

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

FY 2018 Report

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by the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy

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I. Introduction

In Kyoto, a city with an over 1,200-year history and culture, the Declaration of Kyoto as a City Open to the Free Exchange of World Cultures was issued in 1978 with an aim of making Kyoto become an ideal city. In the hopes of realizing this declaration, Kyoto City Internationalization Promotion Guideline was formulated. Furthermore, internationalization policies designed to transform Kyoto into a vivid multicultural city have been framed in Kyoto City Master Plan and the related initiatives have been developed.

One of the difficulties with which foreign residents and people with foreign cultural backgrounds face when they start living in Kyoto is related to communication. It is necessary for those who do not understand Japanese such as foreign residents to receive personal support to meet an individual need to live in Kyoto without any anxieties.

The 5th term committee members of Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy which started its term in April 2018 had series of discussions on the issues related to communication and initiatives to be taken by Kyoto City. They cover topics such as providing learning Japanese language support and transmitting multilingual information with the aim of making a livable city for people including foreign residents.

The number of foreign residents in Kyoto has been increasing these years. In such a circumstance, it will become more crucial to provide a language support as one of the supports for foreign citizens.

We hope that the initiatives suggested at council meetings will be adopted and the creation of a multicultural city where everyone including foreign residents is able to enjoy living and to play an active role will be promoted.

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy
Chairperson
Mari Hamada

II. A Proposal for Kyoto City

*In the following pages, key points of proposals are underlined and important suggestions for future initiatives are written in bold.

A Proposal

Promoting initiatives to provide communication support such as learning Japanese language support considering individual circumstances of foreign residents etc.

1. Communication support using foreign languages and an easy Japanese

One of the challenges for the citizens who are foreign nationals or who have various cultural backgrounds to face with is an issue related to communication.

There are some people amongst elder foreign residents who have problems in communication when they use a senior care system because they do not understand Japanese. Moreover, there are some children who are rooted in a different cultural background from Japanese needs to learn languages of their parents using for communicating with their parents and relatives. As languages are deeply connected with an individual's identity, it is meaningful to support those children to acquire a language that are deeply related to their roots and identity.

In terms of learning Japanese language, it is difficult for some foreign residents to find time for studying even if they wish to because they tend to be in a severe working environment. Also, it is practically impossible for most foreign residents to undertake studying Japanese language because there is no Japanese language school nearby or because a school fee is too expensive for them to afford.

Considering of the aforementioned issues, it is important to improve the environment, but when we release municipal information, it is more essential for us to provide the foreign residents with information in an easy Japanese or in multiple languages so that those who do not understand Japanese can be properly informed. Also, it is necessary to transmit information not in a literal translation but in translation which is easy to understand for the foreign residents who are not used to Japanese culture or who are not familiar with Japanese social system. In particular, Japanese words related to health insurance, childrearing, senior care, social welfare, and tax are very technical and hard to understand even for native Japanese speakers. Therefore, it is quite possible for the foreign residents not to be able to receive a necessary service or leave a necessary procedure incomplete because they do not understand what are written in the documents.

It is crucial to supply foreign residents etc. with accessible information by doing our best to revise the way to release the information. In addition, it is also important to provide children of various foreign nationals with an opportunity to study of a language of their origin.

2. Concerning an enhancement of Japanese language classes as a place for studying Japanese

We received some comments from the foreign residents who want to study Japanese mentioning they do not know where in the city a Japanese class is offered, or the level of the class attended is not what they required etc. Difficulty in receiving information on Japanese class that satisfies an individual's needs is an issue.

Among citizens who want to attend Japanese classes, some people want to take their children to Japanese classes and others wish to attend the classes nearby. Also, some people have a perception that Japanese language class should be instructed by a volunteer whose native tongue is Japanese therefore there are less chances for foreign individuals to teach Japanese even they wish. On the other hand, some volunteers are not able to carry on teaching because their teaching skills are not good enough. Therefore, it is an issue to support volunteers and it is also necessary to foster coordinators between learners and teachers.

Thus, it is important to discuss measures on Japanese language classes and introduce them which include revising the way to release information concerning Japanese language classes, fostering leaders including current students and its support, and providing support to hold classes to fulfill every need.

Considering those issues and initiatives to be taken, **it is crucial for us to collaborate with a network of Japanese language schools such as Kyoto Nihongo Rings** where Kyoto City International Foundation and Kyoto City Fushimi Youth Center participate. Kyoto Nihongo Rings is a network of volunteers of groups and individuals to support foreign residents to learn Japanese language, and it has produced a map of Japanese language classes to notify the available classes nearby and provided trainings to volunteers. By using such a network, it is important to improve environment for supporting foreign residents to learn Japanese.

