

# Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

## Newsletter No.15

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### Notice of the second meeting held in FY2014

<Time and Date> Tues. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 2014, 9:30 to 11:30am

<Place> Kyoto City Hall

<Agenda> Educational support for children with foreign citizenship as well as children with a background in a foreign culture.



In recent years, the numbers of foreign exchange students, people receiving medical care and social welfare, as well as the number of children and students from China, the Philippines, and other foreign countries are increasing and due this increase Japanese language learning support is essential. For this reason, the second council meeting carried out an exchange of opinions, hearing from the Kyoto City Board of Education as well as from Sama Ka Batang Pinoy (an organization that provides learning support for children of Filipino descent).

### **Report 1: In regards to accepting children with foreign roots**

#### **Report: Board of Education**

The Kyoto City Board of Education reported the structure for accepting students for Kyoto City Elementary and Middle Schools. In regards to Japanese language instruction, starting from April 2014, there is a possibility to engage in a different curriculum labeled special curriculum※. Reports were heard about Japanese language volunteer instructors conducting extracurricular lessons after class finishes, volunteer interpreters for guardians, student volunteers to help other students during class, and the future path for students after middle school.

※The special curriculum for Japanese language instruction should focus above all on teaching Japanese necessary for the student to understand class work and participate in school activities.

**Report 2: Implementation of Support for Filipino related Parents and Children and things the City of Kyoto should think about.**

**Report: Sama Ka Batang Pinoy (an organization that provides learning support for child of Filipino descent).**

In recent years the number of children of Filipino descent are increasing, at this meeting reports were heard from the Sama Ka Batang Pinoy organization on support for starting Japanese language study, support for new arrivals adjusting to life in Japan, interpreters for guardians, university support groups. In addition to troubles adjusting to culture and language, differences in education depending on nationality, and other topics were discussed.

**In regards to opinions from this meeting, the following opinions were recorded.**

- On understanding the actual ratio of students continuing on to high school, a discussion on the diversification of high school entrance exams is necessary.
- As for education for international understanding, studying foreign matters or world matters is not enough, there needs to be improvement in understanding of the everyday lives of people from other countries.
- Kyoto's strong point is its community building activities and as a link to this Japanese language education activities should be promoted.
- For those providing support there needs to be improved understanding and improvement in treatment (Volunteer interpreters for foreigners, etc.)
- As much as possible, we would like for Japanese people to use simple Japanese.

**Comments from Committee Members**

It has been predicted that from now on the number of children from foreign countries starting a new life in Kyoto will increase. For that reason I think that it is necessary that the local community cooperates to create policies that help students that do not fit with the current system.

In regards to Japanese language instruction, even if instruction seems perfect, still there are many methods that can be used and administration and area along with organization as a necessity.

It is important to appreciate the people who support foreigners, but the people the receiving support must not depend on this.

I think if there is a place where foreign exchange students can gather, then children raised in other countries, who have just arrived in Japan, will be able to discuss their anxieties and concerns in their native language.

## Notice of the Third meeting held in FY2014

<Time and Date> Thurs. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 2014, 2:30 to 4:30pm

<Place> Honnoji Cultural Building

<Agenda> The furtherance of multicultural personnel training

It is thought that from this period forward that it is important to connect foreign residents with schools and also with the local area, for there to be communication with foreigners, support for foreigners, for the local area to continue to strive for multiculturalism, and training for personnel that take on the job of creating these networks.

At the third council meeting for FY2014, reports were heard the Kyoto International Community House (kokoka) on volunteer training and also from the Fushimi Youth Action Center on projects for multiculturalism through personnel training. There was an exchange of ideas with committee members.



### **Report 1: In regards to the training of volunteers at kokoka.**

#### **Report: Kyoto International Community House**

At this meeting Kyoto International Community House reported that there are 460 people registered as volunteers and there are 13 types of volunteer activities, these are wide-ranging activities, some are able to be carried out at home and others require knowledge of foreign languages. For 2014, the Kyoto International Community House would like to advance all personnel's skill level with the goal of cooperation, they have started the "volunteer personnel training project.

### **Report 2: In regards to advancing multiculturalism through personnel training**

#### **Report: Fushimi Youth Action Center**

The Fushimi Youth Action Center reported that the center performs many activities with the theme of multiculturalism. Things that have become a pillar are the "Cross-Cultural Exchange Salad Bowl Project" with a focus on foreign nationals and the "Japanese Classroom" where volunteers provide Japanese language educational support to people whose native language is not Japanese. This gives an opportunity to use the facility to spread activities and in this way promote personnel development.



## Comments from Committee Members

As it is our job to promote multiculturalism, it is necessary to treat personnel training as a specialty, it is very important. Also, I think it is important for non-personnel to become aware of and have an interest in multiculturalism.

I think it is necessary for university students to be concerned with multiculturalism, even though they might have to quit these activities due to being busy job hunting.

It is important to increase the number of locations with volunteer activities. If the location of activities is not close, then busy working adults and students who wanted to participate in activities are not able to participate.

To promote multiculturalism I think it is important for universities and other educational organizations to work together practically with the people living in the area, problem solving local government organizations, neighborhood association's duties.

## Notice of the Fourth meeting held in FY2014

<Time and Date> Mon. Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, 2:30 to 4:30pm

<Place> Kyoto City Hall

<Agenda> In regards to FY2014 Proposals

At the Fourth council meeting discussions were carried out on FY2014 proposals that were formed from the exchange of opinions during the first through the third meetings. The details of these proposals were collected in a report presented to the Kyoto City Mayor.



Caption: Third term committee members (Excludes two members who did not attend the Fourth Council meeting)



The Designated Refuge Areas & Regional Refuge Areas Map is finished!

In preparing for a disaster, the Kyoto International Community House has published (using public funds) a map integrating the designated refuge areas for each ward.

The map is written side by side in Japanese and in English.

In addition to designated refuge areas and regional refuge areas, there is an emergency supply list and there is an explanation of the disaster emergency message dial system.

The map is distributed at the Kyoto International Community House and at Ward Offices.

## 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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