

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

Newsletter No. 20



Edited and published by the International Relations Office, City of Kyoto
December 2016

Notice of the 2nd meeting held in FY2016



Time and Date: Tue. September 6, 2016 2pm to 4pm

Location: Kyoto City Hall- Meeting Room F

Agenda: Report 1- Standing close to foreign residents for 25 years: activities of Kyoto YWCA, APT
Report 2- Multicultural activities conducted by the Kyoto Utano Youth Hostel-from a trip focused on tourism to one focused on thinking and feeling

The 2nd meeting was conducted with the theme of promoting awareness to develop multicultural understanding. First, Izumi Ando, Director of Kyoto YWCA reported on the activities of the Kyoto YWCA & APT related to supporting foreign residents. Then Yukio Katayama, General Manager of the Kyoto Youth Hostel Association reported on the initiatives of multicultural collaborations conducted by the Utano Youth Hostel. After the reports, the committee members discussed and gave their opinions on how to promote awareness in order to develop multicultural understanding.

Introduction to Members of the 4th Term (Naohiro Nishida, William Ross Hall)

Naohiro Nishida works as the director of the Kyoto City Youth Service Foundation Fushimi Youth Activity Center, promoting multicultural coexistence, creating places where young people belong, and encouraging young people to participate in activities and these have become the pillars of their foundation.

In order to promote multicultural coexistence, having good connection with the local community is important. Nishida emphasizes the importance of council members' visits to local communities and of making strong connections within those communities.

William Ross Hall is from England and came to Japan 12 years ago. First, Hall taught English as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in Kagoshima, and then moved to Kyoto. He finished a master course at Kyoto City University of Arts this March. Currently, Hall is teaching English at various universities while working on producing his art.

Report 1 Standing close to foreign residents for 25 years: activities of Kyoto YWCA, APT
By Izumi Ando, Director of Kyoto YWCA



What is Kyoto YWCA, APT?

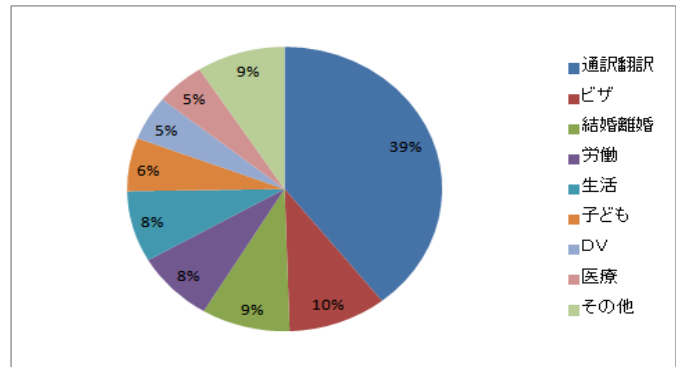
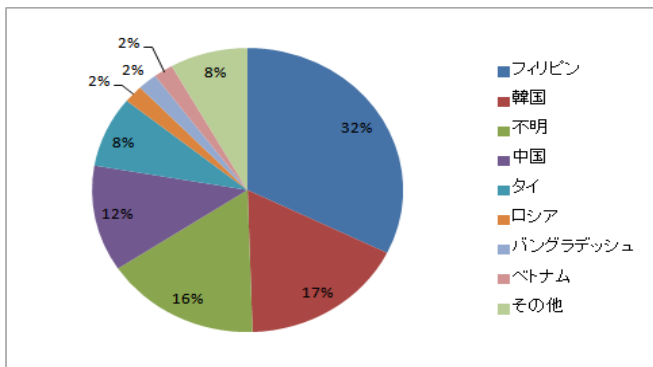
- Kyoto YWCA is a citizen group founded in 1923, with a history of more than 90-years. The group's central focus is on women. From the time the group was established, in an age when women's status in society was low, the group has provided programs to develop the sociality and internationality of women. As a member of YWCA network, with its worldwide connections, Kyoto YWCA values each person and conducts its activities with the goal of achieving a world where all can live together.
- APT (Asian People Together) supports foreign residents by providing consultations, such as by phone, to solve issues faced living in Japan. (See the Kyoto YWCA website for more information.)

necessary consultation meetings. They also help with visits to city offices, schools, hospitals and legal proceedings and with paperwork. APT also provides a multicultural coexistence educational program at elementary and junior high schools aimed at getting rid of prejudices towards foreign residents and to create a society that encourages people to understand and accept different cultures and values.

● The people who receive consultations and the subject of their consultations

Percentage of people who received consultations by nationality (2015)

Percentage of consultations by subject matter (2015)



Almost all of the people who received consultations were women. The subject matter of their consultations included many different and often overlapping issues, such as interpretation requests, concerns about marriage, divorce, work, children, domestic violence, and visas.

● Problems revealed through support

There are four main types of barriers: language barriers, psychological barriers, system barriers, and the cultural barriers, with connections between each type.

