

The 2nd Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting for FY2025 [Minutes Summary]

Date & Time: Thursday, February 19, 2026, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 603, 6th Floor, Main Building, Yao City Hall

Council Members in Attendance: KUWANA Megumi, SETO SO Erina, Jeremy CARLSON, Tikas Ibrahim DARLINGTON, SUGAHARA Hiromi, LE THI HONG Nhung, I Cyanjye, MIYAKE Yoshimi, PAKU Yanghaeng, OU Suichin, YAMAHARA Yoshinori (titles omitted)

Secretariat Members (Human Rights Policy Division): Mr. TERASHIMA (Deputy Director and Manager), Mr. SAKATA (Asst. Manager), Mr. TOMITA (Group Chief), Mr. ISHIKAWA
Observer (Yao International Center Staff): FUKUI Satoko

1. Opening

2. Report on achievements in fiscal 2024 related to the Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society (Basic Goals 1 & 2)

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 1.

<Questions, etc.>

Regarding No. 33: Implementation of Disaster Preparedness Drills for Foreign Residents—It is rated C.

Was this the only time the drills were not implemented? Are there any challenges that need to be addressed to conduct them?

⇒ (Secretariat) Disaster preparedness drills for foreign residents require interpreters, making it difficult to conduct them every year. Few foreign residents participate in regular disaster preparedness drills held in local communities.

⇒ (Council member) A disaster preparedness drill was recently conducted in the Osakabe area with the cooperation of the Yao International Center, but few foreign residents participated. Despite community efforts to attract more participants through activities such as rice cake pounding and cotton candy making, this information does not appear to be reaching foreign residents.

⇒ (Secretariat) In the past, we invited the Vietnamese community to participate in disaster preparedness drills that included activities parents and children could enjoy together, such as earthquake simulation experiences and target practice using fire hoses. On that occasion, many people participated.

Regarding No. 22: Foreign Resident Consultation Services—Is there any mechanism to measure the level of satisfaction of consultation users?

⇒ (Secretariat) At present, there is no mechanism in place to assess the satisfaction of consultation users.

Regarding No. 22: Foreign Resident Consultation Services—Are you keeping track of the types of issues for which consultations are provided?

⇒ (Secretariat) We will provide the number of consultations by type at the next council meeting.

Regarding No. 72: Implementation of Community Employment Support—According to the document,

the number of consultations is listed as 1,985. Does this figure include Japanese nationals?

⇒ (Secretariat) That is correct. The number of foreign consultation users is 14.

Regarding No. 5: Preparation of Multilingual Leaflets on Water Service Use—It was explained that, since the Yao City Waterworks Bureau has been integrated into the Osaka Water Supply Authority from this fiscal year, this item will no longer be included going forward. However, residents will continue to use water services, and therefore, even if this matter is no longer under Yao City's jurisdiction, I would like to see the efforts made to date properly carried over.

Regarding No. 8: Support through Translation Services—At schools, many teachers and staff may not even know that such a support system exists. In fact, because interpreters and translators are not permanently assigned to schools, many teachers and staff are struggling with how to communicate accurate information to parents. Although the report states that there were “no requests from schools,” this likely reflects a lack of awareness rather than a lack of need, with the service not being accessed at the school level. I would like to take this opportunity to support efforts to ensure that this service is better communicated to schools.

⇒ (Secretariat) We will confirm the situation with the section in charge.

3. Opinion exchange—Theme: “Creating opportunities for foreign and Japanese residents to interact locally”

A member of the Secretariat explained [Document 2](#).

<Opinion exchange>

- Events introducing workplace cultures and customs would be helpful for foreign workers.
- When calling for public-private partnership initiatives to promote a multicultural society, it is necessary for the city to make efforts to approach companies directly.
- It might be difficult for foreign residents to participate in events from the preparation stage, as the so-called Japanese-style “executive committee” structure is not familiar to many foreign residents.
- Efforts could be made to convey useful information on events and daily life through individuals who are closely engaged with the community, such as commissioned welfare volunteers and public health nurses who visit households.
- Strengthening information dissemination through social media would be effective. As commonly used platforms differ by country of origin and community, using a wider range of platforms or working with influencers to share information could be beneficial.
- Creating seasonal, community-based events could be a viable approach. Holding regular activities such as hiking during spring or autumn, when the seasons can be enjoyed most, would encourage participation by foreign residents. Building relationships through such activities could also make it easier to promote participation in conventional events.
- Gaining a better understanding of the circumstances of foreign residents in the community is necessary.
- Public schools in Yao City have an app-based system for sharing information with parents, which could be used for information dissemination. However, it does not cover students attending private or

international schools and their parents. Neighborhood associations also use tools such as circular notices, but these have limitations due to the lack of multilingual support.

- As Yao City has many small and medium-sized enterprises, including local manufacturing workshops, these businesses could serve as effective channels for providing information.
- Information can be distributed by email to companies that have submitted a Cooperation Confirmation Form. In addition, companies accepting Specified Skilled Workers or Technical Intern Trainees often bring multiple foreign workers together to complete resident registration procedures, providing an opportunity to share information at that time.
- Without clear benefits, it may be difficult to encourage participation in events. Further efforts to expand registrations, such as collaboration with companies, could be considered.
- The current discussion tends to focus on how foreign residents can be encouraged to participate in events. However, it may also be important to consider ways for Japanese residents to go into foreign communities and promote events and exchanges there.
- Information dissemination for Japanese residents should also be considered. Misinformation and misconceptions about foreign residents have spread through social media in recent years, making it important to share accurate information with Japanese residents as well.

4. Other

- Exchange events organized by NPO Tokkabi and by the Yao International Center were introduced.
- The next council meeting will be held around August 2026.

5. Adjournment