

改訂版「写真で見る芸文協のあゆみ」ご挨拶



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富山県芸術文化協会は1972年10月に設立され47年の歴史を刻みました。芸文協設立以前の富山は“文化不毛の地”と揶揄やゆされていました。現在のように本県の芸術文化の輪が大きく広がったのは、行政・マスコミ・民間の三位一体となった取り組みが功を奏し、これを力強く推進された歴代会長をはじめ、役員各位、芸術文化諸団体の並々ならぬ努力の賜物と思います。

中国の歴史書「十八史略」では、第一に「創業」の困難が述べられ、それを引き継ぐ難しさが「守成」として記されています。まさに守成期にある当協会の運営に、日々気が引き締まる昨今です。

ここで、私が芸文協に入った当初の印象的なエピソードを紹介させて頂きたく存じます。1985年、富山高校で国語の教鞭を執っていた私は、事務局主任として芸文協に赴任することになりました。当時、小泉博事務局長（現名誉会長）と舟本幸人書記（現専務理事）他2名で、私が加わり五人体制でした。

トロンボーン奏者として、また吹奏楽部顧問として、斯界では多少納得の行くことをやって来たつもりでしたが、初日から「井の中の蛙」を自覚させられました。

この年の夏、1983年に開催されたアジア初の「富山国際アマチュア演劇祭」に続き、世界初の「富山国際高校演劇祭」が開催されるところで、私が入った時は準備の真最中でした。

韓国・漢陽工業高校の身元引受人として韓国領事館との交渉に手こずこずったこと（最初のメンバーの家族に兵役拒否歴がありとか……）など、国際交流事業の難しさを端から味わい、右往左往しました。

そして演劇祭最終日、フェアウェルパーティ会場の隅に私がへたり込んだ時、漢陽工業高校の校長先生が日本語で私に話しかけて下さったのです。

「加藤先生ありがとう。査証のことでは随分先生に大変厄介な思いをさせました。私たちが日本に来られるよう、先生が根気よく書類を幾度も書いて下さったお蔭で、韓国の高校生が富山の演劇祭に参加し、日本人の前で韓国語で演劇「すっぽんの侍者役伝」を上演し、日本人も、世界の人たちも皆拍手してくれました。私は韓国人として誇らしく、こんなに嬉しいことはない……。」何と校長先生は感激し、涙を流していたのです。

私の期間中の辛い思いが一瞬で吹っ飛び、感動に変わりました。

時は移り、あの頃から35年近く過ぎ、国際交流も円熟の時を迎えています。今年はハンガリーの劇団プレイヤーズ・スタジオ・デブレツェンが富山で子どもたちに「みにくいあひる」を演じましたが、これはハンガリー人が“日本語で”上演した演劇の何と5作品目です。富山弁を交えた軽妙なやりとりに客席は大いに沸き、国際交流のレベルも新しい段階に到達したことを実感いたしました。

このように世界でも珍しい地域間国際芸術文化交流を含め、多種多様に花開く芸文協の諸事業を「守成」し、次世代へ「つなぎ・わたす」決意を新たにしております。富山県民の皆様、また行政・報道など関係の皆様には、今後とも当協会に温かなご理解とご支援を賜りますよう衷心よりお願い申し上げます、第11版発行の挨拶とさせていただきます。

Greetings to the revised edition of “Toyama Prefectural Artistic and Cultural Association seen by photos”

President of Toyama Prefectural Artistic and Cultural Association
Kiyoshi KATO

The Toyama Prefectural Artistic and Cultural Association was established in October 1972 and has engraved itself into the history during the 47 years of its existence. Prior to the establishment of our Association, people called Toyama a “cultural desert”. The current artistic and cultural circles of Toyama Prefecture expanded greatly as a result of the efforts made by the trinity of local government, mass media and private sector. I think that it was a gift of efforts to strongly promote them, made by the past presidents, board members, as well as artistic and cultural organizations.

In the book “Eighteen Stories Brief” about history of China, the first of the difficulties mentioned is “establishing a business” and the second one is “taking over and maintaining” . Nowadays, I must brace up my mind every day in the management of this Association which is exactly in the period of “taking over and maintaining” .

Here, I would like to introduce the first impressive episode to you from the early days I entered our Association’s office. In 1985, when I was teaching Japanese language at Toyama High School, I was sent to the Association’s office to work as a chief clerk. At that time, the office was managed by five persons, who were Secretary General Mr. Hiroshi KOIZUMI (current Honorary President), Clerk Mr. Yukihiro FUNAMOTO (current Executive Director), two other members and me.

As a trombone player and an advisor of a school brass club, I was more or less self-confident to be prepared for this field, but soon I realized I was like a “frog in a well”, which doesn’t know the vast world outside.

During the summer of that year, I joined the Association in the middle of the preparation for the world’s first “Toyama International High School Drama Festival”, which was a continuation of the “Toyama International Amateur Theatre Festival (TIATF)” held in Asia for the first time in 1983.

I could taste the difficulty of international exchanges from the very bottom. For example, when we

were having much trouble discussing with the Korean Consulate as the guarantor of Hanyang Technical High School in Korea (the original member’s family had a history of refusing military service...). And on the last day of the Festival, when I got tired and was sitting in the corner at the Farewell Party, the Principal of the Hanyang Technical High School spoke to me in Japanese. “Mr. Kato, thank you very much. We have troubled you a lot with visa documents. Because you patiently negotiated with the Consulate by writing a lot of documents, we were able to come to Japan. Korean High School students were able to participate in the Theatre Festival and perform in front of Japanese people the play “Legend of the Turtle Servant” which was received with applause from both Japanese and foreign people from all over the world. As Korean, I am very proud, and I couldn’t be happier...” The Principal was very much touched and shed tears. All of my painful feelings from that difficult experience were blown away instantly and changed into excitement.

The time has changed, nearly 35 years have passed since then and the international exchange has matured. This year, the Hungarian group “Players Studio Debrecen” has performed “The Ugly Duckling” for local children which was the fifth production staged “in Japanese language” by Hungarian actors. The audience was greatly excited by the witty conversations which were mixed with Toyama dialect, and I actually felt that the level of international exchange reached a new step.

Thus, I am renewing my determination to “take over and maintain” our Association in Toyama, which is blooming flowers in various fields such as holding international and inter-regional artistic and cultural exchanges so unique in the world, and to pass it onto the next generation.

To all Toyama Prefecture citizens and to all those concerned with government and media, in this 11th edition, from now on, I would like to sincerely ask you for your warm understanding and continuous support for our Toyama Prefectural Artistic and Cultural Association.