

The 2nd Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting for FY2024

[Minutes Summary]

Date and Time: Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

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

Council Members in Attendance: NONAKA Mônica, KUWANA Megumi, I Cyanjye, Jeremy CARLSON,
LE THI KIEU Nga, Tikas Ibrahim DARLINGTON, PAKU Yanghaeng, KIYOHARA Sachiko,
YAMAUCHI Masayuki (titles omitted)

Secretariat Members (Human Rights Policy Division): Mr. MIYAZAKI (Manager), Mr. TOMITA (Group Chief), Ms. KISHIMOTO

1. Opening

2. Report on achievements in fiscal 2023 related to the Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society (Basic Goals 2 & 3)

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 1.

<Questions about Document 1, etc.>

• Regarding No. 32: Development of Evacuation Shelters with Consideration for Foreign Residents —

Although the scope of activities is limited, some municipalities are encouraging foreign residents to join local fire brigades. These initiatives aim to involve them not just as recipients of support, but as active participants in local efforts.

⇒ (Committee member) Is it possible for foreign nationals to join a fire brigade?

⇒ (Committee member) It seems that more municipalities are now allowing foreign nationals to join.

• Regarding No. 62: Provision of Information on Hospitals and Pharmacies That Support Multiple Languages

— Why was it rated as a B, even though many hospitals are attempting to address the issue using translation devices? It should not be a problem if communication between hospitals and foreign patients is functioning effectively, even with the use of translation devices.

⇒ (Secretariat) We have heard that, in many cases, patients are still being asked to bring an interpreter with them, which is why the rating remains at B.

• Regarding No. 70: Provision of Special Benefits for Persons with Severe Intellectual and Physical

Disabilities — The number of benefit recipients has decreased to three cases. Does this mean that the number of eligible recipients is declining?

⇒ Secretariat: We will check with the section in charge.

Regarding No. 77: Promotion and Expansion of the Osaka Safe and Secure Rental Housing Registration

System — Is it true that over 1,600 units have been registered as housing where foreign residents can live with peace of mind?

⇒ (Secretariat) This number includes not only foreign residents, but also elderly and disabled individuals. We do not compile data by individual category.

3. Report on the content of the training for promoting multiculturalism

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

⇒ (Committee member) I think it would be good if this kind of training could be held not just as a one-time event, but on an annual basis. Hopefully this council will gain broader awareness among staff.

4. Discussion theme: How to let more people know about Catalog Pocket

A member of the Secretariat explained [Document 3](#).

<Opinion exchange>

- It is necessary to widely publicize in the city newsletter, which is distributed to all households, that Catalog Pocket is available in multiple languages.
- It is necessary to raise awareness among foreign residents about the content of the city newsletter.
- If they feel that knowing the information in the city newsletter is beneficial, they may be more likely to read it.
- I have various suggestions for improvements, but I'm generally supportive of this kind of app.
- Since searches within Catalog Pocket are limited to Japanese only, it may be difficult to call it user-friendly. However, if the smartphone's language settings are properly configured, the app's language will adjust accordingly, allowing users to use it smoothly.
- Since the app is easier to view than a browser, recommending the app would be preferable.
- I usually use Google Translate, so I find it easier to read paper newsletters by scanning them with my camera.
- Although it is machine-translated, I believe the translation is accurate enough to understand the content of the article.
- It would be helpful if tapping a phone number or email address allowed users to call or email directly.
- Search results are not ordered by newest to oldest, and in the multilingual version, only the month is shown, so the publication year is unclear. When registering content on Catalog Pocket, it would be helpful if the year could also be entered in the Gregorian calendar.
- It would be useful to have a feature that allows users to search for specific keywords within the public relations newsletters.
- Some place names are mistranslated due to machine translation.
- Tables are not translated within the app.
- When the app is opened, the "Popular" page appears first, and the newsletters featured on that page are visually prominent. It may be beneficial to refer to initiatives by other municipalities that appear at the top of the rankings.

5. Wrap-up of the Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting (FY2023-2024)

A member of the Secretariat explained [Document 4](#).

6. Other matters (Comments from each committee member)

- I recognize that this meeting is a very important opportunity for foreign residents to express their opinions. I

hope that this meeting will continue to provide opportunities for active exchange of opinions while addressing issues that reflect the changing times.

- Through this Foreign Residents' Council, I became involved in projects that promote multicultural understanding. I believe that understanding different cultures is important, and I would like to continue doing what I can in the future.
- I realized that schools have little knowledge of what the local government is doing. I will continue gathering information carefully and work toward finding the best possible solutions for foreign children and their parents.
- I learned a lot through the meeting. I would like to cooperate to further advance multicultural coexistence.
- We should realize that this council is not only for foreign residents, but also for Yao City to promote a more inclusive community, and we should continue to make efforts in this direction.
- Through this council, I was able to learn about the challenges and concerns faced by foreign residents. With this perspective in mind, I would like to take on a more proactive role in sharing information myself.
- There are many initiatives by the Yao City International Exchange Center that are included in the Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society. We hope to continue promoting multicultural coexistence through various initiatives, and we ask for your continued cooperation.
- Through this council, I was able to learn many things from those who are actively engaged in promoting multicultural coexistence in Yao City. I would like to apply what I have learned to the field of education.
- In the past, information for foreign residents was not being disseminated. From now on, I believe the challenge will be how to encourage foreign residents to make use of the information they receive. I believe that new challenges will continue to arise, but I hope activities will continue with the underlying perspective of considering how we can live together as fellow human beings, regardless of nationality.

7. Adjournment