

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

Newsletter No.1

Edited and published by the International Relations Office, City of Kyoto

A renewed council meeting was held for the first time.



Succeeding the former “Kyoto City Council on Policy for the Foreign Residents”, “Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy” has started in order to achieve the creation of a society where foreign residents as well as those who have their roots in foreign countries and all others can live happily. The council focuses on creating a community where citizens with various cultural backgrounds, including those who came to study and work in Japan, those foreign residents who were born in Japan and those who acquired Japanese citizenship later, can support each other.

<Time and Date>

10:00 A.M to Noon, Fri. June 4th, 2010

<Venue>

International Community House

<Agenda>

The themes of the council for the first term (two years from April 2010):
Community development for multicultural symbiosis

We have decided to discuss how residents with various cultural backgrounds can interact and support each other; and how can such cultural variations be used for the community development from the view points of communication, parenting, education and welfare.

What is Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy?

Q What is the purpose of this council?

A It was established to encourage foreign residents and those having their roots in foreign countries to participate in the city administration and to give their opinions on the measures taken by the city to create a multicultural society. Succeeding the former “Kyoto City Council on Policy for Foreign Residents”, the new council has started in this fiscal year to achieve the creation of a society where people having various cultural backgrounds can support each other.

Q Who are the members of the council?

A The council consists of five academic experts appointed by the mayor and seven publicly recruited individuals who have foreign nationalities or have their roots in foreign countries.

Q How does it discuss and how is it open to the public?

A Each meeting has an agenda to be dealt with by all members. The meeting is open to everyone. After the meeting, we collect opinions of the audience by questionnaire. Newsletters are published after each meeting. At the end of the fiscal year, all the discussions are sorted out and the report is presented to the mayor. Newsletters and reports are available on the website.

Council Member List

<Appointed members>			
Name		Profession	
Nobuhiko Ogawa (chairman),		Associate Professor, Nara Women’s University	
Sei-ichi Kanzaki,		Secretary General, Kyoto YMCA	
Aguri Shigeno,		Director, Center for Multicultural Society Kyoto	
Yoshikazu Tokura		Chief Editorial Writer, The Kyoto Shimbun	
Miwa Yoshimura		Acting Committee Member, APT, Kyoto YMCA	
<Public recruited Member>			
Name	Nationality or Root	Name	Nationality or Root
Kwangmin Kim	Korea	Masao Chin	China
Yangja Kim	Korea	Sipitico Uliana	Russia
Kiichi Shirakawa	Korea	Sophie Mizudori	France
Ikuko Okuyama	China		

Members' Opinions

- I would like to talk about multicultural society where both foreign residents living in Japan for a long time, those who arrived recently, and Japanese are comfortably living and sharing in harmony in the community.
- I would like to hear opinions from those who are not qualified to be a member because of language barrier.
- In spite of the fact that returnees from China are Japanese nationals, people in the neighborhood regard us as Chinese. We have difficulty in blending in the local community. We have to act so as to encourage interaction between local people and returnees.
- Language is the biggest problem for foreign residents. Smaller efforts such as putting phonemic transcription on texts and using Western calendar are important to help them.
- I would like to introduce our efforts to support the foreign residents.
- International students often group together and separate themselves from Japanese students. If one is not in the group, he/ she will be isolated. I would like to talk about such problems.
- I would like to talk about international schools. I would also like to think about a better society for the foreign residents and their children.
- It is important to know how citizens are aware of the foreign residents.
- As a foreign resident, I would like to think about how to avoid being isolated in the community when looking after the family.

Japan Women's Conference in Kyoto 2010

"Japan Women's Conference in Kyoto 2010" will be held from Fri. Oct. 1 to Sun. Oct 3 focusing on the gender equality. The 10th section meeting will be presided by five council members which will focus on the issues of foreign women. You are welcome to take part in the meeting as an observer.

- The section meeting on multicultural symbiosis
Time and date: 14:00 to 16:30 on Oct. 1 Place: International Conference Center
(Attendants) Participants: Nobuhiko Ogawa (chairman), Kwangmin Kim,
Sophie Mizudori, Yoshikazu Tokura, Miwa Yoshimura
Official website <http://joseikaigi2010kyoto.jp>
- Secretariat of the executive committee for Japan Women's Conference in Kyoto 2010
Gender Equality Promotion Section, Kyoto City
488 Kamihonnojimae-cho, Teramachi-dori, Oike-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto
Tel: 075-222-3091, Fax: 075-222-3223, E-mail: danjo@city.kyoto.jp

The fiscal year 2009 report was presented to the mayor.

Chairman Mizuno of the 6th “Kyoto City Council on Policy for the Foreign Residents” presented the report on the fiscal year 2009 to the mayor. He reported the results of discussions on the participation of foreign residents in the city administration, in the society and on education. Then he proposed some suggestions to be implemented by the city regarding the aforesaid issues.

Mayor Kadokawa said “I highly value the suggestions and will use them in the city management. To create a multicultural society, problems should be solved. By making use of various cultures which have been nurtured by the foreign residents, a new culture is expected to be created.”



Notice

If you have any opinion regarding the newsletters and the council, please contact us at the following address. Anyone can take part in the meetings as an observer.

For the back numbers, please contact us below.

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