

(2) Asia and Europe Mayors' Summit

Greeting from Organizer

Yasutomo Suzuki, Mayor of Hamamatsu

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank all of you for coming today to take part in the Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit 2012. Also, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the many participants who have come from all over Japan and Korea, and of course, those who have come all the way from Europe. This summit has been organized together with the Japan Foundation, the Council of Europe, and also the Council of Local



Authorities for International Relations. The opening of this summit would not have been possible without the great help of these people and their organizations. I express my sincere gratitude.

“Interculturalism” was once a word that was not well understood, but now it has gained usage in a considerable amount of places, and many people have come to understand this term. Cities from within Japan are also taking part in this summit today, Ota City, Shinjuku City and Higashi-Osaka City. In Higashi-Osaka City, there lives a large number of immigrants known as *Oldcomers*; these *Oldcomers* are Asian immigrants who arrived in Japan a long time ago, and mainly came from Korea. On the other hand you have Hamamatsu, where there was a sudden influx of second generation Japanese immigrants from Latin America, after an amendment to the immigration law in 1990. These immigrants came to be called *Newcomers*. So, while each of our cities is different, we are all making the most of our respective characteristics in policy making endeavors.

In 2001, cities similar to ours gathered, and the Council of Municipalities with Large Migrant Populations was established. Through this council, we exchange information and work on framing policies, but more importantly, we propose various policies to the national government.

However, in recent times, our conversations have taken a more positive turn whereas instead of just solving problems, we use the diversity held by our various residents, or alternatively their vitality, and use this in community development, or perhaps revitalizing the city.

Both in this summit, and in the midst of this global intercultural movement, I hope that through inter city cooperation, we can understand the merits of diversity, then exchange information, and through discussion, we can drive forward the idea of interculturalism in this immensely global framework. The summit has been running since yesterday, but today’s afternoon session will be the final session. Now, it is time for the mayors of various cities to gather, and after introducing policies that they are endeavoring in their respective cities etc. we will discuss our common challenges. I expect that through this summit, the world of intercultural cooperation will broaden, and we will have many things to transmit to the world. On top of that, I expect that these intercultural partnerships will continue for many years. With that, I bring my greeting to a close. Thank you very much.

Greeting from Organizer

Hiroyasu Ando, President, the Japan Foundation

On behalf of the Japan Foundation, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all panelists and participants of the Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit 2012 Hamamatsu. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the mayor of Hamamatsu City, Mr. Yasutomo Suzuki, for hosting the event.



As globalization progresses, we are witnessing unprecedented acceleration in international migration. Our communities are constantly undergoing dynamic changes and becoming more diverse. In the current environment, how can we strengthen the bonds among people who share a community and build a harmonious and cohesive society? And what can be done to maximize the benefits of the growing diversity? Finding answers to these questions is a compelling challenge for various countries and regions around the world, but at the same time, presents a tremendous opportunity for creating a new future.

What are most called for are new ideas and the determination to create new values. Since its foundation in 1972, the Japan Foundation has been at the forefront of forging friendship between Japan and the rest of the world. Our forty years of experience in international cultural exchange tells us that continuous interaction and dialogue across cultural, geographic and linguistic boundaries are critical in moving our society forward, particularly at a time like this.

Since 2009 the Japan Foundation has engaged in dialogue with the Council of Europe to exchange information on the latest efforts and developments in the field of diversity management and integration. It has also worked in partnership with South Korea, co-sponsoring in the summer of 2011 a symposium in Seoul on intercultural cities. Later, these bilateral exchanges were extended to a wider regional framework to include both Asia and Europe, culminating in another international symposium in January 2011 with panelists and participants from Japan, Europe and South Korea. The intercultural cities project continues to evolve and grow.

I have no doubt that Mayor Suzuki's kind offer to host the second summit stems from his faith in potential benefits that the sharing of knowledge and experience across borders can bring.

What are the visions of the society we aspire to bring? What can we do to build communities in which people with diverse cultural backgrounds can live, interact and thrive? All of us who have been involved in organizing this symposium hope that its participants leave feeling encouraged to pursue a better tomorrow and inspired to strive for the next challenge.

In closing, I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the cosponsors of the symposium, the Council of Europe and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. I would also like to thank the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Japan Municipal Training and Research Foundation for their support.

