

# Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

## Newsletter No.17

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

October 2015

### Notice of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting held in FY2015

The 2<sup>nd</sup> council meeting of the FY2015 was held at the Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange in Higashi-Kujo, Minami Ward (For more information please see the last page). In the Higashi-Kujo area there are many foreign residents, including many Korean nationals. Foreign residents residing in the area and local residents have been very active in various organizations and independent area activities that promote multiculturalism. Higashi-Kujo is also the area that has most implemented the council's goal of "Creating a city deeply rooted in multicultural coexistence." Continuing with information heard at the 1<sup>st</sup> council meeting of the FY2015, at the meeting the council heard information on implementing multicultural policy in each area, reports of current projects and carried out an exchange of opinions.

\*For space constraints Foreign Residents will also include other groups such as foreign-born Japanese, children born to Japanese nationals in an international marriage, Japanese nationals with another cultural background.



<Time and Date> Mon. August 31, 2015 2 to 4pm

<Place> Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange in Higashi-Kujo, Minami Ward

<Agenda> Development of Multicultural Coexistence in each area of Kyoto City

Report 1 — Initiative for Local Exchange: Establishing foreign exchange student residences in vacant houses

Report 2 — The function of Coordinator in establishing Multiculturalism

## Report 1: Initiative for Local Exchange: Establishing foreign exchange student residences in vacant houses

Mikio Yamashita, Hokkaido University Professor Emeritus

Naoko Kan, Asia no Kibou 300

Mikio Yamashita reported on a program using houses that had become vacant as housing for foreign exchange students, and Naoko Kan reported on providing daily-life support for students using the housing program through Asia no Kibou 300.



From Mikio Yamashita:

- The process in which foreign exchange student's residency was established
  - I thought I wasn't doing anything of value for the community I was born and raised in, so decided to renovate my family home, which had become a vacant house, and use it in some local capacity.
  - As I considered what sort of organization to use, I met a member of the

Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural

Exchange who is also the coordinator for the Asia no Kibo 300 organization, I then decided on Asia no Kibo 300, an organization that works helping foreign exchange students find residences (Home Hikari).

- The house has three floors where the first floor is maintained as a mutual space for foreign exchange students and local residents to conduct cultural exchange.
- What are expectations for foreign exchange students?

- We would like exchange students to treasure opportunities for cultural exchange with the local community: conducting routine greetings, participating in a neighborhood association and sports festival activities, etc.

From Naoko Kan

- About Asia no Kibou 300

- This organization was established with the goal of providing foreign exchange students with daily-life support and community support. Asia no Kibou 300 conducts many activities, including exchange student support fair, consultations on entering university, area cleanup, and other cross-cultural exchange activities.



- As a support to the local area, they have created the "Health Circle for Heart and Body" where the members are exchange students that help deepen cultural exchange with the elderly and persons with a disability. In this way students and local people can have the experience of learning from each other through cultural exchange.

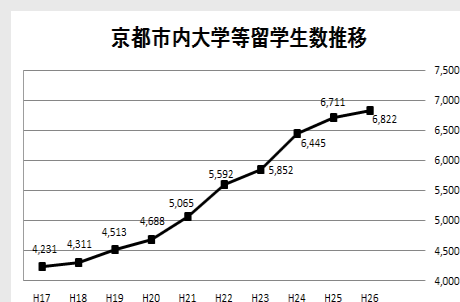
- In regards to projects currently in development, the Home Hikari-foreign exchange student residence project

- For foreign exchange students, it is extremely important to be able to live in a place that is low-cost and moreover safe. We think that exchange students should focus on absorbing their class materials and instead of getting a part-time job, students should focus on local area exchange. Currently Home Hikari is located in one place because we think it is important to lay down roots within a local community, greet people in the neighborhood and help with community clean-up activities. Through doing these normal ordinary things, we can build health relationships and continue exchange many people, such as with children and persons with a disability.

### Number of Foreign Exchange Students in Kyoto (Reference)

Amidst falling numbers of foreign exchange students enrolling within Japan as a whole, Kyoto is experiencing an annual increase in the number of foreign exchange students enrolling in universities and short-term programs.

(Source: Survey by the Kyoto Prefecture Committee for the Promotion of International Student Communication)



## Report 2: The function of coordinator in establishing multiculturalism

Sanae Tsuji, Airinkan Training Center: Social Welfare Service Corporation, Christian Organization

In Mukojima New Town work is going on to create a base within the community at the Airinkan Training Center. Ms. Tsuji presented a report explaining the Center.



### ● Airinkan Training Center

- The center opened in 1979 within the Mukojima New Town settlement, helped by the people living in this area and was established as a base.

- With planning for movie screenings, lectures, and learning associations the center expanded as a meeting place.

### ● Activities related to Multiculturalism

- In order for persons with a disability and the elderly to be able to live comfortably with peace of mind, the center operates day service and

offers community support for persons with a disability through the Daily-life Support Center.

