



Birthplace of Medicine, Traces of Exchange Noguchi Africa Prize Recipients

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Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize laureates welcomed by Okinashima elementary school students = Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Hall, Inawashiro Town

The winners of the 4th Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize visited this prefecture on the 17th. They visited places associated with Hideyo Noguchi, the origin of the award, such as the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Museum in Inawashiro Town, and followed in his footsteps, as well as interacting with high school students from the prefecture.

Dr. Salim S. Abdool Karim and Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim from South Africa, who have contributed to the prevention and treatment of AIDS, and their husband and wife, and Adam Joseph, who was the representative of the Guinea Worm Eradication Program, received a group award. Weiss et al. In addition to the museum, the group visited Tsurugajo Castle in Aizuwakamatsu City and Hideyo Noguchi Seishunkan. At an opinion exchange meeting with high school students held in the city, he conveyed the importance of continuing to take on challenges.

The Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize was established by the Japanese government in 2006 on the occasion of a visit to Africa by then-Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. The award is for outstanding achievements in combating infectious diseases and promoting public health in Africa.

Future "Hideyo" Encouragement

The winners of the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize, who visited Aizuwakamatsu on the 17th, attended an opinion exchange meeting with high school students in Aizuwakamatsu City. "Don't be afraid of failure. I want you to do your best without getting discouraged." The researchers who have saved many lives sent a cheer to the young people who will create the future.

"I've spent 33 years pursuing the answer to a single problem. Failures piled up on top of each other, but I finally succeeded. Even if you fail, it's important to keep pushing forward." Dr. Salim S. Abdool Karim and Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim (South Africa), co-winners for medical research, studied the AIDS virus (HIV) transmission cycle in Africa. In addition to reducing the risk of infection, it has also made achievements in measures against new coronavirus infections.

Dr. Salim, when asked why he decided on his research theme, said that it was because he learned that young women in Africa have a high prevalence of HIV. "Life is like a journey," Dr. Quarraisha said.

The Guinea Worm Eradication Program, which received a group award in the field of medical activities, is a method of preventing Guinea worm, which infected 3.5 million people mainly in Africa in the 1980s, and 120 million people were at risk of infection. rooted in the region. As a result, the number of infections last year decreased by 99.99% to 13 cases, raising the possibility of eradicating parasitic infections for the first time in history.

Program representative winner Adam Joseph Weiss (USA) did not know about the field of public health until he joined a volunteer organization after graduating from university. Based on his experience, he said, ``There are many aspects of life. "Fortunately, you are blessed with opportunities to study. It is necessary to cherish the environment you have been given and deepen your studies," he encouraged.

Nine first-year students from Aizu High School participated in the discussion meeting. Yukino Sato, 16, said, "The story of the many failures behind the big

success touched my heart. I was depressed by small things, but I was able to keep working hard without getting discouraged."

Appointed Goodwill Ambassador

At the prefectural office, Governor Masao Uchibori welcomed them, saying, "It is very meaningful for you to see the birthplace of Dr. Noguchi." bottom.

Governor Uchibori expressed his respect for their efforts to save lives around the world, and thanked them for their support for recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident.

Dr. Salim and Dr. Quarraisha said, "It is a wonderful experience to be able to tour the land where Dr. Noguchi grew up." We will work hard to eliminate them," he said.

The appointment ceremony was attended by Megan Clem Mertz, senior vice president of the Carter Center in the United States.