

# The 2nd Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting in FY2022 [Minutes Summary]

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Conference Room 602, 6th Floor, Main Building, Yao City Hall

Council Members in Attendance (titles omitted): KUWANA Megumi, Tikas Ibrahim DARLINGTON,

PAKU Yanhen, YAMAUCHI Masayuki,

TRAN NGUYEN Quang Vinh

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

## 1. Opening

## 2. Meeting Proceedings

A member of the Secretariat explained the Yao City Second-Term Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society and the progress management chart for the plan (Document 1).

<Questions, etc.>

• In some areas, I feel the evaluation results do not correspond to the actual situation.

⇒ What is evaluated is not the degree of achievement, but the degree of contribution, and there are some differences in evaluation criteria depending on the evaluator.

• Regarding "41: Child care support using the Child-Rearing Chart Leaflet," the issue is how to deliver the leaflet, which has been made available in multiple languages, to those who need it. Are leaflets handed out in person?

⇒ The leaflet is utilized for explanations at the counter, but basically, copies of the leaflet are placed in the brochure racks. We will discuss ways to ensure that the leaflets are handed out to foreign residents at various locations.

• Regarding "54: Consultation for bullied children with foreign roots," is only the explanation of the Yaokko Letter Counseling Service given in multiple languages? Or, are the responses to letters received from children written in the language used by each child? I am concerned about whether children are aware that they can consult in a foreign language.

⇒ Check with the section in charge. \* Confirmed that letters, explanations, etc. are multilingual.

• Regarding "62: Multilingual Support in municipal hospitals," is it possible to expand multilingual support to other hospitals?

⇒ Difficult due to differences between public and private hospitals.

• Regarding "89: Efforts against Hate Speech," what is the track record of special legal consultations?

⇒ We have a consultation system in place to provide legal advice on human rights, but we have not received many requests for consultations.

## 3. Exchange of opinions (Regarding interactions between foreign and Japanese residents)

• It would be good to have not only exchange events but also educational opportunities that enable residents to gradually understand cultural differences.

• Foreign residents who have participated in PTA or children's association activities may be able to

actively interact with Japanese residents, but otherwise it would be difficult to take voluntary action.

- If you want someone to participate in an event and do something, you have to clearly state the role you want them to play. Just saying “please” or “please help us” is not enough as you cannot convey what you really want to communicate.
- If you want people to participate in an event, you need to invite them from the planning stage.
- It would be problematic if the organizer of the event treats foreign residents as guests. I think the process of creating things together is important.
- Is there someone who can act as a “multicultural coordinator” to connect the neighborhood association and foreign residents?  
⇒ Few people are willing to serve as such a coordinator. There are people who speak both Japanese and foreign languages, but most foreign residents only speak with those people as their interpreters, so connections between Japanese and foreign residents are not easily formed.
- Some Japanese residents feel that they do everything and foreign residents do nothing. I think those living in areas with a large number of foreign residents are more likely to have such thoughts. They may think that although there are so many foreign residents, they do nothing for the community.
- When I participate in events organized by foreign residents, I get the impression that they properly perform tasks such as preparation and cleanup of the venue. I think it is important to get them involved as organizers.
- Many of the foreign residents are of the younger generation, and their participation in events has helped to create a lively atmosphere. I think this is something that Japanese residents perceive as beneficial for their communities.
- It is important to encourage foreign residents who can speak Japanese to participate in PTA and children's association activities.
- In terms of building connections with foreign residents, I think we should utilize the neighborhood associations.
- Even if we distribute circular notices to foreign residents, they cannot read them because almost all information is in Japanese.
- Since Japanese and foreign children learn together and interact with each other at school, it would be ideal to expand connections from the children to the adults.
- Are there any opportunities at Yao City Hall to share foreign cultures?

⇒ There are no city-sponsored programs, but events for introducing foreign cultures are held at the Yao International Center.

- I think that Japanese people should make an effort to approach foreign residents. I think it would be good if there were opportunities to convey to foreigners the cultures that Japanese people cherish.

#### **4. Wrap-up of the Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting**

A member of the Secretariat gave a wrap-up of the Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting (Document 2).

## **5. Closing** (Comments from the Council members)

- By attending this meeting, I learned a lot about Yao City's efforts toward multicultural coexistence.
- Regarding “collaboration with universities,” which is included in the action plan, we should begin by considering what we can do.
- Through this meeting, I realized anew the difficulty of disseminating information to foreign residents.
- I think that foreign residents expect the city government to occasionally provide information on events and culture, as well as to provide accurate information on a daily basis. I think that Facebook should be used to disseminate information to Vietnamese people.
- It is important to involve the younger generation in local initiatives for multicultural coexistence, including this council. Since the idea of multicultural coexistence is vague in some areas, I think we need to devise ways to make it easier to imagine the future.
- Even though accessibility has gradually been improved in some areas, I would like to work in cooperation with Yao City to make it easier for foreign residents to live in the city and access information.