- Based on the many people who have returned from China and other characteristics of the area, the center offers Japanese language support and classes together with trouble shooting support for people with a different cultural background and foreign residents. The Center also holds the Mukojima Smile Festival with stalls from other social welfare organizations and publishes brochures.

### ● Connecting with local area and cooperating with other organizations

- In order to advance the bounds of the Center's multicultural activities, administration, resident organizations, schools and others are involved in the Mukaijima Ninomaru-Ninomaru Kita Safety Network with the network area coordinator facilitating information and other requests.

- For persons with a disability, elderly, and persons with a different cultural background, the Center's network engages in many topics that affect a broad range of people and the center is indispensable to the lives of all area residents. We expect the Center to continue to build the local community, stimulate the area, and connect residents.

### Comments from Committee Members (Extract)

- For foreign exchange students it is a precious experience to be able to participate in cultural exchange with local residents. A residence, part-time job, and learning outside the classroom, this could be a 3 for 1 package and I think that would be great.

- We got a hint about what would be most helpful if we consider what is necessary for connecting people and connecting people with organizations for a local area coordinator.

- I think it isn't just a matter of connecting people who are isolated in their local area with other people (Neighborhood Association President, local welfare officer, and other local residents) and organizations (Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Council and other local organizations), but it is a matter of how to get information to isolated people.

- For drawing up pamphlets consultation services and information on other organizations, I think it is possible for local Neighborhood Associations, Neighborhood Councils, and local welfare officers to distribute materials to people in need.

- A coordinator has an image as an individual, but the Airinkan Training Center as a coordinator really advances activities, I think this is really wonderful.

- To promote activities at the local level, I think it would be good for a person from the local community to receive training to be a coordinator.

- For foreign residents living locally, I think there should be opportunities to talk to persons related to local area organizations and for organizations that grasp topics and information that impact foreigners to use their influence to work with Neighborhood Associations and Neighborhood Councils.

## Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange

The Kyoto City Networking Salon makes good use of the special characteristics of the Higashi-Kujo area of the Minami Ward, by establishing projects that advance local social welfare and multiculturalism. For organizations that focus on local exchange and multicultural exchange, they offer institutional support, website, and other public information at the Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange which transmits information, brochures, and supports activities. Also, coordinates with organizations and offers support to advance cultural exchange.



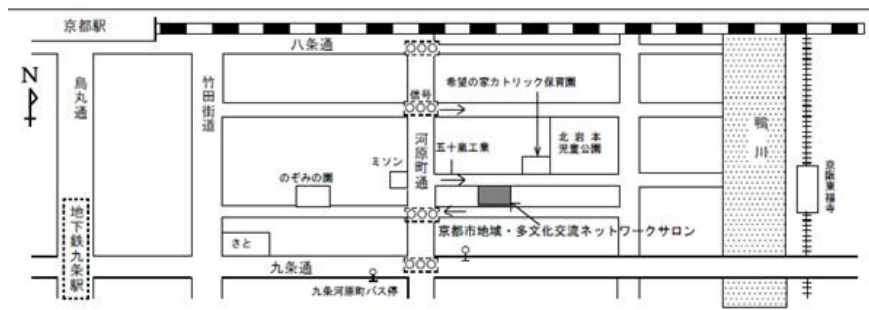
31 Higashikujo Higashiwamoto-cho, Minami-ku, Kyoto 601-8006

Open: Weekdays 9:00am – 5:00pm; Closed Sat., Sun., and Public Holidays

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

Access: 15min walk from JR Kyoto Station/Kyoto City Subway Hachijo Station or Kyoto City Subway Kujo Station.

URL: <http://k-tabunka.com/>



## Kyoto City carried out Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drills

On Aug. 30, 2015, throughout the Yamashina Ward, based on the lessons learned from the Tohoku Earthquake, 5,000 Kyoto residents participated in Comprehensive Disaster Prevention Drills, with an aim to strengthen the plan for organizing the Disaster Prevention System.

At one location, Bishamon-do, 10 foreign residents and 7 volunteer interpreters practiced guiding foreign residents towards evacuation sites, using fire extinguishers to put out fires, and carrying cultural assets out of buildings.



### Notice from the Secretariat:

If you have any opinion regarding the newsletters or the council, please contact us at the following address. Anyone can attend the meetings as an observer. For back numbers of the newsletter in English, please contact us below.

Secretariat for Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy,

Kyoto International Relations Office, 488 Kamihonnojimae-cho, Teramachi-dori Oike-agaru, Nakagyo Ward, Kyoto 604-8571

Tel: 075-222-3072 Fax: 075-222-3055 Email: [kokusai@city.kyoto.jp](mailto:kokusai@city.kyoto.jp)

Website: <http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/sogo/soshiki/2-10-0-0-0.html>



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