

# Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy Newsletter No. 19



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## FY2016 Marks the Start for New Council Members

On April 1, 2016, the 12 newly nominated members to the 4<sup>th</sup> term of the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy began their appointment. Their appointment is for a 2 year term that will run until March 31, 2018, and the council will continue to build on the theme of “creating a city deeply rooted in multicultural coexistence.”

During the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, Mari Hamada was selected as the acting chairperson.



### ●Notice of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held in FY2016

<Time and Date> Wed. July 12, 2016 10am to 12pm

<Place> Kyoto City Hall- Meeting Room E

<Agenda> Outline of the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

How to advance the council in FY2016

## Members of the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy – 4<sup>th</sup> Term Committee (titles omitted)

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Occupation</i>
<i>Nominated members</i>	Izumi Ando	Director, Kyoto YWCA
	Shoko Nishioka	Director, Kyoto City Youth Action Center
	Mari Hamada*	Professor, Kyoto University of Education
	*Acting Chairperson	Director, Kyoto City International Foundation
	Kiyoshi Yamauchi	Superintendent, Kyoto City International Foundation Managing Director, Kyoto City International Foundation
	Yoko Watanabe	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, and Faculty of Education, Kyoto University
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Nationality/ Country of Cultural Background</i>
<i>Publicly recruited members</i>	William Ross Hall	England
	Sae Cardonnel	Japan
	Hwang Kim	South Korea
	Zsuzsanna Szabo	Hungary
	Jyo Gen Yi	Japan
	Kristyna Cislerova	Czech Republic
	Derek Macatantan	United States

- The term of office is two years, from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2018
- Nominated members were appointed at the discretion of the Mayor
- Publicly recruited members were selected after a public appeal by the city for applications

### Introduction to Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> Term

**Chairperson Hamada** works at Kyoto University of Education instructing on teaching methods for children from overseas and students with a different cultural background. Before teaching at Kyoto University, Hamada taught foreign exchange students as a Japanese language instructor. At Kyoto University, Hamada started the Global Education Leadership Program teaching how to create lessons for Japanese language instruction with a familiarity in many cultures. Also, together with students the Kikokutonichi jidoseitoto tsunagaru-kai Hamada advances exchanges with children with a different cultural background living in Kyoto City.

**Izumi Ando** works for the Kyoto YWCA and for Asian People Together (APT). APT conducts consultation and support services in multiple languages for people from the various countries in Asia. Recently much of the work is interpreting, helping people from abroad solve various problems at ward offices, welfare offices, court houses, schools, and hospitals. In addition they help with school visits, giving educational support for children of parents seeking counseling, and events for parents.

**Kiyoshi Yamauchi** is a superintendent for the Kyoto City International Foundation. The Kyoto City International Community House, which is managed by the foundation, is an institution founded to advance international exchange and multicultural policies and this year marks the 27 year since its opening. Currently, staff and volunteers conduct a wide variety of projects.

**Yoko Watanabe** is an associate professor at the Lifelong Education and Libraries division of Kyoto University. Watanabe has worked for 3 years at the university handling human rights issues concerning foreign residents of Japan. Watanabe considers it to be important that on a local level Japanese and foreign residents together learn the various differences between their cultures.

**Sae Cardonnel** is married to a French national and has three children who have all attended Lycée Français de Kyoto and through this connection she has become a member of the board of directors of the school. Also, Cardonnel through experiences gained during the reopening of the Villa Kujoyama, a French cultural institution, helps with various projects. Cardonnel would like to make the most of her experience amongst French communities for the council.

**Zsuzsanna Szabo** is from Hungary and it has been 7 years since Szabo arrived in Japan. Currently Szabo studies at Kyoto University Graduate School and conducts research on the topic of modern Japanese literature. Szabo also works part time at the Kyoto City International Community House and is a part-time lecturer at Nara Women's University conducting lessons on Japanese culture.

**Jo Gen Yi** is from China and is a naturalized Japanese citizen, Jo Gen yi's Japanese name is Ryuichi Yamamoto. 28 years ago Jo Gen Yi came to Japan, and currently teaches children to adults of various nationalities Chinese martial arts within central Kinki area. Also, Jo Gen Yi visits elementary schools to give lessons.

**Hwang Kim** is a picture book writer and third generation Zainichi Korean. Through children's books, Kim has been able to conduct Japanese and Korean exchange projects and activities. Kim regulates the World Picture Book Exhibition held every summer at the Kyoto City International Community House. Kim also manages a café which has many Korean picture books on hand and where many Zainichi Koreans can come and receive consultations. Kim would like to speak for them.

**Kristyna Cislerova** is from Prague in the Czech Republic and came to Japan 8 years ago. Currently, Cislerova works at Yuuhisai Koudoukan conducting activities related to chado and kado. At Koudoukan people from overseas can visit and experience tea ceremony and Japanese culture.

Also, often working in Korea Kim can introduce projects for multiculturalism.

**Derek Macatantan** is from the United States and came to Japan 5 years ago. Until last year Macatantan taught at local elementary schools in Mukojima as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT). Starting in April of this year Macatantan began work as the ALT director in charge of the School Guidance Section for the Kyoto Board of Education.

\*Naohiro Nishida and William Hall were not present due to other business.

## What is necessary to promote internationalization and multiculturalism in Kyoto?

~Personal opinions given by council members~

(the following are excerpts)

- If there was Japanese language training before receiving job training, then the employment rate for foreign residents would be reported to increase. Japanese language support is important when considering planning for foreign residents.
- In order for residents from overseas to be active and able to participate, it is important to offer a space where they can use their native language and culture.
- In Korea there are multicultural libraries which have books in many languages. In order to create a natural place for many foreign residents to gather, the administration could discuss this. In order that foreign residents do not become isolated, it is necessary to create a library with books in many languages.
- The announcements and expressions in English on Kyoto City Buses are insufficient to convey their meaning to the many foreign residents in Kyoto, they need to be improved.
- Information about policies supporting foreign residents is not being circulated. It is necessary to devise a system for the sharing of information.

## FY2015 Report was submitted



On March 28, 2016, acting chairperson Shoko Nishioka, as a representative of Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy, submitted the proposals to the city of Kyoto included in the FY2015 Report to Mayor Kadokawa.

Also present that day were council members Izumi Ando, Mari Hamada, Atsuo Mizuno, Kiyoshi Yamauchi, Jeong Tae Kim, Longri Cai, and Toshiyuki Miho. More information about the contents of the proposal is listed below.

### Proposals to Kyoto City

#### **Proposal 1: Plan to improve Japanese people's awareness on coexistence with foreign residents**

In order to promote multicultural coexistence, it is necessary to have local residents, including representatives of neighborhood councils and neighborhood associations, improve their awareness on living with foreign residents and people with various cultural backgrounds.

#### **Proposal 2: Personnel training to promote mutual understanding**

In order that foreign residents do not become isolated, it is important to have a coordinator who can cooperate with neighborhood councils and neighborhood associations, Regional Women's Councils, Social Welfare Councils, etc., and can train personnel to carry out their duties and build a bridge between these groups and foreign residents.

#### **Proposal 3: Strengthening the transmission of multilingual information including information in Easy Japanese**

For an effective way to communicate with foreign residents in Japanese, it is essential to transmit information to foreign residents in many different languages including Easy Japanese.

Upon receiving these proposals, Mayor Kadokawa said, "Kyoto is placing the development of a multicultural city as the foundation of its municipal administration. In regards to the contents of the proposals I have received, we will take them very seriously, examine all areas, and make the most of all proposals within the municipal administration."

\* If you wish to receive a copy of the FY2015 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.  
(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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