

The 1st Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting in FY2021

[Minutes Summary]

Date & Time: Thursday, November 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 502, 5th Floor, West Wing, Yao City Hall

Council Members in Attendance (titles omitted): NONAKA Mônica, KUWANA Megumi, I Cyanjye,
Tikas Ibrahim DARLINGTON, PARK Yanghaeng, YAMAUCHI Masayuki,
HUYNH TU VAN, YU Tao

Secretariat Members (Human Rights Policy Division): Mr. MATSUTSUKI (Manager),
Mr. SAKATA (Asst. Manager), Mr. TOMITA (Group Chief), Mr. SUWA (recording secretary)

1. Opening

2. Presentation of the Letter of Appointment

3. Self-introduction of Council Members

4. Selection of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Council Members Ms. Nonaka Mônica and Kuwana Megumi were selected Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively.

5. Disclosure of the council meetings

It was resolved that the Yao City Foreign Residents' Council meetings and materials and minutes related thereto would in principle be open to the public.

6. Meeting procedure

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 3. The Council meetings will be held biannually to monitor the progress of the Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society and exchange opinions regarding the projects undertaken by the City.

7. Yao City's policies to promote a multicultural society

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 4 and the Yao City Second-Term Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society.

8. Report on achievements in fiscal 2020 related to the Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society (Basic Goals 1 & 2)

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 5.

9. Opinion exchange—Topic

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 6.

<Opinion exchange>

- When seeking a job, merely being informed about the existence of a Hello Work job placement office will not be helpful in finding a job. Even those who can speak Japanese have difficulty searching for work unless they are literate in the language. Information regarding support services that could lead to obtaining employment may be of more value to us.
- Providing a QR code on the part that explains the cases of seeking a face-to-face consultation and a telephone consultation will enable more detailed information to be communicated to us.
- Information on pensions, insurance, taxes, pregnancy, childbirth and childcare is beneficial.
- It is vital to present points to note in daily life in Japan in terms of, among others, preventing neighborhood disputes. However, more thought may need to be given to the manner in which they are conveyed, such as by informing the differences in culture with Japan.
- Information on earthquakes, typhoons, and torrential rains should be brought together as disaster information with a QR code assigned to it.
- The City could use more QR codes so as to be able to convey more information.
- It is essential to ensure circumstances that allow us, at the time of disasters, to quickly obtain accurate information, such as that on evacuation sites. While it is understood that during disasters, information will be disseminated in multiple languages from the Yao City Multilingual Disaster Support Center, it would probably be helpful if the assigned QR code also contains all disaster management information that has been communicated during normal times so as to ensure our easy access.
- We hear that the City is planning to prepare the flyer in three languages. However, there may be demand for Thai, Tagalog, and Nepali translations. Given the difficulty in preparing its own materials in such languages, the City could perhaps utilize existing information provided in those languages by central government ministries/agencies and other support centers, thereby reaching out to its citizens in more languages.
- Information on methods of disposing of waste is valuable.
- While providing information on or explaining residence tax and other municipal taxes is important, doing so for national taxes, such as income tax and corporate tax, is equally important.
- There are infectious diseases of concern other than COVID-19. It is essential to continue to transmit information on them even after the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided.
- The neighborhood association system itself needs to be explained.
- Disseminating information related to rules for living in Japan requires much consideration to be given to the clarity of the content in order to prevent misunderstandings.
- It is vital to explain the bicycle riding rules. Along with the rules, it is advisable to suggest that cyclists take out insurance.

10. Other matters (Adjournment)