Greeting form Co-organizer

Yoko Kimura
Chairperson of the Board of Directors
Council of Local Authorities for International Relations

As introduced, my name is Yoko Kimura and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations. I am very pleased to be able to attend the “Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit 2012 Hamamatsu,” and am honored that our organization has had the opportunity to co-host this event.



I would like to begin by offering both my appreciation to Mayor Suzuki of Hamamatsu and the Japan Foundation for their initiative and tireless efforts in preparing for this summit, as well as my welcome to the Mayors and delegates from both within Japan and abroad who have gathered here.

Though foreign residents only make up two percent of the total population of Japan, depending on the city, they can comprise upwards of 15% of the city’s population, which, I think can be seen as an indicator of how much globalization has progressed in recent years. International marriages now account for one in 25 couples, signifying a marked increase in the number of households with multicultural backgrounds.

And though the widespread damage caused by the disasters of March 11 last year affected the entire nation and were difficult to address, I am also grateful for the warm support we received. During that time, we were greatly touched by the strength of the bonds people shared. Many foreign residents took part in activities to support the disaster-affected regions. Some cooked meals from their native cuisines to feed those in need, whereas others, such as in the *Nikkei* community, sent heavy machinery and helped clear debris on-site. These kinds of support have made a lasting impression on us. At the same time, it also renewed my awareness that there are many issues that need to be addressed when it comes to how we should support foreigners in times of emergency.

Diversity is the source of creativity. As we work together to address challenges, I believe it is critical that the progressive leaders of Europe, Korea and Japan who understand the opportunities for social enrichment in this field, have gathered here to share their experience and expertise, strengthen the network between multicultural cities, and promote public awareness.

CLAIR was established as an organization to support local governments, and we strive to do so, for example, by providing multilingual information for daily life or proposing program ideas for local governments to help assure a safe, stable lifestyle for foreign residents living in their area.

In the same vein, we have also developed a manual for establishing and running multilingual

support centers in disaster situations, set up accounts to share information via social media channels such as Facebook, and we will strive to create programs that allow Japanese and foreign residents to work together closely in times of need.

I hope that the friendly networks we build here today continue to grow stronger, and that our goals and aspirations only expand from here. To that end, let me conclude my remarks by expressing my hope that this summit will prove to be a dynamic step towards the future.

Session 1: Engaging Citizens in Building the Intercultural City

In order to achieve an intercultural city, there is a need to share the future vision with citizens and promote voluntary citizen initiatives. In addition, it is important to promote intercultural dialogue between host societies and migrants in order to deepen mutual understanding and for them to build their local communities together.

With that in mind, voluntary citizen initiatives and the methods of promoting exchange between residents were discussed.



■ **Date and Time:** October 26th 2012 (Friday) 13:30 ~ 14:50

■ **Venue:** Meeting Room 41, Congress Center 4F, Act City Hamamatsu

■ Moderator, Commentator, Presenters

Moderator	Head of Division and Manager of Intercultural Cities Programme, Council of Europe	Ms. Irena GUIDIKOVA
Commentator	Representative Director, Institute for Human Diversity Japan	Mr. Taro TAMURA
Panelists	Deputy Mayor of Higashiosaka City (Japan)	Mr. Katsushige TAKAHASHI
	Mayor of Gwangmyeong City (Korea)	Mr. YANG Ki-Dae
	Deputy Mayor of Guro-gu, Seoul (Korea)	Mr. JO Sung-Il
	Mayor of Integration and Employment, Copenhagen City (Denmark)	Ms. Anna Mee ALLERSLEV

■ Outline of Presentations

○ (Moderator – Council of Europe, Ms. Guidikova)

- When establishing integration policies, municipalities usually take initiative in developing policies. However, intercultural policies can only be made with partnerships between municipalities, citizens, universities, artists, professionals and businesses.
- A meeting for European mayors was held in Copenhagen in June to discuss how to specifically engage citizens. Cities will often express that they welcome citizen participation, however, it is in question whether they are willing to listen and whether they are prepared to share power. Municipalities need to reflect whether they are ready to open the decision making processes, whether they are ready to listen when they consult the citizens and whether they are ready to adopt the way of consulting citizens, because mutual understanding may not exist in diverse populations. Sometimes it may be necessary to use non-verbal methods to express oneself.
- Citizen participation in intercultural cities goes beyond NGOs and civic groups, it is the participation of each individual citizens. Social media is a wonderful resource for engaging citizens. Copenhagen is a city that has advanced in



utilizing social media in engaging its citizens.

