

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

Newsletter No.6

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

The Third council meeting of FY2011 was held.

<Time and Date>

1:30P.M. to 3:30P.M. Wed. November 9th, 2011

<Venue>

The meeting room of Kyoto City Hall

<Agenda>

Developing multicultural communities

The participants of the council meeting discussed about the developing of multicultural community.



Report 1. Reviewing the issue of how to provide information to foreign residents at the time of disaster; and the problems of the multicultural symbiosis.

-After the experiences of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake-

When the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake occurred on March 11, 2011, 30,000 foreign residents were living in three prefectures, namely Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima. Some of them were victimized, others went to their home countries. Some others remained in the area dedicating themselves to the recovery of their communities.

At the time of emergency, information serves as a life saver. In normal circumstances, Internet is a great tool for getting information. However, during the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, because of power cut and damage of the communication system, Internet didn't function. Moreover, some sites on the Internet disseminate wrong information. On the other hand, people found that local media such as newspapers and radios were very important tools for them to obtain correct information they needed. Therefore, multilingual information should be provided on daily basis so that the foreign residents can get necessary information easily at the time of emergency. Also disaster prevention drills for the community people should be held.

- The members' opinions –

- At the time of the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, the support system for foreign residents was the big issue. Participating in the local disaster drill and creating local emergency maps are some of the activities we should have to prepare for the emergency.
- The city should enhance collaboration with NPOs who work for supporting the residents of foreign origin so that the information would reach those who need it, and such information be used effectively by the people.
- Recently the number of foreign labourers is increasing in Japan. These labourers and other foreign residents who arrive newly to Japan need to get accustomed to Japanese way of living as quickly as possible. Therefore, measures that will increase the opportunities for multicultural interactions, and will provide information on local living in easy Japanese or multiple languages should be enhanced.

Report 2. Developing multicultural communities

-Multicultural Symbiosis in Kyoto-

Compared with Canada and other European countries, Japan has less foreign residents in proportion to its population. Nevertheless, the number of “new comers” who came to Japan after 1980’s is increasing. Kyoto is no exception. Our society will become more multinational and multicultural in the future.

Meanwhile, Japan is facing the problems of aging society and low birth rate. The labour population is decreasing in number year after year. Especially the shortage of staff in medical and nursing care areas is serious.

As a consequence of that, the need for various kinds of workforce including foreign residents is badly felt.

Therefore, it is important to provide foreign residents more opportunities to participate in various areas of the society, including welfare. It is also important for them to participate in the community activities.



- The members' opinions –

- The U.K. has been inviting many doctors from India and other foreign countries. Such doctors of foreign origin account for 40% of whole doctors. Yet the country has a shortage of doctors. There are many universities and research institutes in Kyoto where world class researches are conducted. Kyoto should attract more researchers, students and tourists from overseas by increasing the charms of Kyoto and spreading the news in the world.
- People with different cultures and nationalities should be given more chances to get involved in the society so that Kyoto can maintain its freshness and energy.
- Multicultural symbiosis among citizens should be surveyed so that the results can be used for building multicultural society.

The fourth council meeting of FY2011 was held on January 20th.

<Time and Date>

2:00P.M. to 4:00P.M. Fri. January 20th, 2012

<Venue>

The Kyoto International Community House

<Agenda>

Developing multicultural communities

The participants of the council meeting discussed about developing multicultural community. Also they discussed about the report for the council meetings in FY2011.

Report. How effectively multicultural measures could be implemented.

~Providing information that will contribute to community promotion~

Multilingual information regarding disaster prevention, livelihood, education and welfare, and other events, provided by different media such as paper and internet should be in details.

There are various source of information such as city, wards, local autonomy association and *cho*-community. All of such information should reach foreign residents so that they could live safely and comfortably.



