

Summary of Press Conference

(February 14th, 2024)

On the Noto Peninsula Earthquake

(Comments by INABA Nobuo, President)

One and a half months have passed since the Noto Peninsula earthquake occurred, and I would like to briefly share my impressions after inspecting the affected areas.

Last week, on the 9th and the 10th, I visited the NHK Kanazawa Broadcasting Station and Wajima City to observe the local situation following the disaster and the response by NHK. Seeing it with my own eyes made me realize once again the severity of the damage caused by this disaster. I recognized that especially because the earthquake occurred on a peninsula, it presented unique challenges in various aspects, including road conditions. I believe that restoration work has progressed to some extent, but seeing many collapsed buildings remaining and roads that have been severed made it clear that the situation was still quite challenging, and it was deeply distressing.

NHK has been coordinating its response efforts across the entire organization, with the Kanazawa Broadcasting Station at the forefront. We have renewed our commitment to continuing to do everything possible to contribute to swift recovery and reconstruction. According to discussions on-site, it appears likely that it will take considerable time for the water and sewage systems and the roads to be fully restored. Therefore, as a public broadcaster, we aim to convey information on lessons we have learned from past disasters and on various options for the disaster survivors, such as temporarily evacuating from the disaster area to prevent prolonged stays in evacuation centers, which could lead to disaster-related deaths.

On the Taiga Historical Drama “Hikaru Kimie (Dear Radiance)”

(Comments by INABA Nobuo)

I would like to touch on this year’s Taiga historical drama “Hikaru Kimie (Dear Radiance),” which began airing on January 7th. This drama is set in the mid-Heian period, and it features Murasaki Shikibu, the author of “The Tale of

Genji,” as the protagonist. This is quite a challenging piece, but NHK has skillfully woven the essence of “The Tale of Genji” into the story in our own distinctive style, and I think that it is very well crafted. Every week, my wife and I enjoy watching it together. One of the distinctive features of this year’s Taiga historical drama is that it focuses on people and culture from over 1,000 years ago in the aristocratic part of society, which may be unfamiliar to us. To address our viewers’ concerns and questions, NHK provides on the official website a chart showing the relationship between the characters and a glossary of terms from that era. There also seems to be a variety of related books available, including explanations of “The Tale of Genji.” As the president of NHK, I am very happy to see the growing interest in the subject sparked by our Taiga historical drama. Going forward, I would like our viewers to enjoy the drama in various ways as it unfolds. With this, I will conclude my remarks.