

Takayama Kyoso Forum (Part 5)

○ Theme ～Living and Working in an Inclusive, Multicultural Society～

○ Opinions from Meeting 1 (organized by category)

■ Information

- In terms of posting up information about daily life or events in Takayama, I am unsure whether or not we are putting up enough information or too little
- It would be good to figure out a way to include local Japanese and foreigner-residents in spreading awareness about events, Hida Takayama Together, and the foreigner-resident consultation service in Takayama
- For children of foreign descent, I would like their information shared with consultation staff at other schools.
- I would like information about Hida Takayama Together and the consultation service for foreigner-residents distributed to Takayama City's branch offices
- I would like more multilingual signage in Takayama City. For example, even going to the supermarket can be a stressful task as one doesn't know what is being sold
- I want local Japanese residents to know more about the foreigners who live in Takayama

■ Japanese Language Education

- It's difficult to receive one-to-one Japanese language instruction
- I would like there to be more substantial Japanese language education
- The number of Japanese language teachers is low
- Besides civic Japanese language classes and Simple Japanese seminars, it's important to host events involving Japanese language support and international exchange between local Japanese residents and foreigner-residents
- Currently, many themes related to Japan are introduced in Japanese language study, but more work can be done to introduce other countries

■ Childcare

- I would like to know what foreigners struggle with in terms of childcare in Japan
- I would like to know what is inconvenient for parents of foreign descent in Japan, especially if it is more inconvenient than their home country
- Because the number of children of foreign-residents being enrolled in local kindergartens is rising, it's important to provide support before, during, and after enrollment
- It's important to provide multilingual education as the number of children of foreign descent is growing
- We must consider making an environment where not only children, but their guardians can also feel at ease.

- It's important to provide consultation for foreigner residents who want to advance their education besides compulsory learning.
- Even though Japanese is used with ease in daily life, many children struggle in terms of Japanese relevant for their studies.
- There are many children who wish to go to high school

■ International Exchange

- There's no place that is easy to use as a community gathering point (for foreigners)
- There's no place to do international exchange
- It would be productive to have events that the children of foreigner-residents can participate in
- I would like to host a bazaar event at my shrine introducing different countries
- Instead of doing a general event on multiculturalism targeting foreigners, it would be nice to have events where both foreigners and local Japanese residents can participate
- When chatting with foreigner-residents, many people wanted to play sports together
- There's little opportunities for exchange especially for individuals with busy schedules
- I think there are little opportunities for local Japanese residents to learn about different cultures
- Cooking classes by foreigner-residents teaching their home country's cuisine
- Increasing opportunities for students at schools to meet foreigner-residents and learn about their home countries/cultures
- I want to know people who were able to overcome the language barrier
- It would be nice to have a welcome party or event for foreigners who move to Takayama
- I think it would be a good idea to have events celebrating holidays from Japan as well as oversea holidays
- Events aimed at foreigners introducing Japanese culture
- Events aimed at children of foreign residents, especially in which communication will be easier for them
- Foreigner-residents are often mixed up with tourists, and there are little opportunities to directly meet
- Offering bus tours to both foreigner-residents and local Japanese residents
- It would be fun to have shops in the city where original goods or food related to countries abroad can be sold
- There have been cases where events have been planned and done, but there were little no participants
- A designated day for Takayama's sister cities, and maybe food can be offered in relation within the city
- I would like to do a large karaoke gathering with foreigner-residents
- In Toyama Prefecture, there are events involving the local ALTs where they can introduce their home countries, and perhaps in Takayama or the Hida region it would be great to have a similar event

- Event involving local residents with a foreigner-residents as the main host or an event that matches the reason why a foreigner-resident is living in Takayama
- Online event with Takayama's sister cities
- It would be great for local Japanese residents and foreigner-residents to communicate with one another, but for many foreigner-residents, it is difficult due to work and many people end up going back home immediately after work
- I would like there to be more events where foreigner-residents can introduce their home country and cultures

■ Living in Takayama • Daily Life

- It's inconvenient if you don't have a car in the countryside
- I wish there was more multilingual support for official documents and procedures, especially as the Japanese used is hard to understand
- Housing discrimination towards foreigners is an issue, especially for rentals
- I want people to understand more about the actual living conditions of foreigner-residents
- I want there to be an easy-to-understand way in educating people about trash disposal
- I want a multilingual trash calendar
- I think it's important to think of exchange initiatives that encourage foreigners to interact with others outside of their own community
- I would like to know either there are more long-term foreigner-residents or short-term foreigner-residents in Takayama
- I think it would be good to have a 24/7 hotline for foreigner-residents to dial, especially when troubled
- It would be nice to have foreigner-residents participate in the local town associations and their events
- I want the resident guidebooks distributed to be used more
- I think it would be a good idea to offer a telephone service with multilingual interpretation
- I feel that inclusion of the LGBTQIA+ community is part of multiculturalism, and that within the city there is low awareness for the LGBTQIA+ community
- When visiting local izakayas with family or friends, we were suddenly turned away, and this made us feel unwelcomed

■ Work

- I believe it's important to raise awareness amongst local recruiters and companies about the hiring of foreign workers
- It's important to implement an understanding of different cultures in companies which employ foreign workers
- In 2027, there will be a change in visa subcategories with the technical trainee program being replaced by the Ikusei Shurou (English name to be determined) program. I am curious what support there will be for foreigners arriving with the new visa and

changes in immigration law.

- What will Takayama City initiate measure-wise for the increasing number of foreign talent in Takayama
- Foreigner-residents are usually employed in places away from the public eye such as factories or kitchen so I feel local Japanese residents are not aware of their presence
- Offering cultural sensitivity training in the workplace
- I think it would be a good idea to offer a class where students can learn about Japanese workplace culture as well as general etiquette
- It would be good to provide support to businesses owned by foreigner-residents
- Especially as the Japanese population is decreasing, I'm interested in knowing if Takayama City's policies will shift to onboarding more foreigners in the local workforce, and if so, what we must be consider with such a shift

■ Natural Disaster Preparedness

- There seems to be uncertainty in terms of where to evacuate in the event of a natural disaster
- I would like a hazard map created for foreigner-residents
- I think it would be good for foreigner-residents to also join in natural disaster preparedness training sessions
- I think practicing the route to evacuation centers or learning how to use an AED together would be a good activity
- I would like the Takayama City Emergency Announcement System to be multilingual---whenever there is an announcement I don't know what is being said.

■ Consultation Services

- I'm unsure whether or not Takayama City accepts all types of consultations at their consultation services desk
- For consultation services, I imagine people who use the service speak about what troubles they are having, but I wonder if they are receiving information related to opportunities they can participate in, or making connections
- I would like statistical information about the consultation service released, especially what kind and how many consultations are done
- Establishment of a facility specialized in assisting foreigner-residents, especially one that includes multipurpose/event spaces

■ Other

- I'm curious what policies and measures are implanted in the Tono region in terms of accommodating foreigner-residents
- Instead of saying "foreigners," we should say "people from abroad"
- In town associations, it's common for duties or roles in the neighborhood to be passed on to the neighboring person annually. I heard recently that a foreigner became a shrine's representative, but I'm concerned whether or not they understand their duties

at the shrine.

- I would like the Hida Takayama International Association to consider the needs of foreigner-residents more
- There's very little opportunities to interact or approach with foreigner-residents
- I wonder if majority of foreigner-residents stay indoors in their free time
- In front of Residential Services Division, I often see large groups of foreigners getting their paperwork done with a Japanese-speaking agent. I would like to know who their agent is.
- I would like to know if there are opportunities to run a business aimed at foreigners in Takayama/Japan