

Prospectus for the *TOYAMA World Festival of Children's Theatre in 2020*

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Twenty – twenty in the very year when not only the Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games will be held in Tokyo for the second time, and the entire world will be watching Japan, but also the *TOYAMA World Festival of Children's Theatre* will be held, as an officially approved event of the International Amateur Theatre Association (AITA/IATA asbl). The *World Festival of Children's Theatre* was originated in Lingen, Germany in 1990, and since then has been held biannually alternatingly in Lingen and in another location in the world. This World Festival of Children's Theatre to be held here in Toyama as the 16th one, is our second official AITA/IATA asbl event, the first one was the 6th World Festival held in 2000.

The *World Festival of Children's Theatre* aims at cultivating children's sensitivity and creativity through presentations of performing arts such as theatre and dance, as well as promoting to develop international exchanges through workshops and other programs.

Those deep emotions and excitements we experienced twenty years ago still remain with us fresh and vivid. Children from over twenty countries met in Toyama and cultivated the spiritual tie of friendship. The spirit of TOYAMA World Festival of Children's Theatre, 'the festival of the children, for the children, by the children and grown-ups', with the theme of "We build the future," has been continuously handed down. Once again, nearly 100 groups from Japan and all around the world are expected to participate in our 2nd world festival and we estimate the number of performers and staff to reach 3,000 people.

In 1983, Toyama Prefecture celebrated the 100th anniversary of its establishment. The *Toyama International Amateur Theatre Festival '83* (TIATF '83) was organized as a memorial event, followed by a series of big international festivals for several years. Since 2008, we have organized the *World Festival of Children's*

Performing Arts in Toyama (PAT) every four years.

We truly believe that the forthcoming *World Festival of Children's Theatre* in Toyama, a local city of Japan, held on the important year of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be a dazzling cultural event.

The Charter of the Olympic Games designates friendship, solidarity and mutual understanding as its main principles. The *TOYAMA World Festival of Children's Theatre, organized on the basis of international exchanges by regional powers*, shares the noble virtues of the Olympics!

We are currently faced with many obstacles internationally. Many countries are apt to be looking for domestic interests and movements to alienate countries from each other are even becoming apparent. In such situations like these, international exchanges for children that will bear the future of the world will be of even greater importance, especially international exchanges and mutual friendship will be promoted not in big capital cities but in a local prefecture in a regional district of Japan.

Friends from all over the world, let us meet in Toyama in August 2020!