

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy Newsletter No. 22

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September 2017

The 1st Meeting of FY2017 was held- with the theme of foreign residents and the local community

Date: Tues. June 20, 2017 2pm - 4pm

Venue: Bazaar Cafe (Karasuma-Imadegawa, Kamigyo Ward, Kyoto)

Topic: Foreign Residents and the Local Community

Agenda: Report 1- Efforts at Higashi Kujo Children's Diner

Report 2- Information about Activities at Bazaar Cafe



Report 1 From trying to start the Higashi Kujo Children's Diner

By: Rev. Baekki Heo Korean Christian Church in Japan Kyoto Nambu Church

●First Opportunity

The Korean Christian Church in Japan Kyoto Southern Association is a place where Zainichi Koreans can gather in Higashi Kujo at a Christian church built in 1928, the first by Zainichi Koreans. Since 1978 the church was used for its classroom space as part of the Korean mothers' school (Omoni School) to teach Japanese to Zainichi Koreans, but as the number of participants decreased after 1990s, the connection between the church and the local community weakened.

When the Rev. Baekki Heo was assigned at the church two years ago, many people said that the church had to restart connecting with the local community. While trying to find different ways, the Rev. heard that the kitchen and the dining space were excellent but not used, and from this decided to start a program called *Kodomo Shokudo* or Children's Diner (established September 15, 2016).

●Things beared in mind before starting

In order to conduct resident-based activities in Higashi Kujo, they first needed to check that the Children's Diner did not conflict with other activities in the area. After consulting the Higashi Kujo Machizukuri



↑Rev. Baekki Heo

Support Center (Mamemoyashi), along with a Catholic Daycare Center “Kibo no ie” that wished to participate, the hours of the Children’s Diner were decided, an opening ceremony was held, and while taking in advice from various sources preparations advanced.

● **Higashi Kujo Children’s Diner**

- Date: Each Thursday 5:30pm- 7:30pm
- Fee: Adult (over 19-years old) 300 yen, Free for anyone under 18
- Prepared Meal: enough for 100 people (there are many times when numbers are over 90)
- Starting preparations at 2pm
Approx. 11-12 staff members (at most 13-14 members)
- Each event runs 12,000 -15,000 yen over budget.
- Donations are asked for in church newsletters.
- Ingredients and snacks are provided by Second Baptist Kyoto (an NPO conducting support activities).



At other similar facilities, activities are held only once a month or once every other week, but the Children’s Diner is open every week. If you come on a Thursday evening, you will always be able to receive a meal, with the goal of this diner being fully ingrained in people’s daily lives.

Also, the meals are not just simple food, but things that people really want to eat, with each dinner always consisting of a main dish, vegetable side-dish, and a dessert.

● **Diners’ voices- a progression from past to present**

The voices of diners have expanded from children who feel they can have fun at the diner along with children who can meet friends whom they went to daycare with but no longer see at school because they go to different elementary schools to older people who are happy to have meals with others as they live alone. The Children’s Diner is thought to be a place where it is possible to create a local community.

It is thought that there should be joint activities and events including organizing concerts, hosting kamishibai, as well as providing help for students with their homework while they are at the diner, but due to a shortage in staff members there is currently trouble making these activities available.



A photograph taken at the Children’s Diner

Report 2 Starting to value every single person: a place to connect with each other
Bazaar Cafe Activity Report

(By: Reika Kojima & Asami Hazama, Bazaar Café)

● **About Bazaar Cafe**

Bazaar Cafe was established 19 years ago by university faculty members, clergy, artists, students, and many other types of people who wished to support those affected by HIV and to make a place for people who are diagnosed as HIV positive, where they could feel comfortable and have an opportunity to work. Before long not



↑ Asami Hazama, café staff member

just people with HIV, but all kinds of people started to gather at the cafe, and soon after that support for foreign residents began.

At the cafe people of different nationalities, ethnicities, sexes, ages all gather together deepening exchanges, and it is a place where people can be themselves. Also, the cafe employs people who have difficulty finding a job, providing valuable experiences where they can grow and learn new skills.

