

Message

At 14:46 on March 11, 2011, there broke out the Great East-Japan Earthquake with a magnitude of 9.0, having its center off Sanriku Coast, Japan, and causing many disasters—at most 38.9 meter-high gigantic Tsunami which took the lives of many people, the hydrogen explosion of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant followed by radiation leak as well as pollutive influences on agricultural produce and water in its neighborhood—the chain of these disasters not only shook the whole of Japan, but also worried deeply the whole world.

Precisely after the Great East-Japan Earthquake, many an electronic mail has been arriving at our Executive Committee from every friend, every comrade in the world, looking after our unhappiness, whose thoughtfulness has encouraged us very warmly. Mr. President Paddy O'DWYER of AITA/IATA asbl informed us of the procedure he kindly took immediately of telling all the National Centers of the world to raise the donations and send them via the Red Cross to Japan, which news also lit our hearts sincerely. We had never felt so grateful to all the people of the world as at this moment, after many years of our long international exchanges with foreign friends. Luckily enough, here in Toyama Prefecture, we have hardly had any damages from the natural disasters, feeling fortunate of the protection which our natural geography seems to have given us so far.

Watching the sight of suffering people interviewed on the television, I remembered some small girls being interviewed after the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, on which occasion, to the question “What do you need most now?”, they answered unanimously, “We need pretty dolls.” How impressive the answer was to me! At that moment I realized that for us human beings, nothing is so worth having in our lives as “dreams” in order to lead our daily life.

What a fantastic force children’s “dreams” possess! It is their “dreams” that keep potentially enough energy to overcome even the most cruel disasters. For the purpose of bringing up their “dreams”, let us establish one more time a brand new festival of children’s performing arts by the cooperation of children and adults!

Hardships only exist to be overcome by us. Our festival “Toyama World Festival of Children’s Performing Arts 2012” will be the 9th International festival held in Toyama, beginning in 1983. “The First World Festival of Children’s Performing Arts in Toyama” held in 2008, being successfully concluded, here in Toyama again we will hold our Festival, where through many encounters children of the world will surely develop their friendship, and these friendly circles are sure to be enlarged more and more, ranging and spreading through the whole world; thus, if I say once again, multiplying themselves infinitely in the future.

The Executive Committee
of the World Festival of Children’s Performing Arts in Toyama, 2012

President Izumi YOSHIDA