

Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council

Newsletter No. 17

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Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council

◇ The Ninth Foreign Citizens' Council Starts ◇

The Ninth Council started in July 2021.

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 eight members' strengths to make Toyonaka City more livable.



◇ The 9th FCC Members ◇

Chair: KATAYAMA FIONA ELIZABETH (Australia)



I was attracted to Japan from the age of 13. That is why I spent a year each in a high school and a university in Kansai. After graduating from university, I got a job in Japan. Now I live with a nice Japanese husband and two lovely children who go to elementary school. I was supported a lot by a parenting group called "Oyako de Nihongo" held at Toyonaka International Center. As I wanted to contribute to the promotion of multicultural symbiosis of Toyonaka myself, I have taught foreign language experience classes at elementary schools and worked as a member of the 7th Foreign Citizens' Council. I will do my best to present a useful report from the 9th Council. Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!



Deputy Chair: FLOR CARAVIA SANTIAGO (Ecuador)

I'm from Ecuador and half Ecuadorian and half Spanish. I started judo when I was an elementary school student. I first came to Japan in 1992. I have lived in Shikoku, Kyushu, Kanto and so on. When I moved in Toyonaka, I received the impression that the living environment was good. I would like to continue to cooperate in the efforts of making Toyonaka an international city that is livable both for foreign and Japanese citizens. Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!



ASMA SULTANA (Bangladesh)

I came from Bangladesh in 2008. I have been in Toyonaka for 13 years. I studied Master's of Business Administration at Stamford University in Bangladesh. I like cultural program and event management. I learned Japanese at Toyonaka International Center. I would like to learn more about the Japanese language. I worked as an interpreter at different elementary schools in Toyonaka. Now I am working as an ECC Junior English classroom teacher. I am very glad I can work as a Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council member. And it is a very big opportunity for me that I can connect with foreign citizens and also with Japanese citizens. I can share my ideas and I get new experiences from this work and conference. Thank you.



ADHIKARI SUJAN BAHADUR (Nepal)

"*Namaskar*" everyone. It has been over 18 years since I came from Nepal. I have lived in Toyonaka City for more than half of that time. So far, I have had various experiences in Japanese society as an international student, a working member of society, a parent, and as a "*gajin*". Toyonaka City is a wonderful place where 6,117 foreigners from 90 countries live. Still, I don't think we have enough opportunities to experience different cultures. In Toyonaka City, I would like to explore as a member of Japanese society how to promote cross-cultural exchanges not only with Japanese people but also with people from other countries. For that, it is important to increase opportunities to interact with many people. I think that by enhancing mutual understanding, we will be able to make our society more fruitful and multicultural. I look forward to your continued support and cooperation.



WANG YING (China)

I am an international student enrolled at Osaka University. At the university, I am researching community development with the participation of citizens. On the other hand, I notice that things that are not usually recognized as obstacles can cause big troubles to foreigners, because culture and customs are different among countries. Therefore, at the FCC meetings, while experiencing the actual practice of participation of foreign citizens, I would like to inform the city of the examples of obstacles in our daily life as a foreigner.

HONG YUYING (China)



After working for 5 years in the Chinese media, I came to Japan to study. Currently, I am working at a public service organization in Hyogo on efforts such as supporting foreigners, vocational training, and community development support. Japan is a country that is abundant in nature. Nowadays, the number of foreign workers has been increasing. I am sure that the day will come when Japan realizes the society of diversity and harmony without any discrimination or barriers where people respect differences and support each other. As a member of Toyonaka City, I hope Toyonaka City will put weight on projects to develop a multicultural community that is easy for anyone to live in. Thank you.

TAKIMOTO CLAUDIA (Peru)



My name is Takimoto Claudia. I have lived in Toyonaka for over 20 years. I am working as a dietitian, and I hope that I can use my experience to discuss what foreigners living in Toyonaka should do for the community. Thank you.

GUOXIANG LIU (China)



It has been 25 years since I came to Japan to study. After living in Tokushima, Chiba and Kobe, I moved to Toyonaka 9 years ago. I do brain research at the Center for Information and Neural Networks, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology. Though there used to be many foreigners including students at my workplace, the number has decreased because of the spread of COVID 19. I would like to give information such as the worries and feelings of foreigners through the FCC meetings.

◇The Report of the Eighth Foreign Citizens Council Compiled◇

The Eighth Foreign Citizens Council finished their term having held four meetings over two years since July 2019.

At the meetings, the members discussed "To Lead a Healthy Life in a Familiar Local Community" and the secretariat compiled a report. The members had the opportunity of explaining the contents to Mayor Shigeki Osanai on May 28, 2021. Unlike previously, the members joined it online to prevent the spread of COVID 19.

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

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

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

- ✎ We should make more opportunities to mingle with others not only as a foreigner but as a citizen of Toyonaka and try to deepen mutual understanding between different cultures.
- ✎ I was feeling uncertain about the future because of the pandemic of COVID 19, but I could gain a sense of safety by sharing time with other members at the online meetings.
- ✎ Other members sometimes expressed their opinions from a point of view I had never noticed. I have renewed my awareness of diversity.

◇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 Foreigners◇

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

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

Time: 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

Tel: 06-6843-4343

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