

# Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

## Newsletter No.11

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

Published on Oct.31, 2013

### **The first council meeting of FY2013 was held.**

<Time and Date>

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Fri. July 1st, 2013

<Venue>

Kyoto City Hall

<Agenda>

About the outcome of the “Citizens Awareness about the City Policies” by the questionnaire



The topic of the first council meeting of FY2013 was “Developing communities in which multicultural symbiosis is deeply rooted. The discussions are based on the results of poll conducted by distributing questionnaire on “Citizens Awareness about the City Policies”, “Internationalization of Kyoto”. In 2008, the City of Kyoto drew a guideline “Kyoto City Internationalization Promotion Plan” for 10 years period (2008 to 2017). Since this year coincides with the midpoint of the planning period and by now most of the programs of this plan have already been launched, we will revise this plan to cope with the social changes that took place during these years.

The opinions of the members of the council are also taken into consideration in the revision of the plan.

## **The result of second survey in FY 2012 through Questionnaire about “Kyoto city policies Internationalization of Kyoto”**

conducted on January 2013

### **Outcome**

● The responses to the question “What kind of international exchange or cooperation have you experienced?” are as follows:

- About a half of respondents said “Trips abroad”
- Other answers were “I have a foreign friend(s)” (28%),
- and “I have studied foreign languages or cultures” (19.3%).

● The responses to the question “What field of international exchange or cooperation are you interested in?” are listed below:

- About half of respondents said “learning foreign languages” and “attending lectures and events on foreign cultures, customs and traditions”.
- On the other hand they were not interested in “hosting international students”, and “doing volunteer activities abroad”.

● More than 80% of respondents answered that they had not regularly communicated with foreign residents or foreign tourists. Those who regularly communicated with foreign residents accounted for 10%, of which about 40% were students. Percentage of company employees, public workers and housewives was low.

● More than half respondents answered that they expected foreign residents to be active in all categories such as “learning Japanese culture and customs”, “communicating with local residents”, “participating in the community activities” and “introducing foreign culture to the community”.

● More than half of the respondents think that “if the number of foreign residents in their communities increases”, “they will have more knowledge about various cultures of values” and foreign residents “will also know more about Japanese culture and traditions and respect them more”. About 40% think that “this will also increase the need for communication between local and foreign residents, and as a result, the bond between local and foreign members of the community will be strengthened”.

● In response to the question “What measures for the internationalization of Kyoto should be implemented?”, more than 70% selected the following options: “To protect the unique culture and beautiful landscape of Kyoto”, “To use more foreign languages in signboards, public transportation and other public facilities and tourist spots”, “to provide information about Japan to foreign countries” and “To increase tourists and students from abroad”.

### **Further analysis of the outcome**

● In response to the question “Are you interested in the communication with the foreign residents in your neighborhood?” people in their twenties are most while those in their seventies are the least interested. However, it cannot be said that younger generation is more interested in foreign

resi-dents than the older ones because people in their thirties showed less interest in foreign residents than those in their forties and fifties. However, in the case of housewives, both the thirties and for-ties showed most interest in this type of encounter.

● In response to the question “Are you expecting much from foreign residents?”, those who had experienced international activities expected more than those who did not have.

● Regarding the “Awareness of the increase of foreign residents in the community”, those re-spondents who “had travelled abroad”, “had participating in international exchange programs or seminars” agreed more on the fact that “this will increase the need for communication between local and foreign residents, which will result into strengthening the bond between local and foreign members of the community”.

● To the question “What measures for the internationalization of Kyoto should be implemented”, those who had experience in international exchange programs expected more about the efforts of Kyoto City on every internationalization measure.

\*Please visit the city webpage for the “Questionnaire on Kyoto city policies, the second survey in FY 2012; Topic: Kyoto’s internationalization

<http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/page/0000145809.html>

### **~Opinions of the members~**

#### **< About the interaction between foreign residents and local residents of the community >**

● It is necessary to provide different types of opportunities according to the need and background of each category. The city should provide more interactive opportunities for those who have deep awareness about internationalization. For those who are not well aware about internationalization, the city should find ways that could increase their awareness in daily life.



● It is important for citizens to interact with foreign residents in their day-to-day life. Kyoto City International Foundation should not restrict their activities only to their own facilities, but should expand it to other place in Kyoto, too.

● In order to increase the awareness of mothers in their thirties about internationalization, interaction between Japanese and foreign mothers at mother and child events would be very effective.

● Although majority of the volunteers at the Kyoto City International Foundation are housewives, only a small percentage of them are in their thirties. Those in their thirties have difficulty in participating in long term volunteer activities. However, they participate in single events and programs.

● When I was a student at a Japanese university, there was little contact between Japanese and international students in spite of being classmates.