3. Concerning the placement of Japanese language classes nearby and its enhancement as a place for foreign residents to be comfortable at and to exchange. Local Japanese language classes are mainly supported by volunteers who are not experts in a Japanese language education and it is expected that those classes will play roles as a place for an exchange to connect foreign residents etc. and local residents, and a place for foreign residents to be comfortable at. To make multiculturalism deeply rooted in a community, it is particularly vital to have foreign residents and local residents acquainted with each other through the aforementioned activities.

Once they acquainted each other, mutual understanding on each other's culture and way of thinking will be advanced and communication on daily basis will be enhanced. In addition, if they usually communicate each other, it will create mutual aid in a community such as both Japanese and foreign residents etc. helping each other in case of disasters.

When we consider a plan on the way to run Japanese language classes, **it is important to offer support to place those classes nearby in a community considering of their roles as a place for an exchange between Japanese residents and foreign residents, and as a place for foreign residents to feel comfortable at.**

4. In closing

Due to amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, a new status of residence called "Specific Skill" will be introduced and it is expected that there will be an increase in number of foreign workers. Accordingly, it will create a desperate need of providing support for foreign individuals to learn Japanese language. In the Act, it is stated that a company that hires foreign nationals has a responsibility to provide them with Japanese language education.

Therefore, companies are required to do their duties. In this circumstance, it is necessary for administration to cooperate with companies in supporting Japanese language education.

We think that developing initiatives related to communication support such as providing support for learning Japanese language in consideration of the aforementioned individual circumstances of foreign residents will lead to creating a livable city of multicultural coexistence for foreign residents etc.

II. Documents

1. In regard to the FY2018 Council Meetings:

Three meetings were held in FY2018 on the theme of “creating a livable city for foreign residents etc.” At each meeting, experts in various fields reported on initiatives for multicultural coexistence and then a discussion was held.

Meeting 1

Date: Tuesday July 3, 2018

Venue: Kyoto International Community House

Topics of discussion: 1. Outline of Kyoto City Council on Multicultural policy and how discussions to be generated
2. Foreign Residents etc. and Japanese Language Education Part 1

Report: Multicultural Coexistence and Japanese Language Classes

(Mr. Shigemitsu Murai, Council Member)

Meeting 2

Date: Monday September 10, 2018

Venue: Kyoto City Hall

Topic of discussion: Foreign Residents and Japanese Language Education Part 2

Report: Designing a Japanese Language Education System in Kyoto Prefecture and Initiatives Taken by Kyoto Prefectural International Center

(Mr. Noriaki Kondo, Kyoto Prefectural International Center)

Japanese Language Education Project in Sakai City and Fostering Its Human Resources

(Ms. Mayumi Segawa, International Division, International Affairs Department, Culture and Tourism Bureau)

Meeting 3

Date: Tuesday November 13, 2018

Venue: Kyoto City Hall

Topic of discussion: In regard to FY2018 Proposal

Summary of Opinions Voiced at the Meetings (excludes items reflected in the proposal)

1. Teaching Japanese language at an introductory level is difficult. It is better to ask experts to teach such classes.
2. There is a shortage in number of volunteers who are engaged in Japanese language classes. It is also necessary to increase the number of volunteers.
3. It is essential to have a vision why Japanese language classes are provided and to share the vision with volunteer members.

2. Kyoto City activities concerning the FY2017 Proposals

In response to proposals made by the Council in 2017, Kyoto City has implemented various initiatives including undertaking new projects as written below and developing existing ones.

[Proposal 1]

Challenges to increase opportunities for exchanges among people with multicultural backgrounds and those from different generations as well as to foster leaders for multicultural coexistence

[FY 2018 Initiatives]

(1) Holding exchange events for foreign students and Japanese students

We held exchange events at Kyoto Municipal Science Center for Youth and Heian-jingu shrine etc. for both foreign students and Japanese students to communicate in English. The events created opportunities to improve international communication abilities for Japanese students, provide mutual exchanges among the youth, and advance understanding of Japan by foreign students.

(2) Holding an exchange project of the youth with our sister city, Xi'an

We had a cultural exchange in music among the youth who major in ethnic instruments in our sister city Xi'an, a brass band of Kyoto Municipal Saikyo Senior High School and students in Minami ward.

(3) Introducing a history of Higashikujo in the newsletter issued by Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange

We contributed an article introducing a history of Higashikujo area in the newsletter of Kyoto City Networking Salon for Community Welfare and Multicultural Exchange and we provided a chance to think about multicultural coexistence.

