

Children Draw *Genki-nobori*

Susumu Shingu Holds Event at Expo

Susumu Shingu (88), known as the “Sculptor of Wind” and has his studio in Sanda City, held an event to create *Genki-nobori* (Banners of Energy) at the Osaka-Kansai Expo venue (Konohana-ku, Osaka). The project involves freely drawing pictures on cylindrical pieces of cloth and letting them flutter in the wind like carp streamers. It was started with the hope of recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake. This time, approximately 180 people, including victims of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, completed colorful artworks. (Takabe Shinichi)

Noto Earthquake victims also participated

Fireworks, shaved ice, dolphins, flags of various countries... On the 20th, at the Festival Station inside the Expo venue, 28 groups were coloring *Genki-nobori* placed on the floor with crayons. Among them were four families who had been affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake in January last year and had been invited to the event.

Akiko Tanaka (40) from Wajima City, Ishikawa Prefecture, who participated with her family of six, is still unable to return home due to the road being cut off. She continues to live in temporary housing and said, “The temporary housing isn't very spacious, so it's been a while since the children have been able to draw freely.” Her second son, Yukito, a second-grader, drew the official Expo character “Myaku Myaku” and said excitedly, “I'm looking forward to meeting the real one.” “It's heartwarming that they invited us without forgetting about the Noto Earthquake,” said Terashita Yuki, a 36-year-old elementary school teacher from Noto Town in the same prefecture. During the earthquake, his wife's parents' home, where she was visiting, collapsed, and the family of five escaped from the rubble. On this day, he drew the squid monument “Ika King,” the traditional event “Kiriko Festival,” and the town's mascot character ‘Notorin’ with the children, and shared his thoughts, saying, “There were difficult times, but I hope many people will come to know about Noto Town.”

Genki-nobori was started by Susumu Shingu in 2011, the year of the Great East Japan Earthquake, to encourage those affected by the disaster. He invited children in Sanda City and other areas to freely draw pictures, which were then displayed in Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture, in 2012, a city that suffered severe damage from the tsunami. Shingu has continued to collaborate with children both domestically and internationally since then.

This time, Shingu's studio and the general incorporated association “Expo Sakuyahime

Conference,” composed of women active in the Kansai business community, planned and prepared the event, aligning it with the Expo theme “Designing a Future Society Where Life Shines.”

At the venue, Shingu commented on the completed works, saying, “They are harmonious” and “They condense joy.”

Susumu Shingu, who exhibited his sculptures at the 1970 Osaka Expo, said that the two expositions were “set in different historical contexts,” adding, “There are no borders in the wind. I will continue to fly the *Genki-nobori* flag around the world. I hope to pass the baton on to the younger generation.” Ms. Norijo Yahagi, representative director of the organization, said, “Many people worked together to make this event a success, filled with smiles.”

(captions to the photo)

Children drawing “Ika King” from Noto Town, Ishikawa Prefecture

(captions to the photo)

Susumu Shingu reviewing each work one by one