

Report of The World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2022 (PAT2022)

Vice President of the Executive Committee, Yukihiro FUNAMOTO

Under the midst of difficult global conditions, such as the widespread of COVID-19 all over the world and the difficult situation in Europe, "The World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama, 2022 (PAT2022)" was held for five days from July 30 to 3 last year. Toyama Prefectural Government, the media, and the Executive Committee were working hard together to realize this festival.

It was originally planned that the World Festival of Children's Theatre under the auspices of AITA/IATA asbl would be held for the second time after 20 years in Toyama, in August 2020. It was canceled due to the surge of pandemic, and after two postponements we held it as PAT2022. To the Festival of Children's Theatre, which was originally scheduled in 2020, there were applications from 92 groups from 52 countries and regions and to PAT 2022, we had applications from 46 groups from 35 countries. From those applicants 19 groups from 19 countries were finally selected. Under harsh restrictions of immigration and departure caused by the pandemic, we had participation from nine foreign countries including Canada, Egypt, Hungary and Indonesia. In total, we welcomed 69 international and local groups with about 2000 participants and 10,400 audience from domestic and abroad.

From Toyama Japan, on three and a half stages, an original opening act "Man'yo Koshi-no-Kuni" was staged, and "The Twelve Months" was performed by the Theatre Company BUNGEIZA and Kasai Dancing Company and both had high evaluation. The most outstanding groups from many parts of Japan exhibited their performing arts and attracted the audience from the world. We also held various inter-cultural exchange such as workshops introducing Japanese culture and art exhibition, displaying 150 pictures from all the world. A system of streaming service was introduced for the people outside of Toyama, both domestic and abroad to be able to enjoy performances.

It is our great achievement and pleasure that we were able to give children opportunities for creativity and friendship through their gathering in Toyama from the world, expressing themselves on stage and communicating face-to-face with an aid of about 420 volunteers. The children declared that they would deepen their friendship and pass on their feelings to the future through participation and creation with grown-ups. We will keep on actualizing international exchange and cultural development and we sincerely hope this activity will contribute to the world peace.

On behalf of the committee of Toyama, I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude to the World President Aled Rhys-Jones and other members who gave us their warm encouragement and messages, the former President Béatrice Cellario and other international members who participated under various restrictions on overseas travel, Ms. Mary Pears, who has participated every time since the Toyama International Amateur Theatre Festival was held in 1983, Paddy O'Dwyer, Mr. Josef Hollos and other representatives.

Summary of PAT 2022

Date: From July 30 (Sat.) to August 3 (Wed.), 2022 (5 days) **Venue:** Toyama, Japan

Participating Groups: 69 groups from 10 countries: Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam



Participants: About 2,000 (approx. 150 people from 9 foreign countries, 1,500 from 50 groups of Toyama Prefecture, 300 from 10 groups of other prefectures, 10 foreign critics, etc.)

Total number of the audience: approx. 10,400 **Number of the volunteers:** approx. 420

Messages: Mr. Aled RHYS-JONES, the World President, Mr. Rob VAN GENECHTEN and many members

International Guests/Critics: Ms. Béatrice and Mr. Patrice CELLARIO, Mr. Paddy O'DWYER, Ms. Mary PEARS, Mr. Josef HOLLOS, Mr. Alike CHANDRA, from AITA/IATA asbl
Mr. István PINCZÉS from Hungary

Contents: 7 main stage acts, 4 interactive stages

Workshops: improvisations, dances, drawings, and Japanese culture experiences including flower arrangements, playing the *koto*, traditional musical instrument, performing *noh* the oldest Japanese theater.

Exhibition: Drawing of children from all over the world (149 drawings from 10 foreign countries)

For the On-Line Viewing

A System of paid streaming service was introduced for the people outside of Toyama, both domestic and abroad to be able to enjoy performances at PAT 2022. Free on-line tickets were sent to the council members of AITA/IATA, supporters and volunteers. They were valid for one month after the festival.

Against the Pandemics

- All the participants from abroad were required to submit PCR test negative certificate against COVID-19 on arriving in Japan. After the immigration control, they moved to Toyama.
- All the audience and the guests were required to submit their name and address in order to be able to make contact in case of the infection of COVID-19.
- Every measure against COVID-19 was taken such as disinfection, ventilation of the stages, disinfection of the palms and fingers of the participants, and the sequence of the movement and the use of the dressing room by the unit of each group.

Contribution to Japan Committee for UNICEF

To Japan Committee for UNICEF, 560,164 yen (or 4,120 USD or 3,800 Euros approximately) was contributed. About 300 collection boxes were set around Toyama Prefecture, soliciting contributions from the people who wish the world peace and the sound growth of children.



Canada



Man'yo koshi-no-Kuni



Indonesia



Workshop of Japanese dance



Hungary



excursion

Next World Festival of Children's Performing Arts in Toyama will be held in August, 2026