(4) Making a multilingual guidebook for starting a school life at an elementary school

We have made a multilingual guidebook for children with foreign cultural backgrounds to start a school life at elementary school without any anxiety. The guidebook includes information for parents to train their children at home before they enter an elementary school and articles on the importance on raising children in their mother tongue.

[Proposal 2] Enhancing initiatives to deepen multicultural understanding regardless of differences of nationalities and cultural backgrounds.

[FY 2018 Initiatives]

(1) Holding events to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Declaration of Kyoto as a City Open to the Free Exchange of World Cultures

Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Declaration, we held a symposium, made a manga and a video both in Japanese and English to share the ideals of the Declaration that aims at promoting cultural exchanges with the world and achieving peace, and disseminate them within Japan as well as to the world.

(2) Holding cultural events to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Friendship Agreement between Paris and Kyoto.

As the 60th Anniversary Project of the Friendship Agreement between Paris and Kyoto, we carried out a project to promote exchanges between delegated artists from Paris and those based in Kyoto and held various events to introduce French culture including a modern art festival called Nuit Blanche Kyoto 2018.

(3) Implementing project to foster community interpreters

This year marked the 10th anniversary since the consultation service with administrative interpreters had been launched. To enhance trainings for people to become interpreters, we hold meetings to discuss on a role of interpreters and their skills, make DVD concerning interpretation on maternity care, and make examination for community interpreters etc. (Scheduled to be completed in FY2018.)

3. Number of foreign residents by nationality registered in Kyoto in the Basic Resident Registration System

(Number of individuals as of the end of December 2018, unit (person))

Country of Nationality	Number Registered	Country of Nationality	Number Registered	Country of Nationality	Number Registered
South Korea	19284	Czech Republic	20	Cuba	3
China	12396	Republic of South Africa	19	Guatemala	3
Vietnam	2343	Denmark	18	Kuwait	3
Taiwan	1608	Laos	17	Saudi Arabia	3
North Korea	1395	Norway	16	Slovenia	3
U.S.A.	1211	Austria	15	Dominican Republic	3
Philippines	1180	Kazakhstan	15	Fiji	3
Indonesia	669	Greece	14	Benin	3
Nepal	612	Portugal	14	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3
France	606	Nigeria	13	Honduras	3
U.K.	427	Bolivia	13	Azerbaijan	2
Thailand	418	Slovakia	12	United Arab Emirates	2
India	364	Morocco	12	Cabo Verde	2
Canada	280	Democratic Republic of the Congo	11	Georgia	2
Germany	253	Jamaica	11	Serbia	2
Australia	244	Syria	11	Nicaragua	2
Italy	186	Madagascar	11	Panama	2
Malaysia	182	Lithuania	10	Papua New Guinea	2
Russia	179	Tunisia	9	Brunei	2
Sri Lanka	178	Palestine	9	Malawi	2
Brazil	147	Zimbabwe	8	Mali	2
Myanmar	135	Senegal	8	Moldova	2
Bangladesh	128	Bahrain	8	Libya	2
Spain	105	Estonia	7	Armenia	1
Mongolia	100	Guinea	7	Yemen	1
Egypt	79	Tonga	7	Ecuador	1
Cambodia	77	Jordan	7	Gambia	1
Peru	77	Iceland	6	Cyprus	1
Singapore	75	Algeria	6	Grenada	1
Mexico	74	Croatia	6	Kosovo	1
Netherlands	68	Costa Rica	6	Samoa	1
Sweden	66	Lebanon	6	Sierra Leone	1
New Zealand	63	Uganda	5	Swaziland	1

Iran	62	Oman	5	Seychelles	1
Turkey	56	Gabon	5	Serbia and Montenegro	1
Switzerland	51	Cameroon	5	Somalia	1
Poland	45	Cote d'Ivoire	5	Solomon Islands	1
Finland	40	Zambia	5	Togo	1
Belgium	40	Venezuela	5	Vanuatu	1
Israel	39	Luxembourg	5	Palau	1
Ukraine	39	Ethiopia	4	Barbados	1
Romania	35	Ghana	4	Bhutan	1
Pakistan	30	Sudan	4	Botswana	1
Afghanistan	29	Tanzania	4	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1
Hungary	29	Paraguay	4	Mauritius	1
Ireland	28	Burkina Faso	4	Mauritania	1
Kyrgyzstan	26	Belarus	4	Maldives	1
Bulgaria	24	Mozambique	4	Liechtenstein	1
Uzbekistan	23	Latvia	4	Liberia	1
Colombia	23	Albania	3	Timor-Leste	1
Chile	23	Angola	3	Stateless/no fixed nationality*	33
Argentina	22	Uruguay	3	Total (147 Countries & Regions)	46,451
Kenya	22	El Salvador	3		

