

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

Newsletter No.14

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

Published on October 2014

3rd Term Council Begins with New Members



On April 1, 2014, the 3rd Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy was inaugurated, with 12 new members. During their two-year period of service, which will end on March 31, 2016, the council will engage with the theme of “Community building based on regional multiculturalism.”

At the first meeting, council member Shoko Nishioka was re-elected as chairperson.

Details of the first council meeting of FY2014.

<Time and Date> 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Tue. June 17th, 2014

<Venue> Kyoto City Hall, Meeting Room E

<Agenda>

- Outline of the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy”
- The revised edition of the “Kyoto City Internationalization Promotion Plan”: Aimed at transforming Kyoto to a vivid multicultural city
- How to run the meetings

Designated members

Name	Designation
Izumi Ando	Member of the board, Kyoto YWCA
Shoko Nishioka (chair)	Head of the Kyoto City Gender Equality Center Professor, Faculty of Education, Bukkyo University
Mari Hamada	Professor, Kyoto University of Education Member of the board, Kyoto City International Foundation
Atsuo Mizuno	Division manager, Kyoto City Youth Service Association (standing director)
Kiyoshi Yamauchi	Director of the Kyoto International Community House Managing director, Kyoto City International Foundation

Public members

Name	Nationality / country	Name	Nationality / country
Sylvie Odin	France	Violeta Misaki Takano	Brazil
Marilou Kinomoto	Philippines	Sanae Tsuji	Japan
Kim Jeong Tae	South Korea	Toshiyuki Miho	Japan
Cai Longri	People's Republic of China		

Designated members were selected at the determination of the Mayor from among candidates with academic experience, while public members were selected from among those citizens who responded to a public call.

Introduction to Members of the 3rd Council

Chairperson Prof. Shoko Nishioka

I teach in the Faculty of Education at Bukkyo University. My specialisms are comparative education, adult education and lifelong learning. I address international exchange at the regional level, primarily with elementary-school students. I have spent time in Canada and the United States as an exchange researcher or visiting professor. I have wide experience primarily with child-raising in a multicultural environment.

Ms. Izumi Ando

I am active with APT (Asian People Together) at the Kyoto YWCA. APT conducts advice sessions and other forms of support in multiple languages for people from various countries, not just Asia. Through such support activities, I realized the necessity of education about multiculturalism, and carry out awareness-raising programs at kindergartens, elementary schools and high schools.

Prof. Mari Hamada

I carry out exchange activities along with students with an overseas cultural background under the auspices of the "Friendship Group for Returnee Children and Foreign Children in Japan." I also carry out exchanges with The Kyoto Philippine Community PAG-ASA (which means "hope" in Tagalog) at the Kyoto City Regional and Multicultural Exchange Network Salon. In addition I run study groups with teachers teaching Japanese at schools in Kyoto City. I have been a member of the Kyoto Prefectural Council for Coexistence with Residents of Foreign Nationality since its inception in 2008. I hope to create a bridge of understanding between Prefecture and City regarding multicultural coexistence.

Mr. Atsuo Mizuno

I undertake various projects based on multicultural coexistence at the Kyoto City Fushimi Youth Activity Center. These include the "Salad Bowl" project, the aim of which is having young people from different cultural backgrounds learn about each other. I also create initiatives for those who find Japanese difficult, in the form of places where young volunteers teach Japanese, and regional places for studying the language. I want to bring to the council my project and management experience.

Mr. Kiyoshi Yamauchi

This year Kyoto International Community House celebrates its 25th year. The facility's purpose is to advance initiatives for international exchange and multicultural coexistence in Kyoto. Its staff and large numbers of volunteers together undertake various projects.

Ms. Sylvie Odin

I studied Japanese calligraphy, aikido and tai chi in France. I came to Japan five years ago, and currently produce calligraphic works, including exhibitions at Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art. I run an international calligraphy class with both Japanese and foreign students in a *machiya* traditional wooden house.

Ms. Marilou Kinomoto

I have been in Japan for 20 years. I was secretary of the Kyoto Philippine Community PAG-ASA from 2011 to 2013. When not working, I act as a volunteer interpreter for YWCA APT and PAG-ASA's youth group. I also work as a Tagalog volunteer interpreter for the Kyoto City Board of Education at a number of elementary schools in the city. Currently I help out at my daughter's school while still working, but I find the Japanese difficult. However, I want to help other Filipina mothers with my volunteer interpreting. Recently I carried out the change-of-address procedures for moving house with the help of someone from the ward office, but found it very hard. I would be grateful if the documents I received at the ward office were explained in English and other languages, since they were difficult to understand.

