

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

Newsletter No.12

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The second council meeting of FY2013 was held.

<Time and Date>

2:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Thu. Oct. 10th, 2013

<Venue>

Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange

<Agenda>

Multicultural Coexistence and Welfare



The second FY2013 council meeting was held at “Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange” in Higashi-Kujo, Minami Ward. After the meeting, the council members made a tour of two nearby welfare facilities, NPO Kyoto Korean Seikatsu Center “Elfa”, and “Kokyo-no-ie Kyoto”* a special nursing home for the aged. The Higashi-Kujo area has many Korean and other foreign residents. Therefore the community residents and organizations including foreign residents are very active in carrying out community and multicultural programs. In other words, they are practicing the “Development of multicultural coexisting society in a way that is deeply rooted in the community.” In the meeting, a staff member from the Community Welfare Section of Kyoto City Government and Mr. Osamu Maekawa, Director of “Kibo-no-ie” Community Welfare Center, which is operated by the Catholic Kyoto Diocese Caritas Society, made reports on the “Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange” project. Also Mr. Shinji Kano of the “Liaison Council on the Development of Medical and Welfare Networks in the Higashi-Kujo Area” reported on activities related to multicultural coexistence and welfare.

Characteristics of the Higashi-Kujo area

Many foreign residents such as Koreans, Chinese, Filipinos, and Vietnamese live in Minami Ward (4.6% out of the whole population in Minami Ward and 2.2% in Kyoto City according to the 2010 National Census. Data below come from the same source). In particular, the percentage in the combined area of Sanno, Towa, and Toka school zones is as high as 17.4%. The population of this area is aging quickly as the figures show: the proportion of elderly people in this area has risen from 23.9% in 2005 to 25.7% in 2010 (compared with 19.9% to 22.4% for the entire city).

* *Kokyo-no-ie, Kyoto: See the last page for detailed information.*

Report 1:

The project “Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange”

1. What is the project “Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange”?

(Reported by the staff of the Community Welfare Section of Kyoto City Government)

The City of Kyoto established a facility named “Seikatsu-kan” in 1972 with the aim of improving the living standard and promoting the healthy lifestyle of the residents of Higasi-Kujo area in light of their difficult situation in this area. The city offered several services such as daily consultation, various cultural classes, and event space for their activities in Seikatsu-kan.

Soon, the housing environment of this area improved through the construction of the municipal houses, which also enhanced residents’ lifestyle. In light of such improvement, the city decided to shift the initiative for implementation of these services from city to community people, and focused on the characteristics of this area, where various self-managed activities are carried out by the community residents including many international residents. In order to promote community welfare and multicultural coexistence, the “Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange” opened in July 2011, a place where the community residents initiate various programs to deepen cross-regional friendship. Mr. Maekawa will introduce you to such events.

2 Activities implemented by the project “Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange”

(Mr. Osamu Maekawa, Director of “Kibo-no-ie” Local Welfare Center, which is operated by Catholic Kyoto Diocese Caritas Society, the body entrusted with this project by the city.)

As the designated body for the project “Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange,” Caritas Society carries out the following activities, taking into consideration local characteristics.

- World-cuisine cooking classes
- Higashi-Kujo Spring Festival (Community/Multicultural Exchange Festival)

- Classes and lecture meetings on community welfare and multicultural coexistence for volunteers
- Training courses and fieldwork on community welfare and multicultural coexistence for domestic and international students including Korean students
- General meeting of the organizations registered to Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange (47 organizations as of December 2013)
- Survey of elderly Korean residents in Higashi-Kujo



World-cuisine cooking classes



Higashi-Kujo Spring Festival (Community/Multicultural Exchange Festival)

Report 2:

“Multicultural coexistence and welfare: The actual situation of the elderly in Higashi-Kujo”

(Reported by Mr. Shinji Kano of the “Liaison Council on the Development of Medical and Welfare Networks in the Higashi-Kujo Area”)

Mr. Kano is Deputy Director of “Higashi-Kujo Nozomi-no-sono,” the general welfare facility for the elderly. Through the “Liaison Council on the Development of Medical and Welfare Networks in Higashi-Kujo Area,” he is engaged in activities for facilitating information sharing and problem-solving related to medical and welfare facilities in the community. He explained the history of this area and the rapid-aging trend of its people. He also reported the actual situation of the welfare facilities in this area. His comments on the characteristics and problems are listed below.

- In recent years many Korean residents living in Higashi-Kujo have been working for its welfare facilities, and this phenomenon has created a unique situation whereby those who receive nursing care and those who nurse them have the same nationality. This fact has attracted a great deal of attention from people across the country.
- Local welfare commissioners and elderly-welfare staff have been taking care of foreign residents here for a long time. It is important to enhance the collaboration among local residents, enterprises and other relevant organizations in order to expand the circle of support, while getting assistance from public entities.
- In recent years, we often see hate speech against a certain ethnic group or nationals. I think these incidents reveal that every citizen must be conscious of human-rights issues. Also I think it is very important to respect the users of welfare facilities, such as by ensuring dignity and protecting the rights of individual users. To this end, it is necessary to enhance awareness about human rights among the working staff.

