

The 2nd Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting in FY 2019 [Minutes Summary]

Date & Time: Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm

Location: Conference Room 802, 8th 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. KAMADA (Manager),
Mr. DEMIZU (Asst. Manager and Group Chief), Mr. TOMITA (Section Chief)

1. Opening

2. Regarding the report on achievements in fiscal 2018 related to the “Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society” (Basic Goals 3 & 4)

A member of the Secretariat explained Documents 1-1 and 1-2 (achievements in fiscal 2018 related to the “Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society” Basic Goal 3: “Building communities where children can thrive” and Basic Goal 4: “Creating a community environment where residents from diverse backgrounds can respect one another and encouraging foreign residents to participate in community development”).

<Opinions>

- Regarding “4-2-12 Encouraging neighborhood association membership” and “4-5-43 Encouraging foreign residents to participate in local community development,” does the city government know how many foreign residents have actually joined a neighborhood association and how many foreign residents are actually participating in community development? It’s important to distribute to foreign residents fliers encouraging neighborhood association membership and “Our Community’s Development Plan” fliers. But it’s also important to know how many of them actually took action.
- Regarding “3-2-2 Helping returnee/foreign pupils/students get used to their new school environment,” the number of hours dedicated to support them per year is increasing and I suppose that interpreters are in short supply. Is there a limit on the number of hours each interpreter can work to support returnee/foreign pupils/students?
- If a pupil/student transfers to a local Japanese school directly from an overseas school, he/she will receive 2-hour support daily for the first 3 months. After that, total weekly support hours will gradually decrease. For example, during the next 3 months, the two-hour support will be available only 4 days a week. An increasing number of schools need interpreters, who are currently in short supply, because there are a number of schools that did not accept students from overseas in the past which are now accepting such students.

- There are very few foreign nationals who have entered Japan as interpreters. Therefore, the city government is looking for foreign nationals who have entered Japan to study at a university, specialized training college, Japanese language school or other academic institution and would like to work as an interpreter on a paid volunteer basis.
- The shortage of interpreters is expected to continue in the future. Therefore, the city government needs to make efforts to effectively match up interpreters with students.
- Regarding “3-2-2 Helping returnee/foreign pupils/students get used to their new school environment,” I’ve been informed that an interpreter of Chinese and Japanese works for Nishigoori Day-care Center from Monday through Friday each week. Could you please tell me what the individual’s staff category is?
- I don’t have that information here right now. Let me check it later.

3. Opinion exchange — Topic: “Information to be provided through consultation desks for foreign residents in Yao City”

A member of the Secretariat explained Document 2 and Document 3.

<Opinion exchange>

- I suggest that the city government provide tax payment certificates and certificates of residence in foreign languages for foreign residents who are unable to read Japanese. I suppose some local governments provide such certificates in English.
- The city government receives an increasing number of inquiries about pensions from foreign residents. Therefore, it would be better to include the term “pensions” in fliers introducing consultation desks for foreign residents in Yao City.
- Foreign residents need information about employment.
- I suppose that foreign residents need information about harassment, stresses, depression, dementia, autistic children and other issues that have surfaced in recent years. These issues are relevant not only to foreign residents. Consultation service staff also needs knowledge about such issues.
- The city government needs to make various efforts to ensure that foreign residents, who tend to have difficulty obtaining information, receive a flier introducing consultation desks for foreign residents in Yao City. The government needs to determine how to introduce the consultation desks to foreign residents, for example, whether to provide information via Internet or request local schools to distribute fliers to foreign residents.
- I suggest that information about the consultation desks is provided via FM Cyao on the radio.
- The city government needs to make various efforts to make its consultation services more accessible to foreign residents.
- Consultation services are not easily accessible to working foreign residents because consultation desks are open from 9 am to 5 pm.
- Foreign nationals are dispersed across different residential areas of the city. Therefore, I suggest

that other forms of consultation services should be available in various areas in addition to the existing three consultation desks.

- An increasing number of foreign residents consult about their health problems and medical care services available to them and request us to arrange for someone to visit a hospital together with them.
- Very few foreign residents understand how a pension plan works. So I hope that easy-to-understand information about pensions is made available.
- Many foreign residents seem to solve their employment problems by word of mouth in their communities. So it's important for consultation services staff to collaborate with their communities.
- The city government needs to collaborate with public facility operators to introduce the consultation desks to foreign residents. To inform foreign nationals who are dispersed across different residential areas of the city, it would be better to request 15 Gathering Plaza operators in Yao City to place fliers introducing the consultation desks at their facilities. Gathering Plazas, which provide childrearing support, are sometimes visited by foreign residents with small children, though multilingual support is not available there. Such foreign residents may pick up the flier at a Gathering Plaza and visit a consultation desk.
- I suggest that forms for school-related and welfare service-related procedures should also be available at consultation desks.
- The city government can inform local schools about the consultation desks through the Institute of Foreign Residents Education in Yao City.

4. Other

A member of the Secretariat explained what information is included in the leaflet "Childrearing Chart for Foreign Residents—From Birth to Elementary School Enrollment," which was discussed at the 1st Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting in FY 2019.

- Due to a limited space of the A3-size leaflet (double-sided), not all the information suggested for inclusion is covered. However, various efforts were made to reflect as many opinions as possible in the leaflet. The leaflet is available in simple Japanese and some foreign languages.
- After receiving the leaflets from the printer in late February, the city government will arrange for them to be placed at the consultation desks, the Health Center, the Residents Services Section, the Childrearing Support Section and hospitals and other facilities in Yao City.