

Greeting from Chairperson

The Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony Executive Committee
Chairperson Yuki Nishiura

Today, as we celebrate The Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony, I would like to first express my sincere gratitude on behalf of all of us who turned twenty to those who supported us over the past twenty years, including our families, teachers, local community members, and all those involved in this grand ceremony.

Now, this year's theme is "Twentieth Festival~Cheers with Echizen City~". Making the 20th anniversary of Echizen City, we have put respect and joy for reaching a milestone year into this theme as we celebrate the past 20 years. Also, another keyword, "Cheers", includes many different feelings. "A Celebratory Toast", honors the time we've spent together with our hometown as a generation that has been together for 20 years. "A Toast of Gratitude", expresses deep gratitude to those who supported us, including our families, teachers and local community members, "A Toast of Reunion", shares the joy of reunion with friends who we've lost touch with, and "A Toast of Decision", as we step forward into the society as adults from now on. All those feelings have come together as a symbol of this theme.

The path we are going to take is different for each of us, but we are all from the same starting point, Echizen City. Let's learn, think and act with pride in our hometown so that we can be accomplished adults in every place.

Let's toast to our future and our hometown, Echizen City, with everyone who is coming here today. Cheers!

Celebratory Speech

Superintendent of Echizen City Board of Education

Hideyuki Sawazaki

Congratulations to everyone participating in The Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony. On behalf of the Echizen City Education Board, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations.

The fact that you have grown up healthy until now is proof of your dedication in your daily life, such as getting enough sleep, exercising to strengthen your body and eating well. In particular, eating well maintains your body and mind, develops bonds between people, and enriches your life.

Ishizuka Sagen, a doctor born in Fukui, advocated that “Exercise, studying, and developing your talents all begin with a proper meal.”, and explained that meals have a big impact on our way of life itself. What to eat day to day – each choice will be the foundation to protect the health of your body and mind, and to build your life.

All of you who have turned 20 years old will step forward onto the path of life and make your own choices. Which path to take, what to cherish in life, each choice is not always small one. However, the accumulation of thoughtful choices day to day will ensure your future. I hope you will step forward politely without being afraid of challenges while taking care of your health.

”Cheers “, the theme of The Twenty-Year-Old Ceremony this year, includes the wishes of “Health” and “Happiness” , in any country in the world.

I sincerely hope that your sake cup will be filled with health and happiness.

In closing, I wish all of you good luck for your bright futures. I would like to conclude my congratulations to all of you in attendance by wishing you health and happiness.

Celebratory Speech

Acting Mayor of Echizen City, Deputy Mayor Yoichi Koizumi

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.

After the Taika Reform, this city was the first to have the National Government in Hokuriku Region and has flourished into the center of politics, economy and culture. Our traditional industries, such as Echizen washi paper, Echizen forged knives and Echizen chests, have received high evaluation from both within and outside of Japan as a culmination of history and culture over 1500 years.

Last year, Echizen City has become the 12th city in Japan that became a member of the Craft & Fork Art field of “UNESCO Creative City Network.” Also, “Echizen Torinoko Paper” was added in UNESCO intangible cultural heritage.

This is proof that the power of the region has protected and cultivated traditional art & craft, and the accumulation of many people’s effort over the years. This achievement that has been recognized worldwide shows that you have the possibility to pioneer your future on your own and connect to the world.

You will have many choices that you will have to make in your life from now on. Like our ancestors who pioneered their future, do not be afraid to make mistakes and step forward believing in your possibilities. Also, we are sincerely looking forward to building “Hometown Echizen City” with you, the city where people want to live with pride and love, the city where people want to return even after leaving to study or for work, and the city where all the citizens can live happily.

In closing, I wish all of you good luck for your bright future filled with dreams and hopes, and would like to conclude my congratulations by wishing you continued success and happiness.

Celebratory Speech

Echizen City Council Chairperson
Kenichi Okubo

Congratulations to all of you who have reached the age of 20. On behalf of the Echizen City Council, I sincerely congratulate each of you on growing up healthy in both body and mind and reaching this important day.

Echizen City celebrated the 20th anniversary of its establishment last October. In a way, the city has grown alongside you. As you have walked your own paths over the past 20 years, the city too has followed a similar journey of development.

We are now living in a time of dramatic change, driven by rapid technological development. Twenty years ago, Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple and creator of the innovative iPhone and iPad, delivered a memorable speech at a university graduation ceremony. In it, he spoke about “Connecting the Dots.”

We often wonder whether what we are doing now is meaningful or useful for the future. However, what truly matters is devoting yourself wholeheartedly to what is right in front of you, the experiences you accumulate will one day form the “line” of your lives. There will be challenging times, but I encourage you to gain many experiences and continue moving forward with confidence. These experiences will become the bridge that connects you to your future.

I sincerely hope that this ceremony inspires you to reflect on your hometown, Echizen City, and step forward with the awareness and responsibility expected of an adult. May each of you, full of potential, shine brightly in a wide variety of fields.

In closing, I would like to express my deep respect and gratitude to everyone involved, including the executive committee members, for making this wonderful ceremony possible.