

# **The 1st Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting in FY 2019**

## **[Minutes Summary]**

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

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

Council Members in Attendance (titles omitted): NONAKA Mônica, TAKAYA Sachi, I Cyanjye,

LE THI KIEU Nga, Tikas Ibrahim DARLINGTON, KIKUKAWA Hiroto, PARK Yanghaeng,

HUYNH TU VAN, FUJITO Satomi

Secretariat Members (Cultural and International Affairs Division): Mr. KAMATA (Manager),

Mr. KAWAZOE (Asst. Manager), Mr. DEMIZU (Asst. Manager and Group Chief), Mr. TOMITA

(Section Chief)

### **1. Opening**

### **2. Presentation of the Letter of Appointment**

### **3. Self-introduction of Council Members**

### **4. Appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

Ms. Nonaka Mônica and Ms. Takaya Sachi were appointed Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively.

### **5. Regarding disclosure of the meetings**

It was resolved to make meetings of the Yao City Foreign Residents' Council open and to disclose materials and minutes related thereto, as a general rule.

### **6. Regarding Yao City's policies to promote a multicultural society**

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 3-1 (population of foreign residents in Yao City by nationality and status of residence), Document 3-2 ("Yao City Basic Guidelines for the Promotion of Internationalization Policies," "Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society," and major projects normally undertaken by the City every year), and Document 3-3 (outline of the development of consultation services for foreign residents in Yao City, which is a new project to be implemented this fiscal year onwards).

### **7. Regarding how the meetings will proceed**

The meetings will be held twice during this fiscal year to monitor progress of the "Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society" and to exchange opinions about the projects undertaken by the City.

The meetings will be held three or four times in the next fiscal year. Since the current "Yao City

Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society” will reach its target year in fiscal 2020, it is necessary to establish a plan for the next term during fiscal 2020. Exchange of opinions on the new draft plan to be produced by the City will take place in the meetings of the Yao City Foreign Residents’ Council.

#### **8. Regarding the report on achievements in fiscal 2018 related to the “Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society” (Basic Goals 1 & 2)**

A member of the Secretariat explained Documents 5-1 and 5-2 (achievements in fiscal 2018 related to the “Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society” Basic Goal 1: “Building livable communities” and Basic Goal 2: “Building communities where its members can live in safety and security”).

<Opinions>

- “1-2-24 Allocation of supporting consultants for Japanese war orphans remaining in China, etc.” and “1-3-28 Support for Japanese language education in local communities” are projects targeted at foreign nationals and should be classified as ①, but actually they are classified as ② (projects for citizens including foreign nationals). I also have doubts about the classification of some other parts, and would like to ask for more accurate classifications.
- “1-4-30 Consultation service on employment and daily life” as a project of the Labor Support Division has been completed, but the project itself is ongoing. I suggest asking the current division in charge to confirm the implementation status.
- Regarding “1-1-5 Provision of multilingual information via the City’s website,” I have heard that another city introduced an automatic translation system for its website but the translation accuracy is not high. I am concerned about the translation accuracy.  
In addition, introduction of an automatic translation system does not mean that we need not provide multilingual information anymore. I would like to ask for the City’s continued efforts to provide multilingual information.
- Regarding “1-2-21 Consultation service for foreign residents,” what kind of inquiries did you receive from those who have recently arrived in Japan?
- At the consultation counter for daily life in the City Hall, we receive many inquiries about the stay of family members of those who came to Japan with the status of residence of Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services. Therefore, we often support them in carrying out procedures at the divisions in charge of national health insurance and childrearing, as well as the divisions issuing certificates required for acquiring status of residence, such as tax payment certificates and taxation certificates.

#### **9. Opinion exchange – Topic: “Childrearing Chart Leaflet for Foreign Residents in Yao City”**

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 6.

<Opinion exchange>

- Application procedures for after-school centers should also be contained, along with information on the preparation required before entering elementary school.

- More detailed guidance is required in regard to nationality, since a person with multiple nationalities can select one before reaching the age of 22, according to my understanding.
- It would be better to contain information about the documents required for procedures related to the status of residence.
- If we try to convey everything with this leaflet, it will become bulky. It would be better to provide limited information, such as the overall flow of childrearing and a list of the required procedures. To provide more detailed information, creating other leaflets for each step or each procedure would be better.
- Health checkups for children is a system unique to Japan. Detailed information about when and what kind of checkups are offered is necessary.
- Shorter sentences would be easier for foreign residents to understand.
- “Please submit the birth report within 14 days” would be better than “... by the 14th day.”
- In addition to the municipal government, there are various private organizations providing services. It may be possible to list them on the leaflet.
- Please pay due attention to the expressions “child” and “baby.”
- If there is too much information, it will become more difficult to catch the attention of the readers.
- I request information related to advancement to high school, including scholarships.
- QR codes would encourage young readers to reach for information.
- It would be better to add information about the admission period for nursery schools.
- Please take gender perspectives into consideration when selecting illustrations for the leaflet.

## **10. Adjournment**