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## Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy Newsletter No.25

Edited by Secretariat of the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy  
(Kyoto City International Relations Office)

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### **The Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy for FY2019 was held on the theme “Promoting Multicultural Coexistence Further in the City”**

The Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy is established for conducting researches and deliberating on topics related to promoting multicultural coexistence in communities. The 5<sup>th</sup> term of the Council started in FY2018 and its final meeting was held in February, 2020.

<Time & Date> 10:00 – 12:00 on Thursday, February 6, 2020

<Venue> Meeting Room No.4, 4F Branch Office Building, Kyoto City Hall

<Program> (1) Opening Remarks

(2) Reports from the Secretariat;

① Proposals presented by the Council and the related measures taken by the City as well as their status of progress.

② Recent trends and future initiatives to be introduced

(3) Exchange of Opinions

(4) Closing Remarks



#### **Introduction of a New Member**

In place of Mr. YAMAUCHI Kiyoshi who was engaged as the Council Member until the end of FY2018, Mr. FUJITA Hiroyuki is newly appointed as the 5<sup>th</sup> term member to join the Council.

#### **Message from FUJITA Hiroyuki (Mr.)**

I am the Superintendent at the kokoka Kyoto International Community House, and an adviser to the City of Kyoto on its initiatives to achieve SDGs and to make Kyoto a resilient city. I would like to speak on topics that would help the city lead to multicultural coexistence.

# 1 Proposals presented by the Council and the related measures taken by the City as well as their status of progress

## ●Categorizing the proposals into groups by their main issues

As shown below, we have categorized the proposals presented to the City by the Council since FY2010 based on its researches and deliberations at the meetings:

• Community Building	8 items
• Developing Human Resources	5 items
• Disseminating Information	4 items
• Understanding Diverse Cultures	3 items
• Communication Support	2 items
• Child-rearing Support	2 items
• Public-Private Collaboration	1 item
• Conducting Social Survey on Multicultural Coexistence	1 item
• Welfare for Senior People	1 item
<b>Total</b>	<b>27 items</b>

Most proposals are related to “Community Building” “Developing Human Resources” and “Disseminating Information”



One example of initiatives related to “Community Building”: An event in the Higashi-kujo area

## ●Related main measures to the proposals taken by the City

Category	Major measures taken by the City
Community Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○Holding cultural exchange events such as “kokoka Open Day.”</li> <li>○Developing Kyoto City Multicultural Exchange Network Salon</li> <li>○Encouraging international residents to participate in the local activities such as the entry to the neighborhood associations.</li> <li>○Examining how the base for multicultural coexistence in the Mukaijima area should be established.</li> </ul>
Developing Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○Promoting volunteer engagements as Japanese tutors and advisors for daily life.</li> <li>○Employing international residents as advisors and interpreters for the Interpretation and Counselling Service, Medical Interpreter Dispatching Service, and Consultations.</li> <li>○Creating manuals/guidelines on communication using Easy Japanese</li> <li>○Having training sessions for officials working at service counters at ward offices as well as trainings for officials through human rights campaigns</li> </ul>

Disseminating Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○Publishing multilingual flyers on National Health Insurance, National Pension, and Long-term Care Insurance.</li> <li>○Creating multilingual official website of the City</li> <li>○Creating multilingual website for Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management</li> <li>○Raising international residents' awareness of rules and etiquettes when riding a bicycle</li> <li>○Creating multilingual displays for international residents on City Buses and Subways.</li> </ul>
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## 2 Recent trends and future initiatives to be introduced

### ●Transition of the number of international residents in Kyoto registered in the Basic Resident Registration System

40,565 people in 2014  
41,609 people in 2015  
42,567 people in 2016  
44,282 people in 2017  
46,451 people in 2018  
**48,773 people in 2019**

- In recent years, international residents especially Chinese and Vietnamese nationals are increasing in number.
- Sorting the number according to the status of residence, “Permanent Resident” is decreasing in number but international residents with the status of “Student,” “Engineer, Specialist in Humanities, International Services,” and “Technical Intern Training” etc., are increasing.

### ●National trends

The amendments to laws including the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act were made in April, 2019, and **new statuses of residence as “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” are introduced** as a new framework to accept more workers internationally in 14 fields of work such as caregiving.

In addition, the national government has adopted **126 measures called the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals”** to promote strongly and comprehensively accepting foreign workers and realizing coexistence between them and Japanese nationals.

### ●Kyoto City’s initiatives based on national trends

#### (1)Establishing Inquiry Center for Foreign Citizens in Kyoto City

We have extended the consultation services offered at kokoka Kyoto International Community House in July, 2019.