● **Activities at Bazaar Cafe**

Programs and meetings for people in social minorities, and also study sessions are held at the cafe. There is an important program called bible sharing where participants talk about themselves and their experiences and receive words of filled with empathy and affirmation from other participants.

Conducted all year is a program called “Festival” where people connected to the cafe sell dishes of their home country and miscellaneous products, and where they can greet customers face to face and conduct exchanges. Also, the cafe accepts university students doing fieldwork, and the students can learn various things.

● **Aiming to be a place where you can be yourself**

Among the people that come to Bazaar Cafe, there are often many who are overcome by the difficulties in their lives and do not value themselves. At Bazaar Cafe there are programs where over time they can through experiences with each other learn to love, accept, and value themselves and others.

One good part of having this in the form of a cafe is that a cafe is a place where people can come freely, choosing to come or not at will. If they come they can help or not help, or talk about the difficult things in their lives at their own pace.

Empathy creates energy, but to empathize with another person is not easy, and sometimes we might think that another person’s viewpoint is completely wrong. Despite the hardships that we all face, this is a place to be able to talk about what we really feel and to be true to ourselves.

To you, what kind of place is Bazaar Cafe?

-Responses written by people connected to the cafe in a flip-book

“A place that makes me feel welcome,” “A place that makes me able to support others, cheering them up and helping inspire them,” “A place of comfort where I have friends,” “A place I want to come back to,” “A place that is kind where I can recharge my mind and body,” “Bazaar Cafe is my place,” “A valued treasure box where people can connect with each other,” “My second home,” “Not only a cafe, but also a place where I can meet the new me,” “A place to keep living, a place that connects you with life.”



Comments from Committee Members (Extract)

- The Children’s Diner is not limited by its original purpose, but expands and has expanded upon that purpose to become a place implementing multiculturalism and where people can conduct cultural exchange across multiple generations. This type of place is very valuable.
- My son volunteered before at Bazaar Cafe, and it was a very good experience as he learned many things.
- Even if we focus on the management of a cafe or cafeteria, where people can casually gather and talk about their troubles, I think it is most important if activities there can be turned into a network.
- For management, I learnt that creating a network is important. It is important to have a mutual support network, as well as to connect nearby residents with other people in local communities.
- It is very important to expand this kind of network outward.

Introducing New Members

Mihaeng Sohn and Shigemitsu Murai will be replacing Yoko Watanabe and Naohiro Nishida as council members for the 4th term of the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy.

Mihaeng Sohn is a lecturer at Osaka University. Her work at the university explores connections between students and the local community. Sohn served on this council as a publicly recruited member from 2006 to 2010 for two terms.

Shigemitsu Mirai started work as the director of the Fushimi Youth Action Center in April of 2017. The center promotes international exchanges through Japanese lessons and other programs supporting multiculturalism.

FY2016 Council Report was submitted



On March 28, 2017, as a representative of the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy acting chairperson Mari Hamada submitted proposals to the city of Kyoto which were included in the FY2016 Report to Mayor Kadokawa.

Proposals to Kyoto City

Proposal 1: Enhancement of initiatives to deepen understanding concerning foreign residents to promote a society without discrimination and prejudice

It is important to enhance the opportunities to learn about the experiences of foreign residents, and study human rights education related to foreign residents at school or in society.

Proposal 2: Enhancement of spaces and opportunities to strengthen mutual exchange between foreign and Japanese residents

It is important to actively use familiar places, like children's centers and ward offices, as a platform for multicultural exchange. Additionally, it is necessary to try to discover effective ways to transmit information. It is also worthwhile to provide training for city government employees in order to raise awareness of team members in promoting multicultural coexistence.

* If you wish to receive a copy of the FY2016 Report, please contact the Secretariat. Also, the contents of the report are posted on the Kyoto City International Relations Office website.

Notice from the Secretariat:

If you have any opinion regarding the newsletters or the council, please contact us at the following address. (Also, 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.lg.jp

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

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