

Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council Newsletter No. 20

Edited and Published by:
Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council

※This newsletter has been created using machine translation.

◇The Eleventh Foreign Citizens' Council Starts◇

The Eleventh Council started in July 2025.

Committee members have various backgrounds including nationality, length of stay, and reasons for living in Japan, and they contribute opinions based on their respective experiences. In this way, they will share ideas and hold discussions over the next two years to improve the lives of foreign residents living in Toyonaka City as much as possible. Based on the idea that “A city that is

comfortable to live in for foreigners is pleasant for Japanese citizens as well,” we would like to use the ten members' strengths to make Toyonaka City more livable.



◇ The 11th FCC Members ◇

Chair: Kim Cheol-ho (Korea)

Hello everyone. My name is Kim Cheol-ho, and I serve as the 11th chair of the Toyonaka City Foreign Residents Council. I'm Korean and have been living in Japan for 23 years. I'm the father of a family of four and currently work as an IT system engineer in Toyonaka City. Toyonaka was my first town in Japan, and it offers excellent access to Osaka, convenient transportation with the Hankyu Railway, monorail, and Itami Airport. It also places a strong emphasis on international exchange and is a highly livable city with a high-quality education and culture.

Recently, I've been actively involved in community activities, such as spreading information about generative AI in the 8th Toyonaka Regional Revitalization Academy and hosting an event where we cooked Korean food with local residents. Going forward, I'll devote my energy to activities that will help make Toyonaka's foreign residents' lives more comfortable. Thank you for your continued support.

Acting Position : AVDIUSHENKOVA IRINA (Russia)

My name is Irina. I have lived in Toyonaka City for a total of six years. I came to Japan with my husband and son.

I first visited Toyonaka in 2016 because my university campus was located there. From that moment on, I was captivated by the city's atmosphere and comfortable atmosphere.

That same year, I met the staff at the Toyonaka International Exchange Center and began visiting elementary schools in the city as a volunteer. After that, I also worked as an interpreter for children whose native language is Russian.

I have received a lot of support and warm cooperation from the staff at the International Exchange Center, city hall, and local residents.

OZTURK ORHAN (Turkey)

My name is Orhan and I'm from Turkey. Nice to meet you. I came to Japan 25 years ago as a researcher. I currently work for a company. I have a wife and three daughters.

I've also lived in Kyoto and Chiba. I feel that Toyonaka is a comfortable place to live and a friendly place for foreigners.

I would like to use my experience to contribute, however small, to making Toyonaka an even better place for everyone.

I look forward to working with you.

RIDZUAN NADIA (Malaysia)

Hello. My name is Nadia and I'm from Malaysia.

I've been living in Toyonaka for a year and have two children.

I'm very happy to be able to participate in the Foreign Residents' Conference.

I hope to work together with everyone to make Toyonaka a better place.

Thank you very much for your support.

THAPA ROSHAN (Nepal)

My name is Roshan Thapa. I came to Japan from Nepal and have been living in Toyonaka for 10 years.

Toyonaka is a convenient and easy place to live for me as a foreigner. I feel that coexistence with the local community is extremely important when running a restaurant. I would like to think about coexistence with the local community together with you all at this conference.

Wei Qun (China)

I came to Japan from China four and a half years ago. At the time, I didn't even know Japanese kana, which made me very anxious, but I was carefully taught how to go about various procedures. I'm truly grateful to have realized the many efforts and support available to help foreigners live safely.

As someone who has been helped by many people up until now, I would like to help others in whatever small way I can. And I would like to protect this wonderful town together with you all.

Shen Minqian (China)

My name is Shen Minqian, and I'm from Suzhou, China. I came to Japan three years ago with my family of four. I attended Japanese language classes at the Toyonaka International Center, learned to speak Japanese, and made many friends. I have a daughter in third grade and a son in sixth grade. Thanks to the various supports and assistance they received, my children have been able to happily adapt to school life. This has given me great peace of mind as a foreign mother, and I am truly grateful. Toyonaka City is a very livable city with a very comfortable environment. I hope more foreigners will discover the charms of Toyonaka City.

Tseng Qiming (Taiwan)

I'm originally from Itabashi, Taiwan, and currently live in Toyonaka. In my free time, I like to watch movies and TV dramas. I also enjoy exploring nearby cafes and small shops. I'm still learning Japanese, but with the help of translation tools, I'm slowly starting to understand.

I believe the kindness of the local people and their help when I've had a problem have played a major role in my smooth and enjoyable life in Japan. From now on, I hope to get involved in local activities at my own pace.

I hope to continue cherishing my life in Japan and gradually increasing what I can do as a member of the community.



Zhang Hongmei (China)

My name is Zhang Hongmei. I am truly honored to be selected as a member of the 11th Foreign Citizens' Council. The theme for this session is "Easy Japanese." Personally, I believe language is all about familiarity and effort. Above all, I am incredibly grateful for the kindness shown to us foreigners living in Toyonaka City. I have lived in Toyonaka City for 15 years now, and thanks to the city's generous support, including childcare support, vocational training courses, and COVID-19 relief funds, I have lived here with a sense of security. I hope to emulate your kindness and consideration and treat those around me in the same way in the future.

◇The Report of the Tenth Foreign Citizens Council Compiled◇

The Ninth Foreign Citizens Council finished their term having held five meetings over two years since July 2023.

At the meetings, the members discussed "Creating a child-friendly town and deepening international understanding" and the secretariat compiled a report. The members had the opportunity of explaining the contents to Mayor Shigeki Osanai on February 5, 2025.

We would like to reflect their opinions in the measures and policies, starting from what we can.

◇ From the Tenth FCC Members' Impressions (excerpts) ◇

【The Tenth FCC members state their impressions of attending the meetings.】

- ✍️How about holding an international cooking event or tea party? I think talking over Chinese tea will make for a good exchange. I think the easiest way to interact is to eat and drink something together and talk.
- ✍️When my children were still small, I didn't know that there was a playroom on the second floor of Sukoyaka Plaza, and only found out about it when a Japanese mother from the neighborhood invited me. At the time, I couldn't speak Japanese very well, and I felt the language barrier. How about creating a place where foreign mothers and children can get together once a month, so that foreigners can feel more comfortable visiting the facility?
- ✍️Create an opportunity for foreigners who have given birth in Japan to offer advice on their child-rearing experiences in their native language.

◇Information about 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.

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., and Sat.

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

《Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council Secretariat》

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