- Neighborhood committees are another means of engaging citizens. However, we cannot expect things to happen automatically. Many cities now employ professionals to work at neighborhood communities.

○ **(Higashiosaka City, Deputy Mayor Takahashi)**

- Higashiosaka is a city of manufacturing.
- Due to historical reasons, there have been many Korean residents living in the city since the past and we have reached the age where there are 3rd and 4th generation Koreans in the city now. There are approximately 12,000 foreign residents from Korea and approximately 3,000 from China. The diverse population of the city also includes foreign residents from Vietnam, The Philippines and Brazil etc.
- Signs at City Hall are printed in 4 languages, Japanese, English, Chinese and Korean. At the International Information Plaza inside City Hall, there are staff members who can correspond in these 4 languages. Last year, the number of consultation cases at the plaza was 1,145.
- The city dispatches language volunteers when interpretation is requested at school events etc. There are approximately 140 requests every year.
- An intercultural understanding course is held once a year. To promote mutual understanding, different cultures are introduced to the citizens. An international exchange festival is also held once a year.
- Japanese language classes are held at 6 locations in the city. Foreign residents who participated in the classes and have gained proficiency contribute back to the classes by becoming language volunteers at the classes.



○ **(Gwangmyeong City, Mayor Yang)**

- There are 7,838 foreign residents from 13 countries in Gwangmyeong City. This figure has doubled since 4 years ago. There are 969 people who are migrants who came to Korea through marriage, 655 people who have been naturalized through marriage and 493 people who attained Korean nationality through other means.
- The Multicultural Family Support Center opened in 2010 and has 4 staff members. It implements programs such as Korean language classes, consultation, information provision, and ability development etc.
- Opportunities for dialogue are provided to prevent those with a multicultural background from being alienated and prevent foreign residents from relying on each other. The city is building a network with various organizations and companies in the community. I hold consultation meetings with many individuals from the community and multicultural families in search for solutions for the challenges we are facing.
- For female migrants who came to Korea through marriage, there is a project which provides support for them to visit their home countries once a year. Up until now a total of 4 families, 2 Chinese families and 2 Filipino families, have received



this support.

- An actual condition survey that targets all the multicultural families in the city was conducted. This is the very first project of its kind that was independently implemented by a city in Korea. The results will be used as underlying data for multicultural projects in the future.
- There are two important points in support for multicultural families. The first is cultural adaptation, which includes education for children. The second is employment. A large scale employment fair is held in the city twice a year and employment support is being implemented through this fair.
- Gwangmyeong would like to create an intercultural society where the city and residents in the community cooperates to correspond to cultural and economical issues.

○ **(Guro-gu, Seoul City, Deputy Mayor Jo)**

- Guro-gu is an industrial city. There were 1,350 foreign residents in 2000, currently there are more than 40,000. The foreign population has grown by 30 times in a period of ten years. Foreign residents account for 10% of Guro-gu's total population.
- As a consequence of the increase in foreign population, there is also an increase in crimes committed by foreign residents. As a result, prejudice against foreign residents can be seen and foreign residents are treated as potential criminals. Korea is a mono-racial society, therefore, it is difficult for foreign residents to settle and become independent.
- I think in the past, assimilating foreign residents into Korean culture was the chief policy. However, nowadays, this has changed into a policy in which foreign residents maintain their distinctive cultural features while interacting with Korean culture. The Multicultural Family Support Center opened in 2010.
- A global village school opened last year for children from multicultural families who are not attending school. It is an alternative school and is being operated with full subsidy. There are currently 60 elementary students enrolled. The fundamental aim is to support children from multicultural families to adapt into the Korean society. Moreover, the school aims at making the most of these students' strengths to develop global talents. As a result, the school has included the curriculum of regular schools and holds classes where students can learn the culture and language of their parents' home countries. The school also provides custom made education for individual students or a group of students with the same nationality. Results up until now show that students are able to enter regular schools and the school has successfully developed social skills of these students.
- A foreign resident support team has been established at the ward office this year which specifically employs female foreign residents to facilitate smooth communication with foreign migrants.
- Guro-gu plans to establish an ordinance to create a society that can sustain diversity. There are plans to include regulations in regards to human rights of foreign residents.
- Guro-gu is also considering the establishment of multicultural cooperative unions.



In order to support the self-independence of female migrants, there are plans to set up a system in which female migrants sell agricultural products grown by female migrants in farmland areas at cooperative stores.

