending the tittle longer and I'd like to support her more now and then.

Well, she has a good reputation for her welfare work as well and I expect she is going to keep the good job.

\* Hitomi Kinue Sports Honor Award

Kinue Hitomi was born in Okayama city. She received a silver medal for women's 800m race of 1928 Summer Olympics in Amsterdam. She became the first Japanese woman to win an Olympic medal. For her achievement, every year, the commendation is giving away for athletes, athletes groups, or coaches who relate to Okayama city and made remarkable achievements at the large meets like the National Athletic Meet, World Sports Meet, Paralympics, and so on.

The Civil Sports Honor Award is especially given to athletes who performed historically great achievement.