

Financial Report Fiscal 2016-2017 of the Earthquake Support

Following is the report of the account of the earthquake supports for fiscal 2016 and 2017:

◎Fiscal 2016

▽ Revenue

(1)BF from 2015 ¥1,677,561

▽ Expenses

(1) Part of the expenses for "Tohoku Theatre Fair in Morioka 2016" ¥600,000
(2) Expenses for creating website of "Shinsai Theater Liaison Center" ¥216,000
(3) CF to 2017 ¥861,561

◎Fiscal 2017 no revenue nor expenses

From Now on in the Post-earthquake Era

Kuramochi Hiroyuki (Director, Tohoku Branch)

A year has finally passed since the Shinsai Theater Liaison Center website began full-scale operation. It seemed longer than a year to me, but that was likely due to the lengthy trial period. The number of scripts included on the site has increased to eleven, but still many earthquake scripts have yet to be submitted. We need to discover, collect, and make them available to the public.

Chinatsu Kudo, who is in charge of the high-school theatre in Japan Playwrights Association, feels that "Prominent shinsai plays seem to be born in the world of high-school theater". Kudo lives in Tokyo but belongs to a theatre company called Watanabe Genshirou Shoten, and travels back and forth between Tokyo and Aomori. For this reason she can broaden her membership to include the Tohoku branch.

Kudo tells me that there are quite a few plays about earthquakes that are being performed in the high-school theater contest every year but once performed they are then no longer produced and all but forgotten.

We would like to work together with Kudo with her project to create a shinsai plays link of high-school theatre on the Shinsai Theater Liaison Center website.

One year after the Great East Japan Earthquake donations from America were collected in the name of the "Shinsai Theater for Japan". These donations made possible the founding of the Shinsai Theater Liaison Center. James Yaegashi, actor from Yamagata Prefecture residing in New York, was instrumental to this cause through his gathering of funds in America. These donations have been used to create a place for the Tohoku theatre community to gather and meet.

In 2016 we invited James to judge the Tohoku version of Theatre King, Geki Oh, titled "Theater Camp, Tohoku." We wanted him to experience the current status of Tohoku Theater. We also asked Michiyuki Kawano, who had experienced first hand the Kumamoto Earthquake, to be another judge and held a symposium titled "Tohoku Theatre which crosses borders." We discussed the relationship between earthquakes and theater linking Tohoku, Kumamoto, and New York.

Theatre is but one of countless activities in our daily lives. Earthquakes, on the other hand, are life-changing incidents. I believe that now, in the post-earthquake era, our mundane daily activities have become enmeshed with these life changing historical events. We can say that theater about the impact of earthquakes in our lives has become an inevitable reality.

This being the case, we need to make a positive acceptance of this topic in the current theater scene.

As one of the important guideposts Shinsai Theatre Liaison Center will be to steadily continue collecting shinsai plays.