

# The 2nd Yao City Foreign Residents' Council Meeting in FY 2020 [Minutes Summary]

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Location: Training Room, 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, YAMAUCHI Masayuki

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)

(Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting Co., Ltd.)

Mr. SHIMAZAKI Koichi, Mr. MARUKAWA Shogo, Ms. KURIYAMA Chiho

## **1. Opening**

### **2. The Second Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society: Its system and efforts**

A member of the Secretariat explained the system and efforts of the Plan (Document 1).

<Questions>

- At the bottom of page 6 is a notice on the multilingual training program for schoolchildren in the lower grades, which mentions “Information will be provided in multiple languages (Vietnamese)”. It is not clear whether information will be available in multiple languages or only in Vietnamese.

(Secretariat)

- The Secretariat will check with the division in charge and modify the relevant part accordingly.

### **3. Yao City's efforts as viewed from the perspective of the detailed measures to promote multicultural coexistence in local communities specified in the Promotion Plan for Multicultural Coexistence in Local Communities (Revised) formulated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)**

A member of the Secretariat explained Yao City's efforts as viewed from the perspective of the detailed measures to promote multicultural coexistence in local communities specified in the Promotion Plan for Multicultural Coexistence in Local Communities (Revised) (Document 2)

<Questions>

- Are there any Yao City-specific efforts that are not covered by the framework of the MIC's Promotion Plan for Multicultural Coexistence in Local Communities (Revised)?

(Secretariat)

- Yao City's efforts are all contained in this document to avoid confusion. Those which do not fall under any of MIC's measures are listed under the measures with a similar objective.

#### **4. Opinion exchange—Topic: The efforts of the Second Yao City Plan to Promote a Multicultural Society**

<Opinion exchange>

Basic Objective 1: To support communication

- It would probably be necessary to establish a system to simultaneously convey information to all the City's foreign residents by such means as bulk email.
- We receive information regarding earthquakes and heavy rain and evacuation in Japanese only. Although information in easy Japanese is helpful, we would like the City to send it in English and other languages.
- Japanese language teachers: Since they are all volunteers, their teaching level is limited and students hesitate to ask them for extra help. Indeed, some people wishing to learn a certain degree of advanced Japanese have reportedly expressed their concern over being unable to improve their skills. It will be necessary to train teachers specializing in teaching the Japanese language.
- There is a need for a venue where people can learn the Japanese language after work.

Basic Objective 2: To create a foreign resident-friendly environment

- The unavailability of an interpreter has made it difficult for foreign residents to find a job at a public employment security office (Hellowork) or seek consultation at a pension service office.
- Human resources for interpretation: Some foreign residents could probably play an active role as interpreters in their communities.
- Though having no problem with interpreting general content, interpreters may face difficulty when it comes to school classes and other content involving technical knowledge. Nurturing and/or providing training for interpreters may be necessary.
- While some people have signed up on a roster of interpreters, they have other jobs and can hardly devote themselves to interpretation service. By seeking to stabilize employment of interpreters, thereby enabling them to earn a living by interpreting alone, the City may be in a better position to secure the required number of them.
- Multilingual support: It is hoped that the City will work closely with Osaka Prefecture in establishing a system to provide such support.
- Career counseling for students: It is hoped that a mechanism will be created for schools to keep track of the careers that their graduates actually chose and to incorporate the information in their career counseling for next year and thereafter.
- Bullying consultation desk: The City could hopefully consider the best way to address situations where children find it hard to discuss their troubles. We will need a system that allows children to feel comfortable doing so, such as offering consultation via a LINE app.

- Employment: Although the City is helping its foreign residents obtain employment, the results as to how many of them have actually found a job are not very clear. If the City shares successful employment examples of companies that have already hired foreign nationals, such an initiative may benefit both companies and job-seeking foreign residents.
- With the increasing number of foreign residents starting their own business, perhaps the City could formulate policy to support them.
- Housing discrimination against foreign nationals is a deep-rooted problem, and what the City can do about this may be limited. Yet, the City could perhaps consider any preventive interventions other than awareness-raising.

Basic Objective 3: To build a community where its members accept the diversity of each other, enabling foreign residents to play an active role

- Hate speech: There is concern as to whether awareness-raising alone is sufficient to address the issue.
- Foreign residents' participation in community activities: It will be difficult to measure results produced by the participation.
- While we have been encouraged to join a neighborhood association, this is not the only option, and there are more groups in our community whose activities we can be involved in, such as the Community Development Council and the Youth Development Council. Presenting activities of various groups in a concrete manner may lead foreign residents to feel more comfortable participating in any of them.
- For engagement in community activities, Japanese and foreign residents should meet each other halfway, instead of the latter unilaterally making concessions. This will promote interaction between them in a more productive manner.

General comments

- It might be better for the City to inform the public more about its efforts toward a multicultural society.
- With new ones included in the Plan, it might be better to rearrange the current order in which efforts are described in the document.
- Both Japanese and foreign residents must raise their own awareness of and respect human rights, which is a major premise for promoting a multicultural society. It would be appreciated if the City could please clarify this in the Plan.
- The system of the Plan is formed in such a way as to evenly implement all measures. However, it is suggested that the City present priority measures it will particularly focus on.
- By informing that opinions and suggestions provided at the Yao City Foreign Residents' Council meetings have been properly reflected in the Plan, more people may become interested in the Council meetings.

## **5. Adjournment**