Mr. Kim Jeong Tae

I am a Zainichi Korean born and raised in Japan. I am deputy principal of the International School in Osaka. The school has Zainichi Korean, Japanese, and Korean-exchange students, as well as teachers with a range of nationalities. I am keenly aware every day that the way people interpret multicultural coexistence differs depending on their position, and how the problems they encounter also differ. I also work for the NPO GLOCALNET. I run an exchange camp for elementary school students from Russia, China, Japan and Korea, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. This activity began as a Korean exchange camp, but with the objective of peace in Eastern Asia has developed into a four-country exchange.

Mr. Cai Longri

Ni hao. I came to Japan from China in 1989, and have lived in Kyoto since 1996, founding my present company in 2000. Initially I provided support to international students from the time they came to Japan until their graduation; however, I came to undertake translation and job-seeking support, and the latter is now my main work. In recent years I also set up a Japanese language school. I have a son born and raised in Japan who cannot speak Chinese, so daily home life seems something like international exchange. Participating in this council, I want to learn about the lives of people from other countries besides China. I also want to consider what kind of environment Kyoto should be for foreigners, and contribute to making it a good place for foreigners to live.

Ms. Violeta Misaki Takano

Bom dia (“hello” in Portuguese). I am a second-generation Nikkei born in the Amazon in Brazil. I visited Japan as an international student in 1996. Presently I work as an interpreter, translator, and language teacher. I am also active as a Kyoto Prefectural Honorary Friendship Ambassador and supporter of the Kyoto City Citizens’ International Cultural Exchange Support Project, introducing Brazilian culture in elementary schools mainly in Kyoto Prefecture. Further, I work as the deputy manager of a community residents’ association. In March this year I set up a Brazil exhibition at Kyoto International Community House. I want to continue promoting Brazil in the future.

Ms. Sanae Tsuji

I work at the Fushimi Ward Mukaijima welfare facility, and undertake three activities related to multicultural coexistence. First, I welcome staff with a foreign background to the facility. I am currently working with people from Thailand, India, China and Korea. Second, I run a festival introducing the food and culture of staff members’ countries to the region. Third is NGO initiatives. Once or twice a year, I take Japanese students to Asia, making it possible for them to interact with local people face to face rather than simply through books or the internet.

Mr. Toshiyuki Miho

There are two reasons why I applied to be on the council. The first is my experience last year when I went to Cambodia as a JICA volunteer. As a foreigner staying in Cambodia, I experienced both inconveniences and comfort. I want to think about how people of foreign nationalities living in Kyoto overcome inconveniences, and also what kind of support I can offer them. The second reason concerns making good use of the resources in Kyoto City. I want to study whether we can utilize the talented foreign nationals here, and, learning from those around me, I want to consider and enhance the connections between foreign nationals and our universities.



“Kyoto City Internationalization Promotion Plan”: Aimed at transforming Kyoto to a vivid multicultural city

In 2008 a 10-year plan comprising measures to deepen exchanges among people both from Japan and from other countries, and aiming to develop Kyoto as an international city, was created, entitled the “Kyoto City Internationalization Promotion Plan.” Since its enactment, it has been revised to take into account societal changes.

Please contact the information section at Kyoto City Hall, your ward or branch office, for a pamphlet with the details, or refer to the following webpage:

<http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/page/0000164035.html>

○Objectives and main initiatives

<Kyoto, a city that fascinates the world>

- Simultaneous interpreting for emergency 119 calls; ensuring the safety and security of foreign tourists and residents with foreign nationalities
- Creating a welcoming environment for researchers, businesspeople and artists from abroad

<Kyoto, a city linked with the world in many ways>

- Making Kyoto more attractive to international students as a destination for short-term study
- Encouraging exchange between international students and residents through community exchange projects

<Kyoto, a city that embraces cultural diversity>

- Creation of initiatives to provide accurate information about disaster prevention and crisis management to residents of foreign nationality
- Enhancement of job-seeking assistance for international students in the form of guidance, etc.
- Connecting residents of foreign nationality with their region, thereby fostering and utilizing local talent to advance multicultural coexistence in the communities
- Promoting pre-school education about multicultural coexistence

Pamphlet about Fire and Disaster Prevention Now Available in Four Languages

Written in English, Mandarin, Korean and Japanese, this pamphlet covers how to prepare for a fire or earthquake for foreigners living in Japan. You can learn how to protect yourself from an earthquake, and how to call a fire engine or ambulance in an emergency.

Available at the Kyoto Fire Department website:

<http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/shobo/page/0000079443.html>



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>