

E-Mail Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City “Challenge of Legendary Okayama” (38)
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【Attending a coming-of-age ceremony 2015】

Hello, I'm Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

In the last continuous three days holiday weekend, a coming-of-age ceremony was held for a celebration to get into a real society world as an adult in every place in Japan. Although I also attended the ceremony in Okayama City on January 11th, I was just so disappointed if I expressed my feeling with one word. I really felt sorry for members of the executive committees who worked hard for the ceremony.

The ceremony held at the Okayama Dome started with a speech by a chairperson of the executive committee Yuria Miyatani. However, most attendees who kept standing were absorbed into a chat with their dear old friends dividing into a group of each junior high school section without their listening to the speech. They had kept the same attitude while I and a chairperson of an election administration commission were giving a speech. Though I drew their attention to our speech in my talk, I tried not to have sharp words not to break the ceremony itself.

Later on, one of the participants of the ceremony came to me and told me that “The mayor is too kind for them. This atmosphere is not good for the ceremony. I request you to deal with them more strict attitude” after I got off the stage. Furthermore I received comments such as “This is just the classroom disruption at the school”. I was cheered up by other city council members about my admonition to them. However, I left the venue with an unpleasant aftertaste.

In addition to the feeling, I was shocked watching a scene of another coming-of-age ceremony held at Sunport Takamatsu in Takamatsu City because of the attendee's perfect manner in the well-ordered ceremony. I reflected on the ceremony of Okayama City about the reason what caused such a bad ceremony. I thought that preparation of Okayama City side also had problems such as the choice of the venue and a setting of the ceremony will probably be included to those reasons.

Most new grownups must hope a coming-of-age ceremony which will be a wonderful memory in their lives. I would like to make a brilliant ceremony which will leave its scene in everyone's heart by enough advance arrangements with members of the executive committee for next year.