

【Further Challenges in the Second Term】

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

Support from many citizens at the Okayama mayoral election yesterday enabled me to get re-elected as mayor. I would like to express my sincere appreciation once again for those who supported me.

And now, this morning, I am pleased that I can continue to be responsible for steering the municipal administration. Great expectations have a sobering effect on me.

Since taking office as Mayor of Okayama four years ago, I have been working hard with the thought of making my hometown-Okayama- even better. As a result, I have got a feeling that certain paths and achievements were obtained in many fields.

Such an impression has been felt when I had more opportunity to hear citizens saying "Okayama City is moving forward." and when I received warm reaction during the election campaign, unlike four years ago. I regard the result of the 2017 Okayama mayoral election as a certain evaluation for what I have done so far.

I am aware that some fields made a great deal of progress, but others have just begun to bud in these four years. When canvassing, I heard serious opinions such as "Clear out nursery waiting lists" from mothers with babies, "Do not forget the hilly and mountainous area" from citizens of the neighboring parts, and "Show a model of the 100-year life" from elderly people.

I planted seeds and they came out in the first term, so the second term should be when I need to have them root and bloom. In the next four years, I must show concrete results which meet citizens' expectations.

There is an old proverb by Confucius, "Without trust of the people, no government ever exists". This tells us that the most important thing in carrying out politics is a relationship of trust. Treasuring the words in my heart, thinking and acting with the citizens, I would like to work hard with all my soul for the prosperity of Okayama City as a leader of Chugoku-Shikoku Area and the enhancement of citizens' life.

I appreciate your continuous understanding and cooperation.