

# Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

## Newsletter No.5

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### The second council meeting of FY2011 was held.

<Time and Date>

2:00P.M. to 4:00P.M. Tue. September 27th, 2011

<Venue>

The meeting room of Kyoto City Hall

<Agenda>

Mutual supporting community



The participants of the council meeting reported on the situation of the citizens having Chinese nationality and Japanese citizens who have their roots in China, and discussed their problems. There are various categories of people linked with China. For example, the Chinese nationality living in Japan are called *Kakyo*\*, and those Japanese citizens of Chinese origin are called *Kajin*\*. There are returnees\* from China and the people who acquired Japanese nationality after coming to Japan.

**Report 1. “The residents of Kyoto with Chinese nationality” and “Japanese citizens who have their roots in China” - their daily lives, diversity of their background and their relations with the local community.**

**Report 2. Supportive activities for the returnees from China such as Japanese classes and interpretation service during hospital visits.**

#### \* “*Kakyo*” and “*Kajin*”

“*Kakyo*” means those Chinese nationals who live in foreign countries for a long period.

“*Kajin*” means people of Chinese origin who have acquired citizenship of the countries they live in. For example they are called American *Kajin* or Japanese *Kajin*. Their descendants are called “*Kaei*”.

#### \* Returnee from China

After the World War II, many Japanese who had stayed in China could not return to Japan. Some of them left their children in China who were raised by Chinese. Some got married to Chinese and had no chance to return to Japan. After the Normalization of China-Japan Relations in 1972, many of these Japanese who were left behind in China returned to Japan. Since they have been brought up in Chinese culture and have used Chinese language, they face many problems. Some of them are difficulty in understanding language, customs and getting a job in order to lead an independent life in Japan. At present, local governments are implementing the supportive programs for such people on the basis of the national laws.

## Report 1 “Kyoto residents having Chinese nationality” and “Japanese citizens with their roots in China”

There are almost 10,000 residents of Chinese nationality in Kyoto. Also there are many Japanese citizens of Chinese origin. Such people can be classified as follows.

- Those Chinese nationals who have been living in Japan since the period before revolution and the emancipation policy of China in the middle of 1970's. They are called old-*Kakyo*. Most of such people today are of the second or the third generation. Some of them have acquired Japanese nationality and are called Japanese *Kajin*.
- Those Chinese nationals who came to Japan after the revolution and the emancipation policy of China. They are the so-called new comers and are referred as new-*Kakyo*. Most of these people had lived in the Chinese culture and used Chinese language. An example of this category is Chinese students studying in Japan.
- Returnees from China are Japanese citizens. However, most of them were raised in the Chinese culture and spoke Chinese language.

“The residents of Kyoto with Chinese nationality” and “Japanese citizens of Chinese origin” are not simply one Chinese but belong to either the mainland China or Taiwan. Some of them came to Japan to get married to Japanese citizens. Their cultural background and the reasons why they live in Japan differ from person to person.

### Members' opinions

- Many Old-*Kakyo* who have been living in Japan since before 1970's are from Fujian Province and are self-employed. Some of them think that mixing with Japanese Society is important while some others highly esteem their identities.
- There are linguistic and cultural differences between Old-*Kakyo* who were born and raised in Japan and New-*Kakyo* including Chinese students who arrived in Japan after 1980's. Although both groups are the same Chinese, they seldom interact with each other. I think it is quite necessary for the people with different culture and nationalities to support each other.
- The backgrounds of “the residents of Kyoto having Chinese nationality” and “Japanese citizens of Chinese origin” vary from person to person. People with different culture and nationalities should support each other and work together with the community residents.



## Report 2. Supportive activities for the returnees from China

### Supportive activities for the returnees from China

About 70 returnees (the first generation) live in Ogurusu area of Fushimi Ward. The population including their children and grand children might be about 600.

Although the returnees are Japanese, they have many difficulties in living in Japan because they were brought up under Chinese culture in Chinese language. Their elderly group in particular has more difficulty in learning the language and customs.

