

Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (105) September 27, 2018 Issue

**【As a lesson learned from the heavy rain disaster】**

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

Today we finished the regular city assembly of September for the first time after the heavy rain disaster in July and around 9.12 billion yen of the disaster-related supplementary budget (including the support for reconstructing livelihood of disaster victims: around 3.85 billion yen and the restoration of public facilities: around 5.26 billion yen) was approved.

At this heavy rain disaster, emergency warning was issued for the first time in Okayama City. The river and inland water flooded, landslide occurred in various parts of the city and we suffered the most serious damage in the Heisei period.

The city officers did their best to cope with this heavy rain disaster in Okayama, where people have believed that there were less natural disasters, however, it is true that we were not used to dealing with disasters. There were some lack of information system about evacuation order and management of evacuation shelters.

To utilize my experience that I learned when I was in charge of protection against disaster at the Cabinet Office, I took command as the leader of the whole, made on-the-spot inspections many times after I grasped the situation and took actions considering what I should do for the disaster victims. However, the city council and some citizens told me that they didn't see the mayor for a few days after the disaster

and the mayor should be someone whom victims can rely on.

Looking back myself, I should have been informed every citizen of my activities and messages positively through the media as soon as possible.

Considering the effects of the global warming such as typhoon-prone weather and local downpours, great disasters like this time might actually happen again.

At this council we were pointed out about the disaster response of the city. We will establish the committee in the office, sort out the problems and reconsider the disaster response to renew some points we need to promptly.

In these points, we will make a report by the end of the fiscal year and incorporate the external professionals to keep the objectivity about the contents. We will make use of our experience as lessons learned from this disaster.