

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (33) November 21<sup>st</sup> Issue.

**【UNESCO World Conference on ESD has finished】**

Hello. This is Omori, Mayor of Okayama City.

Approximately 3,000 people from 97 countries and regions attended “UNESCO World Conference on ESD” in Okayama City which began from “Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD promotion” in October and this session over more than one month came to an end on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

In a series of meetings, we widely spread the ESD initiatives such as environmental protection and international understanding rooted in the region of Okayama, as a model of ESD dissemination (Okayama model) in the future of the world and has received a high evaluation.

I rethought that Okayama city has to exhibit leadership to work on the promotion of ESD in the future so that ESD will be world common culture.

Above all, I think it was particularly a big achievement that we arranged “Okayama commitment” in the “Kominkan-CLC International Conference on ESD promotion” of October, and “Okayama declaration” in the “Global RCE Conference” of November 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> and to be able to leave Okayama’ s mark in history on the stage of the United Nations.

In addition, in the high school forum of “International Forum on UNESCO ASP net” , a joint declaration was adopted to solve global challenges such as environmental destruction and economic disparity beyond the differences in language and nationality. After that, at the place of “The Opening Plenary” which was held in Nagoya on November 10, I reported about these activities with a high school student representative to the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess and we received warm words.

In the exchange meeting after the end of forum, I was so overwhelmed by high school student' s hyper and heated atmosphere that I finished my greeting in a hurry. Young people' s powers are incredible.

Besides, it seems that people from abroad had a good impression on Okayama and were very touched by our hospitality and communication that each citizen including volunteers and children had a talk face-to-face with ESD officials.

Frankly speaking, I am relieved to have finished a series of conferences, however, I would like to further refine the hospitality and information dissemination to get many people from the world come to Okayama in the future.

In the end, I would like to introduce unforgettable words in the remarks of the conference participants

◎ Person involved in education from Laos

“The children come to school to take compulsory education, but by the time of graduation, the number of children become less, in particular girls.”

◎Man from Egypt

“We are suffering from terrorism. ESD should take action against terrorism.”

◎Woman from China

“Our ESD begins from each one of small villages.”

©Men from Kenya

“I have attended many conferences in various countries and cities and Okayama’ s hospitality is NO.1.”

©Woman from Nigeria

(When we are dancing “Uraja” together, she said) “Nigerian politicians would never dance with us. “