● Compared with international students, young Japanese are less interested in Japanese culture. On the other hand, those over fifties are more eager to introduce Japanese culture to foreigners.

● Both Japanese and foreigners must have opportunities to study each other's languages.

### **< Education on international understanding >**

● Encountering and being exposed to foreign cultures at an early age will nurture international understanding.

● Mothers and children are recommended to participate in the international exchange programs. However, actually, many mothers are too busy to participate in such activities.

● Some people think that English conversation classes are proper places for meeting foreigners. However, all foreigners do not come from English speaking countries. Therefore, children should meet foreigners with various backgrounds from early ages so as to acquire international way of thinking.

### **< Multicultural symbiosis in communities >**

● Many returnees from China live in Mukaijima New Town area. Although they are Japanese nationals and have Japanese names, many of them speak only Chinese. They consist of 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation returnees. Some first generation grandparents cannot communicate with their grandchildren because they cannot speak Japanese. Therefore, it is necessary to teach them Japanese language so that they can communicate with their grandchildren.

● The Koreans living in Higashi-Kujo area are having the same problem for the last 40 to 50 years. Different generations have difficulty in communicating with each other. However, some of the third generation Koreans who were born and brought up in Japanese culture can communicate with the first generations because they studied Korean language and culture at the ethnic schools.

I would like to talk about the situation of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> generations. Recently, ethnic classes at the elementary and junior high schools are considered less important because of the decreasing need for Korean language. Instead, more attention is paid to English education. However, ethnic classes are still needed for the recognition of individuals' identity.

At present, the ethnic classes are included in the extracurricular activities or in the Saturday programs. I think ethnic classes will help young Koreans find their identity which might be lost in Japanese society.

● In Mukaijima area, the returnees from China sometimes have trouble in using public facilities because of the difficulty in reading the regulation for the use of those facilities. If a Chinese interpreter reads the regulations for them, they will understand them and will have no problem. Therefore, I think communication is very important in promoting multicultural symbiosis in the community.

● Those children whose mother language is Chinese would have to speak Japanese outside their home because they are afraid of being discriminated. I hope that the time will come when no one

would discriminate those who speak Chinese, and such people can proudly speak Chinese everywhere.

● Sometimes, elder people including the returnees from China think it is too late to learn Japanese. In some areas such as Ogurisu where many returnees from China live in concentrated area, they would stay where they feel comfortable and could speak only Chinese. They would not want to go outside their community. In order to encourage such people to interact with other people in the community, to promote mutual understanding, and to improve the quality of their life, they must be given the opportunity to learn Japanese language and culture.

### Kyoto City Disaster Drill

During the Disaster Week, Kyoto City Disaster Drill was conducted on August 31 with the participation of about 5000 people. In the drill conducted at the City Hall Plaza, 30 foreign residents and volunteer interpreters took part. They also participated in the subway evacuation drill, AED and experienced an earthquake of the 7 intensity on the Japanese seismic scale in the earthquake simulation vehicle together with other citizens.



### Emergency call (119) interpretation service in five languages

In order to facilitate communication with foreign residents during disasters, Kyoto City Fire Department launched the simultaneous interpretation service for the emergency call and at the disaster site on Oct. 10. The available languages are English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese. It operates 24 hours a day throughout the year.

Kyoto City Fire Department  
Emergency Number  
**119**

消防(火災・救急)への  
ホットライン119!  
24時間365日「5ヶ国語」での  
緊急通報ができます。

英語 (English) 119 for the emergency hot line!  
(You can report in English.)

中国語 (中文) 消防热线拨打119!!  
(可以用中文打紧急电话。)

韓国・朝鮮語 (한국·조선어) 소방서로의 직통전화는 다이얼 119!!  
(한국·조선어로도 긴급통보 할 수 있습니다)

スペイン語 (Español) ¡¡Para llamar directamente  
al cuerpo de bomberos, marque al 119!!  
(Puede avisar emergencia en español.)

ポルトガル語 (Português) Disque 119 para acessar a linha  
direta de corpo de bombeiros!  
(É possível fazer chamadas emergenciais em português.)

Inquire at the Commanding Section of  
Kyoto City Fire Department

Tel: 075-212-6754 Fax: 075-212-6748

<http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/shobo/page/0000155540.html>

\* If you want a copy of this report, contact the following office. This report is uploaded on the website of International Relations Office of Kyoto City.

### 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.

Secretariat for Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

International Relations Office, City of Kyoto

488 Kamihonnojimae-cho, Teramachi-dori, Oike-agaru, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto

Tel: 075-222-3072, Fax:075 -222-3055

Website: [http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/soshiki/2-10-0-0-0\\_\\_1.html](http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/soshiki/2-10-0-0-0__1.html)

E-mail: [kokusai@city.kyoto.jp](mailto:kokusai@city.kyoto.jp)

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