Members' opinions

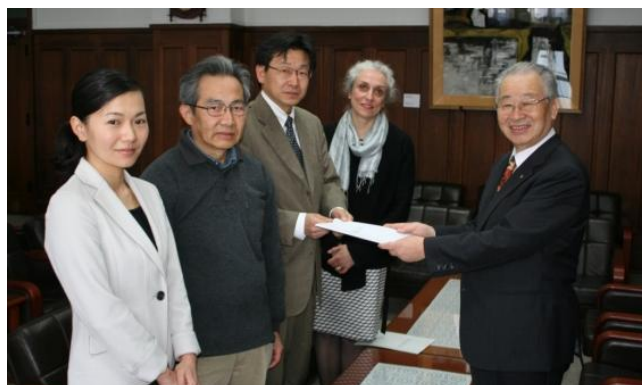
- Foreign language version of the city website should be improved so that the residents of Kyoto including foreign residents could easily access and understand it. The website should also be arranged simply so that people can easily find what they are looking for.
- Printed information is needed for those who have difficulty in accessing or handling the Internet such as foreign residents and elderly citizens. Printed information such as circulars and leaflets will trigger interaction among community residents and strengthen the bond between them.

The report of FY2011 was submitted to the city

Mr. Nobuhiko OGAWA, the chairman of Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy submitted the “Report of FY2011” to Mr. Yoshiro HOSOMI, Deputy Mayor of Kyoto on Thursday, March 29, 2012.

Suggestions on the issues concerning promoting multicultural interaction, providing information to the residents of foreign origin and conducting survey on

the awareness of multicultural symbiosis were made to Mr. Hosomi. He said that he was thankful to the members of the council for their intensive discussions over the measures that the city should take on multicultural symbiosis. He added that he would pay special attention to their suggestions and implement them in the city policies after thorough discussions with every section of the city.



- The report is available at the International Relations Office of Kyoto City.
- Or visit our website. <http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/page/0000085281.html>

Multicultural Interaction Network Salon in Kyoto

In July 2011, “Multicultural Interaction Network Salon in Kyoto” opened on the first floor of the municipal Higashi-iwamoto apartment at Higashi-kujo, Minami Ward. At the salon, various events such as lectures, classes, festivals including “*Chiiki Tabunka Koryu Festival*”, and cooking schools for world cuisines are held in order to enhance the interaction in the communities and multicultural symbiosis using the local characteristics of Higashi-kujo area. Other projects in collaboration with some groups who work for the enhancement of the community activities and multicultural symbiosis are held here. As of March 2012, about 30 groups register to the network.

http://www016.upp.so-net.ne.jp/k_salon/index.html



About the new residential management system

The Alien Registration Act will be abolished on July 9, 2012 and a new system will start for the special permanent residents and the medium to long-term residents. The current alien registration certificates are effective for the time being. However, renewal under the new system within a fixed period is needed.

“Resident Cards” will be issued to the medium to long-term residents.

While “Special Permanent Resident Certificates” will be issued to the special permanent residents: instead of their “Alien Registration Certificates”.

Refer to *Somusho* or the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication:

http://www.somu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jichi_gyousei/c-gyusei/zairyu.html

Resident Certificate or *Juminhyo* will be available for the foreign residents.

Foreign residents will be included in the Basic Resident Registration System. Those who are covered currently by the Alien Registration System will be shifted to the new system and their resident records will be created automatically based on the information recorded in their alien registration files. Therefore, they don't have to take any action.

Who will be covered by the new system?

Medium to long-term residents, special permanent residents, those who have been guaranteed landing permission for temporary refuge, those who have been guaranteed permission for provisional stay, and those who have stayed beyond the period of provisional stay by being born or by losing their nationality.

Transitional provisions until the completion of Resident Records

The “Provisional Resident Record” will be issued to those who are covered by the new system until May 2012. These Provisional Resident Records will be sent to the addresses recorded in the alien registration cards. Please check the contents. The Provisional Resident Records become official Resident Records after July 2012.

Refer to Immigration Bureau of Ministry of Justice:

http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/

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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Back numbers in English: <http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/page/0000087864.html>