

# Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

## Newsletter No.3

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

### The third council meeting of FY 2010 was held.

<Time and Date>

9:30 A. M. to 12:00 noon, Mon. February 14th, 2011

<Venue>

Honnoji Bunka Kaikan

<Agenda>

- Communication and multicultural symbiosis from the view point of parenting
- About the report of the council meetings in FY2010.



Council members presented reports on the activities of an international school and its multicultural and multilingual programs, and on the multicultural welfare activities and communication.

#### Report 1: On the spot from an international school

About general activities and multicultural programs at the Ecole Francaise du Kansai.

#### Report 2: Awareness about welfare service centered on multi-culture

About the welfare service which originally started for the first generation Koreans living in Kyoto to enable them to receive care services in their mother tongue.

Making use of the experiences the welfare personal gained from their activities for creating an ideal way of communication and a multicultural society.

## **Report on the international school**

### **~ Efforts by the Ecole Francaise du Kansai~**

The Ecole Francaise du Kansai is one of the two French schools in Japan located in former Taiken Elementary School in Kamigyo-ku, Kyoto. About 70 pupils, including French, French-Japanese, foreign nationals, and those with foreign roots are enrolled in different levels, from kindergarten to senior-high school. In western Japan, it is the only school where pupils can learn both Japanese and French culture and language. There are some families who live in Kyoto just for the sake of sending their children to this school while the parents commute to Chugoku or Chubu regions. The Ecole Francaise du Kansai cooperates with French government and other French schools in the world to implement the multicultural education and spread French culture. It also participates in the athletic meets hosted by the community around the former Taiken school district and other local interactive activities. I think such efforts will lead to further promote internationalization and understanding of multicultural society in Kyoto.

#### **Presenter's opinion**

- International schools would not be able to operate well without the support of the city government, for instance, allowing us to use school buildings. The Ecole Francaise du Kansai is using an old elementary school building that belongs to Kyoto city and we, The Ecole Francaise du Kansai, would like to enhance our activities with the cooperation of the government and the local communities.
- Those who have Japanese citizenship are not allowed to attend international schools because according to the Japanese School Education Act, all school-age children are obliged to attend Japanese elementary schools. However, if children with different cultural background such as those who have foreign nationalities, Japanese nationalities and dual nationalities learn together at international schools, it would serve as an excellent place for the children to receive international and multicultural education.

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#### **The Ecole Francaise du Kansai**

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Phone (075) 812-7015

#### **■ Column ■**

#### **Kyoto International School (KIS)**

KIS is an international school which implements English teaching medium for more than 50 years in Kyoto. In 1997, the school moved to the present building, the former Juraku elementary school in Nishijin area. Children having various cultural backgrounds are studying here from kindergarten to elementary and junior-high school levels.

Nishijin area, where KIS is located, is a hub of traditional textile industry in Kyoto. We, the KIS, make use of local community characteristics to create special programs with the help of local residents engaged in traditional industries; and the staff of various universities. We also value the exchange programs with local elementary schools, as well as the Japanese language classes. We highly evaluate good relation with local residents and would like to contribute to the internationalization and multicultural symbiosis in Kyoto.

## Kyoto Korean Schools

There are four Korean schools, including elementary, junior and senior high schools, in Kyoto. Those who were born and raised in Japan, but have their roots in Korean Peninsula study both Japanese and Korean languages and cultures. Besides the classes taught in Korean, we also place importance on club activities including soccer and brass band. We create opportunities to present our clubs' activities in the exchange programs with the local schools. We also have open classes for the citizens where they can observe and learn about our school activities. Our autumn art festival provides a good opportunity for the citizens to interact with Korean ethnic culture through traditional dance and instrumental music performances.

## Report on welfare service centered on multicultural

### ~ Endeavors by "Erufa", NPO Kyoto Center for Koreans ~

"Erufa" is an NPO engaged in the welfare services centered on multi-culture and multi-language mostly in Minami-ku. Among those elderly who were born and raised in Korean Peninsula and later came to live in Japan, some can speak only Korean because of dementia and other reasons. Erufa started to create an environment where such people could receive care services in their mother tongue.

Hitherto, we care givers have learned a lot from the recipients. The first generation Koreans have lived in Japan where they have had difficulties in communication, think that "mother tongue is important", however, that is not all about communication ". This is what we have learned from them.

At present, the activities of Erufa are not limited to welfare service, but it also hosts multicultural events such as Erufa Festival where elderly Koreans have the opportunity to interact with local residents. We are sure that such activities will contribute to the creation of a society where various people, regardless of nationality, generation and handicap, can live together happily.

### -Presenter's opinion-

- Most people who support the activities of Erufa are graduates of Korean schools. The second and third generations started Erufa as a gesture of gratitude to the first generation who had established Korean schools. Now, Erufa's purpose is not limited to the care service for Koreans living in Japan, but also to create multicultural symbiosis through welfare activities.
- In the past, foreign residents were not allowed to enroll in Japanese national health insurance and pension systems. The difference in culture and daily life customs, coupled with being deprived from welfare scheme for a long time, has made their problems more difficult.

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## **Multilingual service for disaster prevention**

The great earthquake that hit eastern Japan on March 11, 2011 has revealed problems of foreign residents whose Japanese is not proficient regarding disaster prevention measures. Kyoto City provides various services related to disaster prevention for its foreign residents.

### **–Multilingual pocket manual on disaster prevention –**

Kyoto International Community House distributes pocket manuals on disaster prevention in four languages.

### **–Disaster information broadcasted by FM radio –**

In time of disaster, FM CO・CO・LO (76.5MHz) broadcasts emergency news and information in six languages, i. e. Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese.

### **–Mail magazine “Multilingual Useful Information” –**

When an earthquake of the level above 5 in Japanese scale hits Kyoto, the city sends disaster information such as the scale of earthquake, list of evacuation centers and their location maps through the “Mail magazine”. Other information including disaster prevention drills are also provided.

(For prescription, please visit [http://www.kcif.or.jp/MMD/accept\\_mails](http://www.kcif.or.jp/MMD/accept_mails))

### **–Disaster Prevention Drills in Kyoto –**

Many people including foreign residents participate in the annual disaster prevention drill conducted by the city. During these drills, temporary Multilanguage Support Center is established so that the volunteer interpreters and translators practice the drill about support services at evacuation center.

### **–Kyoto City Disaster Prevention Center –**

7 Sugata-cho Nishikujo, Minami-ku, Kyoto (East side of National Route 1 north of Jujo St.)

It is a place where citizens learn about the prevention and precautions of disasters such as earthquake, typhoon, and fire. It also has facilities for experiencing emergency simulation and undergoing disaster training course.

## **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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