

Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council

Newsletter No. 16

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Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council

◇ The Eighth Foreign Citizens' Council Starts ◇

The eighth council started in July 2019. Committee members have various backgrounds including nationalities, 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 easy for Japanese citizens as well," we would like to use the nine members' strength to make Toyonaka City more livable.

The 8th FCC Members

Chair: Takimoto Claudia (Peru)



I have been living in Japan for 21 years. I studied Japanese at the Peruvian-Japanese Cultural Center in Peru. I have volunteered at a welfare facility called "Rinpokan" to help homeless children. I have also provided consultation in Spanish at the Toyonaka International Center and participated in various seminars. Now, I teach Spanish at prefectural high schools and Peruvian history at Toyonaka Municipal Elementary Schools. I have 3 years' experience as a nutritionist. I would like to contribute something to Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council by these experiences. I would like to make an effort to convey your opinions to the city. Thank you.

Deputy Chair: Liao Chuan Hui (Taiwan)



I study hard about the art of "Noh" now, while being a housewife, but before getting married, I used to do research in Experimental Phonetics in Osaka University. I like drawing pictures, Japanese calligraphy called shūji and researching languages. I am looking forward to working for Toyonaka City.

Wang Ying (China)



I came from Shanghai, China in 2017. Only a year and a half has passed since I started to live in Toyonaka, but I have really come to love Toyonaka City. Since I came to Japan, the volunteer teachers at the Japanese Classes in Hotarugaike Public Hall and TIFA (Toyonaka International Friendship Association) have taken good care of me. Now, I am also the one who helps the children from overseas as a consultant in Toyonaka City. I would like to start to talk with other citizens about various things of Toyonaka. Thank you.

Adhikari Sushma Khadka (Nepal)



I have been in Japan for 14 years. When I first came to Japan, I lived in Okinawa. After that, I came to Osaka and have been living in Toyonaka since then. Now I work as a Nepali native teacher at a Prefectural High School. I also work actively as a Nepali interpreter and translator. Above all, I feel very happy when I help someone who is in need, as a medical interpreter. I learned the words "*Ichariba choday*" in Okinawa. It means "once we meet, we are brothers and sisters". In other words, let's be friendly. In the future, I would like to increase opportunities to interact not only with foreigners but also with all Toyonaka citizens to deepen mutual understanding.

Hong Yuying (China)



I worked in the Chinese media for 5 years and came to Japan 9 years ago to study. Until now, I have lived in Japan for about a quarter of my life, and Japan has become my second home. Three years on a stone (Perseverance prevails)! This is my second year in Toyonaka. At first, I could not get used to the life here, but I have overcome the difficulties with the help of various kind people. My hobbies are media, photography, and gardening. Lately, I have been really into gardening and photography. So I am growing various plants and taking pictures of them. I am not good at raising animals, but now I have a parakeet and am healed by the cute cry.

Son Eunjung (Korea)



I am from Korea, the nearest country to Japan. When I first came to Japan as a tourist, I was attracted to the food that suited my taste, quiet towns, and friendly people. The experience finally led me to get married to a Japanese person, and now I am a mother of a boy and a girl. As a resident, I still like and hope to know more about Japan. I would like to be useful for you all while living in Toyonaka.

Jeong Sangnyu (Korea)



Having my mother work for a Japanese company and learning Japanese from elementary school, I had been interested in Japan. I wanted to live in Japan someday. Fatefully, I got married to a Japanese person and live in Toyonaka. I have moved into my wife's place in Toyonaka. While working part-time, I study to enter a Japanese university. Although I am young and unexperienced, I would like to contribute to the development of Toyonaka that is livable for foreigners.



Hirai Tsubomi (China)

Twenty seven years have passed since I came to study in Japan. I got married here, and experienced childbirth and child-rearing. During the years, I moved from Osaka to Kyoto, Sendai, Hyogo, and then back to Osaka. I have lived in various cities. It's been 12 years since I came to Toyonaka, which means I spent 12 years out of 19 years of my child-rearing in Toyonaka. I hope my experiences will be of some help to foreign citizens in Toyonaka.



Liu Li (China)

Hello. I am from China. I moved around in Japan for my husband's job, and finally settled down in Toyonaka City. Since I came here, I have been working as a part-time Chinese instructor at a foreign language school, and as an interpreter at the Board of Education of Toyonaka City. I think Toyonaka is very livable city with a good environment for raising children. Hopefully, I can be of any help to foreign residents in Toyonaka City.

☞The Report of the Seventh Foreign Citizens' Council Compiled☞

The Seventh Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council (FCC) finished their term having held five meetings over two years since June 2017. At the meetings, the members discussed, "Disaster preparedness: How to help foreign citizens with evacuation, and how to provide them with information," and the secretariat compiled a report. Then, the members had the opportunity of explaining the contents to Mayor Shigeki Osanai on May 30, 2019. The members spoke about their impressions from attending the meetings and experiences in Japan or in Toyonaka. The participants enjoyed a friendly atmosphere.

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

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

○Report of the Seventh Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council (Digest Version)

https://www.city.toyonaka.osaka.jp/jinken_gakushu/kokusai/gaikoku/toushin/dai7ki0_houkoku.html



○Back Issues of the FCC Newsletter

https://www.city.toyonaka.osaka.jp/jinken_gakushu/kokusai/gaikokjinnyu-zu/index.html



○From the Seventh FCC Members' Impressions (excerpts)



The Seventh FCC members state their impressions of attending the meetings:

- ✎ As I attended the councils, I got increasingly attached to Toyonaka City and now I like the city more than ever.
- ✎ I felt it important to understand what to do before taking action when we try to improve the environment or to solve problems.
- ✎ While the meetings increased my motivation to help foreign citizens, they have also made me realize how I am unprepared for the task.
- ✎ I would like to work together to create a system to unite foreigners and Japanese.
- ✎ I was happy that each discussion gave me an opportunity to express my opinions as a foreign citizen, such as the troubles I faced, the points I hoped to be improved, and the ideas I had come up with.
- ✎ We often discussed how to offer information to foreigners about disaster response measures.



Toyonaka City provides information and consultation services in foreign languages.

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

Time: Weekdays 10:00-16:00

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

Tel: 06-6858-2730

Give us a call a week ahead of schedule when requiring other languages.

【General Consultation about Living in Japan (Toyonaka International Center)】

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

Time: Fri. 11:00-16:00

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

Tel: 06-6843-4343

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