

Takayama Kyoso Forum (Part 5)

【Theme】 ～Living and Working in an Inclusive, Multicultural Society～

■ Meeting Summary

Proposals & Reflections by Local Residents of Takayama

① Information

- Because many Vietnamese residents are connected by social media, it would be good to have a key person distribute important information to the local Vietnamese community
- Since foreigner-residents moving into Takayama have to report their address, and sometimes their workplaces, to the Residential Services Division in Takayama, would it be possible for the Mayoral Division to receive that same information and directly mail important notices to foreigner-residents?
- Distributing event and Japanese language class flyers to workplaces that hire foreigner-residents could be beneficial in relaying information
- Similar to today's Kyoso Forum meeting, we should also consider creating more opportunities for local foreigner and Japanese residents to interact

② Japanese Language Education

- Should it be the responsibility of local Japanese businesses to ensure the Japanese language education of foreigner workers they hire?
- There needs to be more organizational structure for Japanese language class volunteers
- There should also be seminars aimed to fostering the growth of such volunteers
- For people who come from abroad, there are little opportunities for Japanese language study, which leads to a high language barrier—it's essential that Japanese language classes are conducted consistently and regularly
- Currently, there is a Japanese language class focused on workplace Japanese, and there are classes aimed at beginners. There are also Simple Japanese seminars, held in July and December, which should be continued.

③ Intercultural Exchange

- We should consider adding foreigner-residents to local town associations as well as child support associations. Within these associations, we can mutually help and learn about one another, and also involve foreigner-residents with local events and traditions

- We should also consider including foreigner-residents in local festivities, especially so they can experience traditional Takayama culture
- Factoring in the population of Japanese people, there aren't many people who move to Takayama and join the local town associations. It would be good to send out a notice, but it's hard to distinguish between people permanently moving to Takayama and people who intend to temporarily live in Takayama.
- An event where foreigner-residents can introduce their own culture, or an event where anyone can freely join like an athletic meet would be good
- It would be good to also have inter-regional exchange such as with cities like Gero
- It would be great to have a location and extra opportunities for local foreigner and Japanese residents to meet

④ Daily Life

- Many foreigner-residents don't have a driver's license. Because of this, we should think about employing a school bus-like vehicle for helping to transport people for daily shopping and events, especially in Takayama's outer regions
- In order to better assist foreigner-residents, maybe having an online form where they can ask for help would be good. After their form has been received, they can be matched with a volunteer who can further assist them.
- Many foreigner-residents don't know how to throw away their trash, or find it very difficult. We wish for the city and local workplaces to properly teach foreigner-residents on how to throw away their trash.
- ※ One consideration is for local businesses to be able to request Takayama City to have on-site seminars on how to throw away trash
- There is an app with Takayama's trash calendar, but it's only in Japanese—maybe we can consider making a multilingual version?

⑤ Work

- Similar to this time's Kyoso Forum meeting, we should consider making a similar event where local businesses can send one representative to meet local foreigner-workers and understand their needs
- Within local businesses that hire foreigners, it would be good to have a key person whose role is to deepen intercultural understanding. Maybe through this the number of people who understand multiculturalism will increase.
- ※ Due to growing labor shortages in Takayama due to population decline, Takayama City currently has a matching project between local businesses and students from Higashikawa-cho, Hokkaido's Japanese

language school

⑥ Foreigner-Resident Consultation Service

- It would be good to advertise what days people can come for consultations on social media
- While providing consultations over social media, we need more foreigners employed at the consultation service
- Because foreigner-residents have to complete many procedures on the 1st floor of Takayama City Hall, we should consider setting up the consultation service there
- Similar to Kani City, we should also consider creating a facility for promoting multiculturalism, where foreigner-residents can easily go for consultations, and there is a space for exchange include. Also, it would be good for the Hida Takayama International Association to manage it.

⑦ Other

- We wish for the Hida Takayama International Association to relay more about their activities to the local residents of Takayama. Also to have more programs related to international exchange and multiculturalism
 - Right now, we feel that the Hida Takayama International Association hasn't been doing much to promote multiculturalism in Takayama. We feel it's important for there to be organization including foreigners, and a place where foreigner-residents can gather.
- ※ In order for the Hida Takayama International Association to be able to operate independently, there needs to be more administrative support.