Opinions of the council members

★multicultural exchange in communities★

- The philosophy of Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange must be disseminated not only in the Higashi-Kujo area but also the entire city. Further, multicultural-exchange centers which serve similar functions to those of the Salon must be located in other parts of the city, taking into consideration their local needs. Moreover forming a network among such centers is desirable.
- From the viewpoint of community involvement, this project still has much to do, as it is implemented by a small number of people who have been engaged in such activities for a long time. Therefore, we must involve more people in the community. To this end, it is important to provide them with opportunities to talk about the multicultural issues of their community on a community basis or on a ward basis.
- At present, various exchange programs are carried out by the Kyoto City International Community House. However, geographically speaking, it is difficult for many people to access the House. Foreign residents and those who have different cultural backgrounds live in many other parts of the city. Therefore we need more such places in different areas in order to communicate with each other. For example, I recommend nurseries, kindergartens and schools to serve as a local center for multicultural exchange activities.
- In communities, usually people don't communicate with each other so much. In the case of the Higashi-Kujo area, however, the organizers of Higashi-Kujo Madan* also take responsibility for the finale of a local festival. In this way, they actively communicate with other local people through such events.

* Higashi-Kujo Madan is an event for introducing Korean culture.

★“Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange” project★

- Although this project started only a couple of years ago, I think it has been successful, in particular the fact that the enthusiastic people there could form a network. Meanwhile I think if the collaboration between the welfare section and international relations office of the city is enhanced, they will be able to support this project more effectively.

In order to energize the activities of the Salon, it is desirable for it to provide office spaces for the registered organizations and serve as their point of contact. Since the registered organizations have insufficient space for rehearsing their events in the Salon, I hope that the city will consider the possibility of offering them the nearby decommissioned school buildings.

★Roles of the city ★

- In Japan, international residents have various opportunities to be connected to their local communities. Therefore the city should encourage them to do so.
- When a community collaborates with the city in carrying out events, community residents feel the great power of the city. We hope that the city will continue to be involved in the community activities and to provide assistance to the residents so as to enhance community bonds. Often, they

conflict with each other and have difficulty in overcoming it. Therefore we ask the city to join the residents in solving such problems.

○The person-to-person interaction is very important. Also, collaboration between people and the city is important. We greatly anticipate the ongoing role of the city in the future.

★International students who study welfare★

○Many international students are interested in welfare and nursing care, and eager to get a job at welfare facilities. Since there is no resident status of this kind in Japan, they have difficulty in obtaining the status of “Specialist in Humanities/International Service” instead.

Actually, some welfare facilities need Korean-speaking staff, and some such Koreans obtain this status to work for the facilities. These facilities often suffer from a labor shortage and want to recruit people from overseas. Therefore it is necessary to create a system for those international students who want to get a job in Japan. We ask the cooperation of the city regarding this matter.

Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange

The Salon hosts various programs for the promotion of community interaction and multicultural coexistence while making use of the characteristics of the Higashi-Kujo area.

Address: 31 Iwamoto-cho, Higashi-Kujo, Minami-ku, Kyoto 601-8006

Opening hours: 9:00 to 17:00 on weekdays

Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and National holidays

Contact information: Tel: 075-671-0108 Fax: 075-691-7471

Email: salon_kyoto@ck9.so-net.ne.jp

Access: 15 minutes' walk from JR Kyoto Station, City Subway Kyoto Station or Kujo Station

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

Registrarion

If an organization working for community interaction and multicultural coexistence registers itself with the Salon, it can provide assistance to them in revitalizing their activities. The Salon also promotes communication and collaboration between the registered groups.

Available services

- ① A rack for flyers
- ② Introducing the registered organizations on the website
- ③ Providing volunteers
- ④ Free meeting space

NPO Kyoto Korean Center “Elfa”

This center was established in 2000 with the aim of supporting elderly and disabled people with different cultural backgrounds such as Korean residents. Its activities includes nursing care at home, day care, and dispatching home helpers; providing jobs to disabled people at the cooperative workshop; carrying out programs to promote multicultural coexistence; and supporting childrearing. It also organizes a home-helper training course. Day service is available at four places, Hana-madan Higashi-Kujo, Hana-madan Minami Kyoto (Uji City), Hana-madan Rakuhoku and Hana-madan Rakusai.

Tel: 075-693-2550

URL: <http://lfa-kyoto.org/>

“Kokyo-no-ie Kyoto,” a special nursing home for the aged

This elderly-welfare facility was established in 2009 in the hope that every one regardless of nationality and ethnic group can live their life in their own way. There are other “Kokyo-no-ie” homes in Osaka, Sakai and Kobe. “Kokyo-no-ie Kyoto” can cover the functions of a new-type special nursing home for the aged, care house, short stay, dispatch of home helpers, and care-plan center. It has an auditorium which accommodates 150 people.

Address 47 Minami-Matsunoki-cho, Higashi-Kujo, Minami-ku, Kyoto 601-8023

Tel: 075-691-4448

URL: <http://www.kokorono.or.jp/kyoto/kyoto.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

E-mail: kokusai@city.kyoto.jp

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