Reference

Number of registered foreign residents for the last 5 years

2013	40,323
2014	40,565
2015	41,609
2016	42,567
2017	44,282

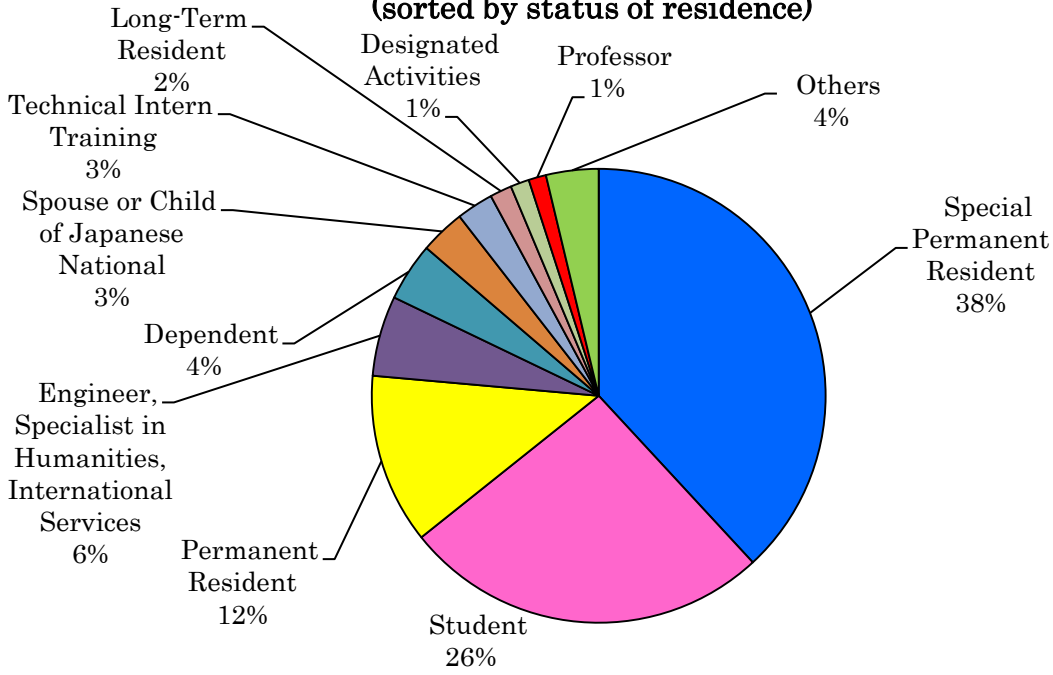
*Concerning the meaning of Stateless/no fixed nationality
It includes children born in Japan and issued birth certificates, but who are awaiting visas, in addition to persons who do not have passports, IDs, or documents confirming their nationality, etc.

Number of foreign residents registered in Kyoto in the Basic Resident Registration System, sorted by resident status

(Number of individuals as of the end of December 2018)

Status of Residence	Number of people
Special Permanent Resident	17,706
Student	12,153
Permanent Resident	5,635
Engineer, Specialist in Humanities, International Services	2,656
Dependent	1,930
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	1,491
Technical Intern Training	1,220
Long-Term Resident	724
Designated Activities	619
Professor	580
Others	1,737
Total	46,451

Number of foreign residents registered in Kyoto in the Basic Resident Registration System (sorted by status of residence)



Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy the 5th Term Committee Members

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designations</i>
<i>Nominated members</i>	Mihaeng Sohn	Associate Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University
	Sunhwa Jang	Official, Kyoto YWCA
	Mari Hamada	Professor, Kyoto University of Education Director, Kyoto City International Foundation
	Atsuo Mizuno	Director, Kyoto City Youth Service Foundation Fushimi Branch
	Kiyoshi Yamauchi	Superintendent, Kyoto International Community House Managing Director, Kyoto City International Foundation
<i>Publicly recruited members</i>	Shahbaz Khan	Pakistan
	Michi Saki	Canada
	Sylvain Cardonnel	France
	Song Migyue	China
	Megumi Nishi	Japan
	Fitriana Puspita Dewi	Indonesia
	Hitoshi Yanase	Japan

*Mr. Mizuno has assumed the position since November 1, 2018. Until 31 October, Shigemitsu Murai was in the position.

