Educational efforts of Okinawa Prefecture
- Protection and care of local children by locals

In order to develop human resources that support the prefecture’s development while responding flexibly to changes of the times, the prefecture fosters children with balanced extensive knowledge, sound academic skills, rich spirit and good health. It is also working on the development of an environment where individuals make use of their diverse abilities and characteristics. The prefecture aims to develop an environment in which people can receive fair educational opportunities that are not affected by the geographical conditions of the remote islands or financial conditions of households, as well as promoting lifelong learning.

Promotion of the development of human resources with characteristics of Okinawa

Peace project handed down to children

Exchange program in remote islands

Promotion of reading

Shimakutuba Handbook

Course at the Okinawa Kanmin College

Improvement of education that cultivates autonomous learning

Children working patiently on a survey on academic performance

Mobile library on a remote island
Development of human resources that develop the future of Okinawa

- Workforce development that brings out abilities and cultivate sensitivity

In order to cultivate a workforce that can respond to a global society and its diversifying, complex needs, the prefecture promotes the knowledge and skills that are necessary for communications with foreigners and abilities to use information and communications technology. It also improves the environment that cultivates the individual’s abilities and sensitivities in science and technology, sports and culture and arts, and promotes higher education to train workers with advanced expertise and skills.

Workforce-building for industrial promotion

Interpreter who guides foreigners to various places in Okinawa

Elementary school students experiencing being a librarian for a day (JICA)

Development of an education system that cultivates internationalism and a range of skills

Trainee doctors who support community healthcare

Okinawa Prefectural Agricultural College cultivating agricultural producers with management skills

Robot made by children

Underwater Robotics Competition in Okinawa

Business Training Center

Workforce-building for industrial promotion

Business fair for employment support of high school and university students
Prefectural flower
Deigo (Indian Coral Bean)
The Deigo tree, originally from India, is a deciduous broad-leaved tree that belongs to the pea family. During the period between March and May, the glowingly beautiful, deep red flowers bloom in racemes along the length of the spray, to the very end of the branches. The deep red flower is an appropriate symbol for the southern islands that make up Okinawa, and plays an important role in promoting tourism. Furthermore, the Deigo tree is valuable financially and for making crafts, as its trunk section is used as material for traditional Ryukyu lacquerware. These were the main reasons why the Deigo was chosen as Okinawa's prefectural flower. (Designated in 1972)

Prefectural tree
Ryukyu Matsu (Ryukyu Pine)
A full-grown Ryukyu Pine, which is endemic to Okinawa, can reach a height of 15 meters. As the tree gets older, the crown spreads out, and the tree shows gracefully-shaped branches. The Ryukyu Pine is widely used as roadside trees, ornamental trees, bonsai, and windbreaks. It also has economic benefits, as it is very easy to propagate. For these reasons, the Ryukyu Pine was chosen as the prefectural tree. The Government of the Ryukyu Islands declared the tree as its prefectural tree on February 7th, 1968. (Designated in 1972)

Prefectural People's Song
Poem by Seiko Miyazato
Edited by Selection Committee for Okinawa Prefectural People's Song

Composed: Shigema Shirahata
• The day breaks over the clean ocean
Clouds are cleared over the peaceful islands
Dawn bell sounds throughout the world
We now face the glorious morning
Gone are the days of trials
Oh! We solemnly swear
We swear eternal peace on Okinawa
• The Black Current runs around the islands
Green mountains and rivers glowing
We, the fellow citizens are stirred up
To build a new, independent and prosperous Okinawa
Now, let us build eternal peace
On our home islands
• The skies are filled with lights
Stain the Deigo flowers with brilliant color
The folk culture inherited for generations
Now brilliantly shines over our home islands
Let us create our own culture
For future Okinawa

Prefectural People's Song

Prefectural symbol
The outer circle of this symbol represents the ocean. The white circle symbolizes a peace-loving Okinawa and the inner circle symbolizes a globally developing Okinawa. In short, the mark symbolizes "Ocean," "Peace" and "Development."

Prefectural bird
Noguchi Gera (Okinawa Woodpecker)
This is a globally rare species and is the only member of a single-species genus of woodpeckers. It makes its habitat exclusively in the northern part of Okinawa Island. It has been designated as a natural treasure of Japan. This species was discovered by a British man in 1886, and was first introduced to people two years later. In 1965, it was designated as a natural treasure by the Government of the Ryukyu Islands. (Designated in 1972)

Prefectural fish
Takasago (Banana Fish, locally known as Gurukun)
This beautiful and colorful 25 cm fish is everyone's favorite. It is a tropical fish and lives in the warm waters from Okinawa to the Indian Ocean. Banana Fish are caught all year round and the total catch has increased every year. It is Okinawa's major fish product, and the majority are caught using the islands' own drive-in nets. Banana Fish are showing up on the dinner tables of Okinawan families more and more as one of the few kinds of fish eaten by ordinary people. For these reasons, it was designated as the prefectural fish. (Designated in 1972)

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