

Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council Newsletter No. 19

Edited and Published by:
Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council Secretariat

◇Views Exchanged on the Theme of Parenting◇



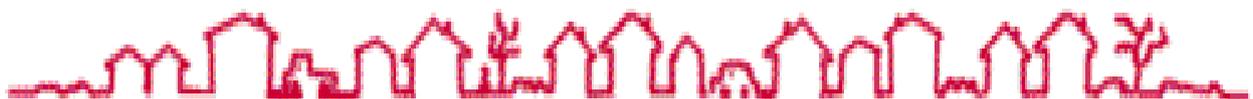
The tenth Foreign Citizens' Council started in July, 2023. This Council was initiated in 2005 and each term lasts for 2 years. The members are 10 foreign citizens who live in Japan for various reasons, for various years and of different nationalities. They exchange ideas based on their experiences living in Toyonaka and have discussions to make the lives of foreign residents in Toyonaka more comfortable.

The theme of this term is "How to develop a parent-friendly community and how to deepen international understanding."

The members discussed a lot about the difficulties they experienced in child rearing and the school education in their home countries, and exchanged opinions. As a part of the meetings, facility tours were held to introduce the members to various parenting-related facilities in Toyonaka.

This newsletter is an interim report after three of the meetings of the tenth Council.

The members will continue discussions until 2025.



1st Meeting

Date: September 7 (Thurs.), 2023

Place: Toyonaka City Hall (Naka-Sakurazuka)

Summary: Decided to discuss “How to develop a parent-friendly city and how to deepen international understanding” as the theme of the 10th council

Chose Ms. Hwang Sohee as the leader and Ms. Zhang Yafei as the vice leader.



2nd Meeting

Date: December 7 (Thurs.), 2023

Place: Shonai Collabo Center “Sho-co-la” (Shonai-Saiwaimachi)

Summary: Exchanged opinions after getting information from staff members of the Health Center which provides various parenting support services from pregnancy through child-rearing.

Opinions offered at the meeting

Childbirth and parenting	It will be great if foreigners who have given birth in Japan can offer advice and support in their mother tongues.
Financial aid for vaccines	Since many people have influenza in winter, I hope the government will provide subsidies for influenza vaccines.
Inquiries at the City Hall	It would be convenient if we could make inquiries via chat and other casual methods.
Waiting time during health checkups	It is hard for us to take children around checkup points because we have to wait for a long time. I hope they will try to reduce our waiting time.
Contact information of emergency services	I hope the contacts of emergency services will be written in conspicuous places in the Maternal and Child Health Handbook (Boshitecho), health insurance cards of children and so on.

Volunteering as an interpreter dispatched to schools	To work as a volunteer, we need to register every year, and at different places depending on purposes. I hope they will simplify the registration process.
Number of hours an interpreter can be dispatched to a school for a student	The city has set the available number of hours uniformly, but I hope they will provide the support to meet the child's Japanese language skills.
Opportunities and places where foreigners can get together with people of the same nationality	I wish we had opportunities to get together with people of the same nationality, where parents can interact and exchange information.
Cross-cultural exchange/introduction program at schools (Foreign language experience activities at elementary schools)	I would like to introduce the culture and food of my country at schools. I believe that if students get first-hand information about foreign countries, discrimination and bullying will decrease. This program is held only once a year in junior high and high schools. I hope they will increase the classes. (In elementary schools, 4 times a year)
Preparation for natural disasters 	When getting information about typhoons and earthquakes, videos will be more memorable than written content. We know only a little about the way to evacuate in case of a tsunami. I would like to know more about it. I hope the "making-an-emergency-bag program" could be an experience-based type in which we actually put the items in a bag, to make sure we can remember how to make it. I hope they will hold a tour to the evacuation places.

The 3rd Meeting

Date: February 14 (Wed.), 2024

Place: Sukoyaka Plaza (Okakaminocho)



Contents: The members exchanged opinions after listening to the presentation of staff members of the Child Raising Support Center "Hoppe" which provides consultations about parenting of infants (preschoolers), gathering opportunities for parents and children and lectures.

Opinions offered at the meeting

Interaction opportunities for foreign parents and children	It would be nice to have a once-a-month program where only foreign mothers and children get together to interact.
Event announcements	I would like to receive reports and advertisements about events on social networking sites with photos so that I will be able to know what kind of activities are going on.
Support for Learning Japanese	I hope the city will provide information about places where we can get parenting support, where children can play, and where we can learn Japanese at the earliest possible opportunity, such as when we come to the City Hall for move-in procedures.
Multilingualization of Parenting Information Booklet	I think it would be great if we had multiple language versions of "Toyonaka Child-Raising Support Book <i>'Minna de'</i> ".

◇Information about the Foreign Citizens' Council◇

【Check the information about the FCC on the website of Toyonaka City.】

○Report of the Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council in multiple languages (Digest Version)

https://www.city.toyonaka.osaka.jp/jinken_gakushu/kokusai/gaikoku/index.html

◇Consultation Services for Foreign Residents◇

【Toyonaka City provides information and consultation services in foreign languages.】

【Information and Consultation Services for Non-Japanese Residents】 <5F, Bldg. I, City Hall >

Hours: Weekdays 10:00 – 17:00

Languages: [English] Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Fri. [Chinese] Wed.

※Closed on national holidays and year-end through New Year holidays.

Tel: 06-6858-2730

※For other languages, please call us at least 1 week before your visit.

【General Consultation at Toyonaka International Center】

<6F, Etre Toyonaka Bldg., next to Hankyu Toyonaka Station >

Time: 11:00 – 16:00, Mon., Tue., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.

Languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Thai, Indonesian, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Nepali

Tel: 06-6843-4343

◇Future Meetings of the Toyonaka Foreign Citizen's Council◇

Three more meetings are scheduled for fiscal 2024 (Reiwa 6). All meetings may be observed by anyone. Information regarding a meeting will be announced in the *Koho* Toyonaka, Monthly Information and on the city website in the month it is held.

(Up to 10 observers can attend these meetings. If the number exceeds the quota, a lottery will be drawn.)

The fourth meeting will be held on Thursday, 27 June 2024.

The 5th meeting is scheduled for around October 2024 (Reiwa 6), and the 6th for around February 2025 (Reiwa 7). (The dates may be slightly shifted.)

We are also planning to make an opportunity for the members to report to the mayor on the result of the discussions in May 2025.

We aim to reflect the views of foreign citizens in city policy, and make Toyonaka City a good place for all citizens to live.

The 10th Council Members

- HWANG SOHEE (Leader)
- ZHANG YAFEI (Sub-leader)
- LEE NARI
- SUN YAN
- PHAM THUY TRANG
- LAMA SAROJ
- SHIN SUNGJOON
- ZHENG QIAN
- YANG YU
- LI XIA



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