1. Language Barriers

- Unable to receive information due to a lack of language comprehension. Not able to do procedures at school or ward offices.
- Made fun of or looked down on by a Japanese husband or spouse, and others.
- Unable to get a job that can be performed independently (a job that provides enough income to support children or a family, usually requiring the reading and writing of kanji or Japanese characters).

2. Psychological Barriers

- At government offices and other places, spoken to inconsiderately or cruelly.
- Unable to gain the trust of a Japanese husband or spouse (e.g. in the management of family finances, etc.)
- Concerns about children being bullied or facing discrimination, if people know their parents are foreign nationals.
- Conversations about foreign children who couldn't make friends because their name is a foreign name, then changing their name to a Japanese name and afterwards are able to make friends in the same class.

3. System Barriers

- For Spouse Visas, it is necessary for Japanese husbands to participate in the renewal process. Therefore, their wives must put up with many things so as not to upset their husbands.
- Even though divorced, if the husband has enough financial power, then he can easily gain parental authority over the child. Thus causing a spouse, who was granted status of residency based on the parental authority for a child who is a Japanese national, to lose their residency status after their spouse was granted parental authority and become forced to return to their home country.

4. Culture Barriers

- Many cases of divorce based on cultural differences.
- At Welfare Center infant health checkups and maternity classes, mothers or expecting mothers are often asked if they are feeding or will feed certain foods to their baby, but due to cultural differences it is often food they do not eat in the first place in their home country. This causes mothers to feel ineffective.

• Multicultural Education Program

This program is conducted through school visits, where the lecturer presents games from their home country and teaches the way to play rock, paper, scissors and the different words used in their home country. Also the lecturer explains their home country, talks about their memories about coming to Japan, and the difficulties faced by foreigners, all contributing to their message to the students.

This is a program that should not be allowed to be a one-time event. The first part of the lesson allows students to come into contact with people from various different countries, and the next part of lessons is to take time to hear about a country and the issues it faces, thus continuing awareness. It is important to make a conscious effort to help this program continue.

Also, some of the people, who were able to resolve their problems after coming to APT, have assisted APT by participating as lecturers in the Multicultural Education Program.

Report 2 Multicultural activities conducted by the Kyoto Utano Youth Hostel-from a trip focused on tourism to one focused on thinking and feeling

By: Yukio Katayama, General Manager of the Kyoto Youth Hostel Association



What is the Kyoto Utano Youth Hostel?

Location: 29 Uzumasa Nakayama-cho, Ukyo-ku, Kyoto

Established: 1959

Reopened after Renovation: 2008

Number of Guestrooms: 41, Number of staff: 170

The running of a youth hostel originally began in Germany, so that young people through travel could overcome race, nationality, religion, etc. and freely gather to deepen mutual understanding and peaceful actions, and hostels have spread across the world. There are now 220 youth hostels in Japan and 5 in Kyoto Prefecture.

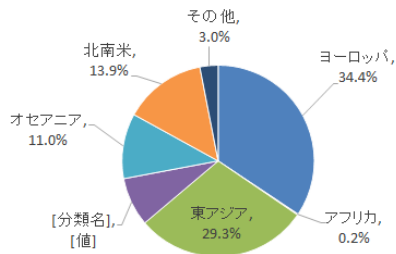
●2015 Lodging Conditions

宇多野ユースホステル 利用状況



2015年度宿泊状況 40,368名
 内、日本人 25,864名 64.1%
 内、外国人 14,504名 35.9%

[外国人エリア別宿泊状況]



2015年度	
国名	泊数
韓国	1,649
アメリカ	1,601
台湾	1,295
オーストラリア	1,165
中国	1,036
オランダ	1,008
フランス	963
ドイツ	837
デンマーク	628
イギリス	477
その他	3,845
(合計)	14,504

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↓ Every Day One Activities (See below)



● About Multicultural Activities

Creating opportunities and exchanges, with the goal of offering a stay in lodgings that have extra features. The “Every Day One” program, giving guests something fun to enjoy each day, started in 2015. Each day different events are held, such as Wagashi making or eating nagashi-somen, lectures on Chinese tea, trying hula dance, ocarina concerts, experiencing zazen meditation and Shodo, calligraphy.

At the Kyoto Utano Youth Hostel they use the word multicultural coexistence, but the word also contains the meanings of people together having fun experiencing the differences in their own cultures and growing, as people, through mutual interaction.

It is thought that through their lodgings, the hostel offers opportunities for people to start feeling some understanding of different cultures.

In that sense, this is a step forward from ordinary tourism. The Utano Youth Hostel offers opportunities where visitors can feel, truly see, and then think about their trip. Forming connection in multicultural understanding.

Comments from Committee Members (Extract)

- In order to effectively develop awareness, it is necessary to devise ways to communicate information. For example, well-known places where large numbers of people gather, such as the zoo, etc. can be important places to use for communicating information.
- It is necessary to create networks with various organizations and local communities, in order to solve the problems related to multicultural coexistence....

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.

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Publisher: Kyoto City International Relations Office, General Affairs Bureau
 Kyoto City Publication Number: 284812



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