

Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama City (75) October 26th, 2016 Issue

【The power of interaction at a local level】

Hello, I'm Mr. Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

From the beginning of this month to the last weekend, City of Okayama hosted three big conferences one after another; National Conference On Urban Problems (about 1,800 participants), Japan-China-South Korea Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference (about 500 participants) and National Summit On Promoting Long Term Care Insurance (about 1,200 participants).

All were successfully completed and received warm praise from participants. Above all, in Japan-China-South Korea Trilateral Local Government Exchange Conference, in which around 220 guests from China and Korea participated, exclamations were heard for its opening party and reception held in the magical atmosphere created by lit-up Okayama Castle and Okayama Korakuen Garden-one of the three most outstanding gardens in Japan.

Many guests appeared to be captivated by a full view of the lit-up castle and the garden and astonished at the beauty of Japanese elegance. Especially, Mr. Yuan MinDao, the Secretary-General of Japan-China Friendship Association, made very impressive remarks- "No guest will ever forget Okayama for life", which was a great honour to me.

In the body meeting on the following day, setting "Dynamising North East Asia by local governments' interactions" as the main theme, representatives from each country gave presentations on actions at the local-government level. And I also gave a talk to

explain the charms of City of Okayama and our efforts on ESD.

Throughout the meeting, what was impressive to me was to see the participants from different countries having listened intently each other and had discussions. Having seen that scene with my own eyes, I am sure that continued local-level interactions will create a wave of human, cultural, and economic exchange, and which will contribute to peace and stability in North East Asia in the end.

In closing, I do not mean to brag, but through a series of conferences, it was a pleasant surprise to see Okayama City officers' excellent ability to conduct meetings.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest appreciation to lecturers, volunteers and everyone involved who made efforts to hold the conferences.