

Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council Newsletter No. 18

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Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council

◇ The Tenth Foreign Citizens' Council Starts ◇

The Tenth 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 ten members' strengths to make Toyonaka City more livable.



◇ The 10th FCC Members ◇

Chair: HWANG SOHEE (Korea)

I am Hwang Sohee, the chair of the tenth Council. I am a mother of three children; two daughters in the 2nd and 1st grades of high school and a son in the 1st grade of junior high school. I work as a Korean teacher and as an interpreter.

I remember I felt lonely when I first came to Toyonaka, because I had no friends here. In addition, making international calls was very expensive.

I have participated in various parenting programs organized by Toyonaka City since the time I was pregnant and have proactively been involved in PTA activities at my children's kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools and high schools at present. I could share with other PTA members how the children were doing, how hard their teachers were working, and what kind of parenting worries we were having. As a result, I could raise my children while having fun.

I would be pleased if my experience of raising children could be helpful not only to the foreign residents in Toyonaka but also to people who are parenting now. Yoroshikuonegaishimasu!

Deputy Chair: ZHANG YAFEI (China)

I am from Beijing, China, and have been in Japan for 24 years.

Since my university days, I have interacted with many international students and learned about the lives and lifestyles of people from other countries. I have loved international exchange since I was in my 20s. I actively participate in multicultural and volunteer activities conducted by the Toyonaka International Center, and I go to elementary and junior high schools to teach classes as a foreign language experience instructor. I am currently working as a medicinal herb instructor under the guidance of my father, a Chinese herbalist.

Through many activities in the future, I would like to listen to the problems and thoughts of foreigners, find solutions at the Foreign Citizens' Council, and contribute to the creation of an international Toyonaka City where it is easy for everyone to live. Thank you.

LEE NARI (Korea)

My name is Nari Lee and I am from South Korea. Sixteen years ago, I studied in Japan and two years ago I moved to Toyonaka City when I got married. I learned about the various activities of the city from reading "Koho Toyonaka" (Public Information Toyonaka).

I learned about the Foreign Citizens' Council there and applied to join as a committee member.

Although I have only lived in Toyonaka for a short time, I would like to contribute to the creation of a city where it is easy for foreigners to live as citizens by making use of my experience and impressions from my life in Japan.

SHIN SUNGJOON (Korea)

I am Shin Sung Joon from Seoul, Korea, and I first came to Japan 10 years ago on a trip. It was only 4 years ago that I decided to settle down and live here.

I am now working as a Korean language teacher at ECC Language School. I also occasionally work for the Toyonaka International Center to introduce Korean culture at elementary and junior high schools in the city.

I decided to join the Foreign Residents' Council because I wanted to be of some help to make Toyonaka City a comfortable place for foreigners to live. Thank you.

SUN YAN (China)

My name is Sun Yan and I am a Chinese citizen. It has been 12 years since I came to Japan, and I moved to Toyonaka City 6 years ago.

During my student and working life, when I had difficulties, people around me were very nice to me. They were eager to help me, kindly taught me, and extended their hands to me.

Now I would like to do the same through the Foreign Citizens' Council and repay the favor by being kind to those around me, little by little.

In addition, I feel that Toyonaka City is now actively moving toward a multicultural society, and I, as a Chinese citizen, would like to be a part of this movement.

I look forward to working with you.

ZHENG QIAM (China)

My name is Teisei. I am from Shenyang, China. I have lived in Toyonaka City for 7 years, but my Japanese is not so good.

My family consists of four people: myself, my husband and two sons. I am a housewife and my husband is also Chinese. My older son is in the 1st grade of junior high school and my younger son is in the 4th grade of elementary school. I love Toyonaka City because it is very friendly to foreigners and its quality of school education is also excellent.

I go to Toyonaka International Center every week to study Japanese, and I feel a friendly atmosphere with a lot of help from the volunteers.

PHAM THUY TRANG (Vietnam)

My name is Pham Thuy Trang. It has been 21 years since I came to Japan to study. I have lived in Kyushu, Nagoya, and Osaka City, and moved to Toyonaka City 9 years ago.

I moved to Toyonaka City because I thought it was a great place to raise my children as it is easily accessible to major cities and the residential area is calm and safe. As a member of the approximately 7,000 foreign residents living in Toyonaka City, I would like to contribute to the intercultural society of Toyonaka.

I have a daughter in the 3rd grade of elementary school and a son in the 3rd grade of junior high school. I would like to discuss a lot about child-rearing matters from the perspective of a foreign mother. I look forward to working with you.

YANG YU (China)

I moved into Toyonaka City in 2012, and I believe Toyonaka City is a good place for foreigners to live. During my university years, I researched regional revitalization and urban development, and during my continuance in office, I was in charge of Japan-China projects.

I am very fortunate to be selected as a member of the 10th Toyonaka City Foreign Citizens' Council. As a member of Toyonaka City, I would like to continue to make use of my experience and contribute to the creation of a city where everyone can live as they wish.

LAMA SAROJ (Nepal)

Hello. I am Lama Saroj from Nepal. I have lived in Japan for eight years. While providing nursing services as a certified care worker, I support the foreigners working for the same company in their daily life. My hobbies are playing and watching soccer games. I am 29 years old and single. In the future, I would like to work to connect Japan and Nepal. For example, as Nepal is a developing country, I hope to introduce Japanese developed systems to Nepal. Also, in Nepal, unlike Japan, there are no big industries or no environment for young people to work. I would like to introduce such young people to the companies that lack human resources, and give them opportunities to learn Japanese technology. To achieve this, we need support from Japanese people. I realize that there are still a lot of things I don't know, but I would like to do my best with the help and advice of other members.

LI XIA (China)

I am from Inner Mongolia, China. I have lived in Japan for about 8 years in total. We frequently move because of my husband's work. I have lived in Kobe, Yokohama, Fukuoka and Okayama. We moved into Toyonaka 2 years ago. Toyonaka is a quiet and comfortable place to live, and I could settle down soon. I have made a lot of friends at the Japanese class at Toyonaka International Center. As I want to continue to live in Toyonaka, I will try to help promote multicultural symbiosis of Toyonaka City as much as possible.

Yoroshiku onegai itashimasu.

◇The Report of the Ninth Foreign Citizens Council Compiled◇

The Ninth Foreign Citizens Council finished their term having held six meetings over two years since July 2021.

At the meetings, the members discussed "What we can do for our local communities" and the secretariat compiled a report. The members had the opportunity of explaining the contents to Mayor Shigeki Osanai on May 25, 2023.

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

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

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

- ✎ I was impressed that even if we are not Japanese citizens, we can contribute to the society as a member of a local community and offer suggestions to make it better.
- ✎ In order to live together peacefully, we need to help each other. I thought that both extending and receiving a helping hand are important.
- ✎ Through the discussions, I learned that Toyonaka International Center makes various efforts to make foreigners' life easier. I think it is important to send out the information.

◇ 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

Tel: 06-6843-4343

《Toyonaka Foreign Citizens' Council Secretariat》

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