

## Welcome to Toyama



OKAZAKI Hiroyuki (University of Toyama)

Chair, the Toyama Conference Executive Committee

Welcome to the Toyama Conference of the Chubu English Language Education Society. On behalf of the Toyama Conference Executive Committee, it is my pleasure to extend a heartfelt welcome to you all.

The 2020 conference was postponed because of COVID-19, and subsequent conferences in Aichi, Fukui, and Gifu were all held online. Therefore, this Toyama Conference marks the first in-person meeting since the Ishikawa Conference in 2019, and we are thrilled to be able to meet you all face-to-face once again. Considering it has been a while since our last in-person conference, the Executive Committee has worked diligently to ensure your comfort and enjoyment at this event.

The Toyama Conference is being held a few years after the revision of the Course of Study, providing an excellent opportunity to review the outcomes and challenges of its practices. In a 2021 report of the same name, Reiwa Era Japan-style education was defined as aiming to achieve “individualized optimal learning and collaborative learning to bring out the potential of all children.” Therefore, throughout the conference, which is themed “How to Learn English in the Reiwa Era: Developing Autonomous Learners,” we aim to deepen discussions on the current status and challenges of English education. Additionally, in issue-based discussions, we expect significant proposals from practitioners in elementary, junior high, and high schools in Toyama Prefecture. Ten years ago, the Toyama Conference’s theme was “When the Eyes of Students Shine,” and it focused on education practices from learners’ perspectives by discussing each child’s interests and concerns. We hope that this conference will also serve as an opportunity to reconsider teachers’ roles in fostering children to be autonomous learners.

We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to the following for their support and sponsorship of the Toyama Conference: Toyama Prefectural Board of Education, Toyama City Board of Education, Toyama Prefectural Association for Elementary School English Teachers, Toyama Prefectural Association for Junior High School English Teachers, Toyama Prefectural Association for Senior High School English Teachers, and Toyama English Teaching Method Study Group.

Lastly, Toyama Prefecture boasts a world-renowned mountainous landscape, including the 3,000-meter-high Tateyama Mountain Range, and the blessings of Toyama Bay. We hope that you will enjoy Toyama’s natural beauty and culinary delights.