- The term of office is two years, from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020.
- Nominated members were appointed at the discretion of the Mayor.
- Publicly recruited members were selected after a public appeal by the city for applications.

Ordinance on the Establishment of Affiliated Organizations of Kyoto City Administration (Excerpt)

(Intent)

Article 1. This ordinance stipulates items necessary in establishing the affiliated organizations of Kyoto City administration except those items stipulated by national laws and other ordinances.

(Establishment)

Article 2. In establishing an affiliated organization under the Mayor and Kyoto City Board of Education, its name and the scope of duties and number of committee members and their term are described in the attached table 1 (regarding the affiliated organization under the Mayor) and table 2 (regarding the affiliated organization under Kyoto Board of Education).

2. Other than the abovementioned affiliated organizations, the Mayor and other administrative organizations may establish an affiliated organization provided its term is one year or less.

3. The Mayor and other administrative organizations shall report the establishment of an affiliated organization as stipulated in the above clause, to the city assembly.

(Appointment of committee members)

Article 3. The committee members of an affiliated organization (one mentioned in the 1st and 2nd clauses of the above article. Hereafter the same applies for the 1st clause of the following article and Articles 5 and 8.) shall be commissioned or appointed by the Mayor or other person among those who have professional knowledge and who are admitted by the Mayor as being appropriate for the relevant organization.

(Exception for the term of committee members)

Article 4. Regardless of 1st clause of Article 2, the term of fill-in committee members is that of their predecessors.

2. Committee members stipulated under clause 1 of Article 2 may be reappointed.

(Special committee members and professional committee members)

Article 5. In case that the affiliated organization shall investigate or discuss a special matter, a special committee member position may be established, and in case that it shall investigate a technical matter, a professional committee member position may be established.

2. Special committee members and professional committee members are commissioned or appointed by the Mayor among those who have professional knowledge and who are admitted by the Mayor as being appropriate for the position.

3. Special committee members shall be decommissioned or dismissed after the investigation or discussion on the special matter is completed, and professional committee members shall be decommissioned or dismissed after the investigation on the technical matter is completed.

(Divisions)

Article 6. The affiliated organization may establish a division in order to investigate or discuss a special or technical matter.

2. The affiliated organization may regard the decision of the division as its own decision as stipulated under its own clause.

(Duty to protect secrets)

Article 7. The committee members including special and technical committee members shall keep the secrets obtained during their service. They shall continue to keep them after their service.

(Commission)

Article 8. Other than the items stipulated under this ordinance, necessary items concerning the affiliated organization shall be stipulated by the Mayor or other person.

Additional Rules

(Date of enforcement)

This ordinance shall be enforced on the date of promulgation.

(omitted)

Attached table (Relevant to Article 2)

1. Affiliated organization of the Mayor

<i>Name</i>	<i>Duties</i>	<i>Fixed number of Council members</i>	<i>Term of Council members</i>
Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy	To investigate and discuss the matters consulted on by the Mayor about progress in the promotion of multicultural coexistence at the local level (whereby people of different nationalities and ethnicities discuss cultural differences and thereby develop an equal relationship, so as to become shapers of local communities).	12 people or fewer	2 years
(omitted)	(omitted)	(omitted)	(omitted)

2. (omitted)

Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy Regulations

(Intent)

Article 1. This outline is created to cover the necessary items for the Kyoto City Council on Multicultural Policy (hereafter called “the Council”), on the basis of Article 8 of Kyoto City Ordinance on the Establishment of Affiliated Organizations of Kyoto City Administration.

(Chairperson)

Article 2. The Council shall have a chairperson.

2 The chairperson shall be chosen by mutual vote.

3 The chairperson shall represent and manage the Council.

4 If the chairperson is absent, another council member that the chairperson has chosen will be the chairperson’s proxy and take on the chairperson’s duties.

(Convening and proceedings)

Article 3. The chairperson shall convene the Council. However, if both the chairperson and their proxy are absent, the mayor shall convene the Council.

2 The chairperson shall chair the Council.

3 The Council achieves a quorum by the attendance of more than half of members.

4 Decision shall be made by the majority of votes. In the case of a tie, the chairperson shall make a decision.

5 If necessary, the Council shall ask non-members to deliver their opinions, explanations, and other necessary help.

(Clerical work)

Article 4. The clerical work of the Council shall be done by the General Planning Bureau.

(Supplementary rules)

Article 5. Necessary articles for the management of the Council other than those stipulated under this outline shall be decided by the chairperson.

(omitted)

Additional rules

(Date of enforcement)

This ordinance shall be enforced on the date of promulgation.

(The date of promulgation is January 8, 2015.)

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