The volunteers in Ogurusu area have been holding Japanese classes for the returnees since more than 10 years ago. They also have been supporting other programs such as interpretation in the case of medical matters, guidance on welfare, education and housing issues; and helping them in applying for such services. The city of Kyoto supports the Japanese language classes and cultural classes.

The city also provides interpretation service for medical matters and consultation service at the welfare offices.

#### Members' opinions

Although the returnees are Japanese, their language and culture are Chinese. They were called Japanese in China. After becoming permanent residents of Japan, they were, at first, treated as Chinese. Since the first generation returnees are getting older, the second and third generations have to take care of them.

#### Japanese language class at Kyoto Ogurusu

Japanese language class at Kyoto Ogurusu was started by the volunteers in 1998 in Ogurusu area of Fushimi Ward aimed at providing the returnees the opportunity to learn Japanese.

In order to find a job, learning Japanese language is very important for the second and third generation returnees. For the aged first generation returnees, the class provides a precious opportunity to interact with each other. The volunteers have expanded their scope of activities to other areas such as interpretation regarding medical issues.

At present, the Japanese class is held at the community meeting room and rooms of an elementary school. In order to get such rooms, understanding and cooperation of local people are necessary. There is a shortage of such volunteers. Much deeper involvement of local communities in these activities is expected. Since the staff are getting older, they are now training new staff mostly among the second and the third generation returnees.



**Interim report by the Council on disaster prevention**  
**(About the programs that support the residents of foreign origin at the time of disaster)**

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy has submitted an interim report on disaster prevention to the city. The report has thrown light on the problems arisen and lessons learned from the earthquake. They proposed to the city to review and improve the disaster prevention measures for the residents of foreign origin and to cooperate with them in making enough preparation for disasters in their daily life.

**Recent measures on disaster prevention taken by the city**

**-General review of disaster prevention measures-**

“Kyoto City Council for General Review of Disaster Prevention” which was established immediately after the Great East Japan Earthquake presented the report on disaster prevention measures to the city. The report stresses the importance of multilingual information at the time of disasters, and the collaboration with Kyoto International Foundation, NOPs and volunteer groups for implementing disaster prevention measures.

<http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/shobo/page/0000104461.html>

**-Disaster prevention drills with the collaboration of the consulates -**

It is important to seek collaboration of foreign delegations such as embassies and consulates regarding the implementation of disaster prevention measures for foreign residents. In December 2011, “Liaison Council for Internationalization Organizations in Kinki Region” and the consulate generals stationed in Kinki Region co-hosted the workshop on disaster prevention and exchanged opinions. As a result, the consulate generals have learned the measures implemented by the International Foundations in Kyoto and other cities.

**-Multilingual website for the safety of Kyoto-**

Because of the anxiety caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the following accident at Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, the number of visitors from abroad including tourists, businessmen and students has sharply decreased. In order to repel this anxiety, the city of Kyoto built a multilingual website to inform the world that Kyoto is not directly affected by the earthquake and is quite safe.

<http://www.city.kyoto.jp/somu/kokusai/fukko/eq/>

**Japanese Classes at Kyoto International Community House (kokoka)**  
**“Easy Japanese Class”**

This class aims at providing means of quick adjustment to the life of Kyoto for those whose mother tongue are not Japanese. There are two levels. The first level is teaching basic daily conversations such as greetings and conversation for shopping. The students will proceed to the second level which teaches how to write.

There are three months course with one lesson a week and the summer course with 12 lessons in one and half month. The three months course will be held three times a year. Prior application is necessary. The Course fee is ¥6,000.

**“Japanese Class by Volunteer Tutors”**

The volunteer tutors will teach daily conversations and the grammars. This class also aims at providing students a place for interacting with each other. The classes are held from Tuesdays to Sundays. Please inquire for the time schedule of the class. Prior application is not necessary. The fee for one lesson is ¥50.

For further information: call 075-752-3511 at Kyoto International Foundation, or visit <http://www.kcif.or.jp>

**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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