

“A new era ~Twenty-year-olds are the most powerful~”

Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony executive committee
Chairperson Ayumi Kurizuka

As we celebrate the Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony today, I would like to first, on behalf of the new adults, express gratitude to our family, teachers, local residents who have supported us over the past 20 years, and everyone involved in this ceremony.

This year's theme is “**A new era ~Twenty-year-olds are the most powerful~**”. In April last year, the age of adulthood was lowered to 18 years old, and the coming-of-age ceremony was renamed to the twenty-year-old ceremony. As this is the ceremony being held for the first time after the name change, it is filled with the hope that we, who are full of potential, will take on various challenges and create a new era with our own power.

In addition, as twenty-year-olds, we must set an example to new adults at the age of 18 and 19. From now on, we, who have been given such a mission, while receiving the teachings and support of many people, will absorb many things, grow immensely, and move forward day by day in order to become adults who are respected by those around us.

On the day of the twenty-year-old ceremony, we have finally taken the first step into adulthood. From now on, we will consider ourselves as adults, think for ourselves, take responsibility for our own words and actions, and work as members of society.

For the new era that is ahead of us, let's create the future by combining the strongest and best powers of potential filled twenty-year-olds.

Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony Program Ceremonial Address

Echizen City Board of Education Superintendent
Hideyuki Sawazaki

Thank you to everyone who is participating in the Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony today. On behalf of the Echizen City Board of Education, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on your milestone.

The theme, "New Era ~ Twenty Years Old is the Strongest ~" was upheld as a suitable theme of the "Twenty Years Old Ceremony". Everyone who participates in the ceremony can feel the enthusiasm to take on new challenges, and are filled with dreams and hopes for the new era.

Yuzuru Hanyu, the undisputed champion of the figure skating world who continues to be active in the new era, like you, said these words at his acceptance speech at the age of 20.

“I think sports are very cruel. Those who work the hardest do not always get the best results. But if you don't make an effort, you will never get good results.” Perhaps it is a famous quote that could only be said by Mr. Hanyu, who never gave up taking on new challenges despite his success? I'm sure Mr. Hanyu will take on various challenges as a professional athlete.

There are endless possibilities in your future. On the road ahead, there will be times when things don't go as you predicted, and you may feel discouraged. As long as you don't give up your desire to take on challenges, believe that you can grow, no matter how old you are, and continue to walk towards your dreams and hopes. We have high hopes for your powerful youth and we sincerely support you.

In closing, I would like to conclude my speech by congratulating all of you on your bright future as you reach the age of 20.

Celebratory speech

Echizen City Mayor Kenichi Yamada

As we celebrate the Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony today with a glorious start to the new year, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you all.

Our hometown, Echizen City was established as the national capital of Echizen Province 1,300 years ago, and has flourished as the center of politics, economy, and culture in the Hokuriku region.

Also, during the Heian period, Murasaki Shikibu, the author of "The Tale of Genji," left Kyoto only once in her life to live on this land for over a year with her father, who was appointed as the Echizen provincial governor.

Echizen City has a lot of history and culture like this. People with diverse talents, nature that beautifully colors the four seasons, landscapes rooted in the climate, customs, festivals and local cuisine; furthermore, manufacturing, from traditional industries to cutting-edge industries, these cultures that we should be proud of are "treasures" of the city. Among them, I believe that the greatest treasure are the people who have turned adults, and are participating in this Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony today.

Each citizen recognizes the treasures of this region, takes pride in them, polishes them, makes them shiny and attractive, and delivers them to the whole country, and the world. In this way, we, the citizens, will work to create a hometown where we want to continue to live with a sense of attachment and pride.

In closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of you, who were born into the new age of the 21st century, and wish that you boldly carve out a hopeful future, make great strides toward your dreams, and continue to play an active role for many years to come.

Celebratory speech

Echizen City Council Chairperson
Keizo Yoshida

Congratulations to all of you who have reached the age of 20. On behalf of Echizen City Council, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you all, for growing up in good health both physically and mentally, and for becoming the next responsible generation of Echizen City.

In the words of Ryoma Sakamoto, "The purpose of coming into the world is to accomplish one's duty." This means that you were born into this world to accomplish something. Accomplishing something should always lead to happiness for yourself, for your family, and for society. In order to make your dreams come true, and not remain a dream, you need a strong will to keep trying. Especially because you were born, it would be better to regret the things you've tried, than regret not trying at all.

Now that we are in an era of the most drastic change since the end of Edo period and the Meiji Restoration when Ryoma lived, please consider today as a starting point, to discover your role in society and to take on new challenges.

I think some of you have left Echizen City, learning and taking on challenges for the future in a new place. Echizen City is an industrial city that spans a wide range of fields; it is rich in nature, and values its history and traditional culture. We hope that this ceremony will be an opportunity for you to once again appreciate the traditions and culture of this region, someday return to your hometown of Echizen City, and work together to create a prosperous community.

In closing, I would like to conclude my congratulatory speech by hoping that each of you will take great strides forward with the self-awareness and pride that is expected of you as members of society.