##### <Extended Services>

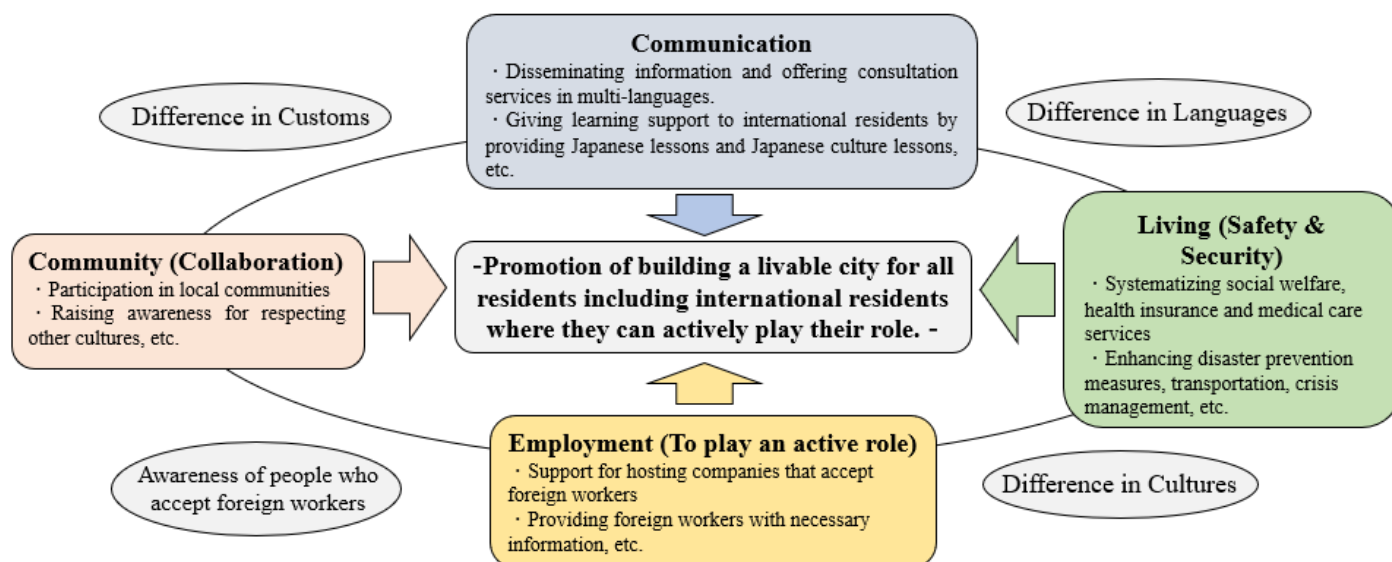
- Direct consultation service using a multilingual interpretation tablet (in principal, in 11 languages)
- Interpretation and Counselling Service in English is now available on 3 days a week (previously, twice a week)
- Introducing a consultation support system based on a database of previously consulted matters. etc.



## (2) Setting up a “Project Team for Promoting Multicultural Coexistence”

We have set up the Project Team in April 2019 to create initiatives not by individual department in charge but as one team to realize a livable society for everyone and revitalize local communities by assessing the companies’ needs for accepting foreign workers accurately and maintaining harmony between international residents whose number is expected to increase and the citizens, as well as harmony in local communities etc.

The Project Team has categorized the issues in our city related to multicultural coexistence into 4 groups, and it is currently checking the status of current measures taken and planning new initiatives.



### <Examples of projects planned to be implemented by the City in 2020>

- Enhancing counter services at ward offices and ward branch offices by using videophone interpretation tablets (categorized in “Communication”)
- Improving a disaster prevention and support system for international residents (categorized in “Living”)
- Holding local Japanese classes for international residents to make connections with the locals (categorized in “Community”)
- Promoting employment of foreign workers at community-based companies (categorized in “Work”)

※The aforementioned projects had been planned when the Council was held and those projects may be changed or cancelled according to the budget allocations made by the City Assembly.

— Comments by committee members (Extract) —

- The City of Kyoto implements various measures for multicultural coexistence and the outcomes or effects need to be examined. It may be a good idea to conduct an actual condition survey as well as public awareness surveys on multicultural coexistence both for international residents and Japanese residents to collect data for verifying the measures already taken.
- It is also important to know how the individual initiatives taken by the citizens themselves on multicultural coexistence and the City's measures are linked.
- It is surely convenient to use interpretation tablets at service counters; however, it is more essential for the City to develop personnel who are capable of understanding the necessity of multicultural coexistence to promote making Kyoto a city where multicultural coexistence is achieved.
- It is important to employ volunteer interpreters as professional ones.
- Please consider how the City should implement initiatives sharing them among different sections and how the collaboration should be conducted.
- As only the limited initiatives taken by the City, it is necessary to outsource more initiatives to NPOs.
- I think the multicultural coexistence cannot be achieved unless the City develop the communities for raising citizen's awareness and promote understanding of Japanese citizens on the coexistence.
- It is good to hold big events but it is also essential to improve environment to have small meetings so that citizens can easily gather for exchanging ideas.
- Many citizens see foreign nationals as tourists. It is necessary to change such a concept. At the same time, it is necessary to coordinate the policies for tourism and multicultural coexistence.
- Employment support for students with international backgrounds is also an issue.
- It is necessary to not only disseminate information but also take care of the information until it actually reaches to the people in need.
- The new statuses of residence have been introduced; however, accepting those status holders is not in progress. I hope the number of accepted foreign workers is increased in the future which will solve a shortage of manpower.
- Many companies cannot provide opportunities for technical intern trainees and foreign workers to learn Japanese.

The opinions and ideas given by the Council members will be shared at the meetings of the Project Team for Promoting Multicultural Coexistence and the related departments will refer to the proposals to design future policies.

**Message from the Secretariat**

If you have any opinions and comments concerning the newsletters and the Council, please send them to the Secretariat.

For back numbers of the newsletter in English, please contact us below:

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