

Mayor's E-newsletter from the City of Okayama No. 135

June 7, 2021

**Okayama City must keep moving forward for further progress.**

Hello Citizens, this is OMORI Masao, Mayor of Okayama City.

It has been 7 years and 8 months since I was inaugurated as a mayor with a passion "Be a helpful person in my hometown, Okayama."

I have announced to run in the mayoral election for the next term at the Okayama City Council today.

"不易流行" or "Fueki Ryuko is an expression I have been cherishing until today, which means "mixture of changeability and openness to new change things."

I always go back to basics considering what I should perform for the further development of Okayama City and improvement of the quality of life for citizens. I sincerely proceeded with each measure such as a town development, economy and interaction, child care, education, health and welfare, environment, safety and security, etc., having thoughts that I change what needs to be changed from the three perspectives I have valued: "livability," "strength" and "safety and security."

Okayama City has been surely gaining the "comprehensive power" steadily. Meanwhile, we have encountered new challenges including promotion of decarbonized society and achievement the principles of SDGs besides the existing structural issues such as the declining birthrate and aging population, etc.

Coping with COVID-19 is our municipal government's top priority issue now and implementing measures toward post-Covid is crucial as well. Also, we are required to ensure the soundness of the fiscal management so as not to impose a burden on future generations.

I often hear "Okayama City is dramatically progressing" from many people these days, which makes me delighted.

Currently, Okayama City has been surely advancing to make a further leap and we must not stop it. Okayama, as a hub city of the Chugoku and Shikoku regions, still has great potential. I believe that "I will be able to contribute even more to Okayama City where I was born and grew up" and I am still halfway.

Furthermore, it is said that it takes a while until COVID-19 will be stamped out. It is indispensable to keep following measures against COVID-19 we have been tackling so far in order to protect citizens' health and maintain socio-economic activities.

"信なくば立たず" or "Shinnakuba tatazu," which means "Without the trust of the people, there can be no government." I have been putting my efforts into managing the municipal government in a fair way ensuring a transparency all the time. If you trust me, please let me continue to manage the municipal government for the next term. I will give it my all to create a city that makes citizens feel proud of living while assuming a leadership promoting the measures against COVID-19 and refining "livability," "strength" and "safety and security."