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Letter of Japanese
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Inspiring School Performance

On Sunday, September 15, the Japanese School of Guam School Performance was held. We have managed to recover from this and have been preparing and practicing for the school performance in the little time we have had. The typhoon that hit our school just before the performance was a further challenge, but we were able to have the parents and guests watch the performance. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.



We cannot help but be impressed by the pure and innocent appearance of the children. Just by standing in front of us and trying their best to move and speak, they move our hearts. Perhaps we can say that we are greatly moved by their emotion. On the other hand, the children themselves are greatly moved by the joy and relief of accomplishment and, above all, by the excitement of the audience. And that, I believe, is what will lead them to take the next step forward with motivation and courage.

Do you know Rikako Ikee, a competitive swimmer? She set new Japanese records in the butterfly and freestyle when she was in junior high and high school, and was expected to medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. However, about a year and a half before the games, she suddenly developed leukemia and had to give up her participation in the Olympics. I was so surprised, and at the same time, I could not imagine a clearer picture of her descent from heaven to hell. What a terrible thing, many people must have thought.



However, she declared that she would fight leukemia. She left the place, saying that she would definitely come back here. I honestly never imagined that she would come back there again. But, as you know, she has made a wonderful comeback.

In 2021, when she found out that she had finished first in the women's 100m butterfly final at the Japan Championships, she was in the water, shoulders shaking and crying. Her tears moved us to tears as we watched. I remember that many emotions welled up in our hearts along with hers. In a word, it was truly "moving". She may have been "moved" by herself. And we were also "moved" when we saw it. As you know, she has been very active since then. At this point, she has not yet returned to the state she was in before, but she is certainly getting there little by little. My hat is off to her for her core strength. I am definitely encouraged by it. You might call it a chain of "moving".



I remember a TV commercial a long time ago that said, "moving makes your life bigger". I think it is a wonderful phrase. I sincerely hope that the children of the Japanese School of Guam will accumulate such experiences. To this end, I would like them to study and live their daily lives with an open mind, a humble attitude, and a sense of respect and

gratitude for others. I believe that this is the first step toward a "big life". I hope that the experience at School Performance will become a seed that will blossom into a big flower in the future.