- In addition, there are also plans to start volunteer groups made up of female migrants. We would like them to take pride in actively translating and interpreting, as well as taking the lead in the community.

○ **(Copenhagen City, Mayor Allerslev)**

- Copenhagen has a great vision of becoming the most inclusive city in Europe by 2015.
- Like many other cities, Copenhagen has experienced rapid changes in its demographics. In the 1960s a large number of labor immigrants arrived and in the 1980s, the city received many refugees. The trend is still changing. Today, Copenhagen is a diverse city in which 22% of citizens are of a non-Danish background.



- Even though the city is facing many challenges, we also believe that these challenges are a great opportunity. Copenhagen has realized that in order to reach our goals, we need to engage the citizens, the organizations and the companies in the city's strategies and initiatives. In order to engage the citizens in contributing to the city, we need to ensure that all the citizens, including minorities, must have the proper tools in order to engage in the city. We must also ensure all the groups receive the same services.
- Perhaps minorities have difficulties in understanding Danish language and Danish culture. Therefore, it is important to ensure that there is dialogue between the city and the citizens, as well as dialogue amongst the citizens themselves.
- There is a project called "City mums", which is a support program in which women with ethnic minority backgrounds help one another. City mums are being educated to engage in dialogue and to empower other women. Women who are in this program are better at empowering other women than the city. The reason for that is because they speak the same language and women of ethnic minority backgrounds trust the city mums more than the city.
- There is also the "Copenhagen Host Program", which we learned from Canada. The program engages citizens in creating a welcoming city for foreigners. We would like to connect Copenhageners who have lived in the city for a long time with new Copenhageners through a mentor and mentee system.
- I believe that through the cooperation of citizens, companies and various organizations, we can reach out to all the minorities in society. Diversity gives us many possibilities. I understand that it is not easy, but we can, we must and we will do better together.

■ **Outline of Discussion**

○ **(Commentator - Institute for Human Diversity Japan, Mr. Tamura)**

- What kind of processes are involved when deciding the priority of policies and the content of initiatives? There is a foreign resident policy dialogue council in Higashiosaka City in which I am a member. When deciding on intercultural policies, representatives of residents and NPOs debate about which policy has a

higher priority and what initiatives should be implemented etc. There are some Japanese local governments who execute the same process when deciding on what initiatives should be implemented.



- I have attended various council meetings like this and in meetings that proceed smoothly, discussions of large visions and directions take place. In meetings that do not proceed smoothly, members of each ethnic group focus only on points that are beneficial to themselves.
- Copenhagen's vision of "Aiming to become a city like this by 2015" is an example of what I mean by large vision. In order to realize the vision, once players and stakeholders understand their roles and share responsibilities, I believe the vision will then be able to be carried out successfully. I would like the mayors to share some examples of successful and unsuccessful intercultural policy making processes in Korea and Copenhagen.
- Another point I would like to know is the relationships between departments responsible for intercultural policies and departments responsible for other social issues. In West Japan, the departments responsible for human rights are often responsible for intercultural policies as well. On the other hand, in the Tokai region and Tokyo, the departments responsible for international affairs or the mayor's office are often also responsible for intercultural policies. It is extremely important that the departments responsible for human rights are also responsible for intercultural policies. I believe that in Copenhagen, discussions of human rights and other diversity and intercultural issues take place at the same department. I am interested in the relationship between departments that are responsible for other social issues and departments that are responsible for intercultural issues in Korea.
- In Gwangmyeong City's presentation, there were examples of establishing social companies, and foreign residents starting up café businesses etc, which I found extremely interesting. It is important that local governments, NPOs and companies join in partnership, however, it is significant that migrants independently create their own employment opportunities or develop services according to their own needs etc.
- In Japan, the national government and local governments assign projects to NPOs, however, the costs are low and the contracts are usually only for a short period such as one year. Therefore, these projects are usually not very effective. What about Korea and Copenhagen? What are the contracts between NPOs and local governments like and are there any legal backups?
- During the presentation about Guro-gu, the elderly were mentioned. I think issues regarding elderly foreign residents will soon be a major issue in Japan. What are the facilities for the elderly like and what kind of intercultural care are there for the elderly in Europe? In Guro-gu, it was explained that services for the elderly have been initiated, however, I would like to hear about the implementation process, who makes the suggestions and who makes the decisions?

○ **(Higashiosaka City, Deputy Mayor Takahashi)**

- Historically, there have been many foreign residents from Korea in Higashiosaka, then, newcomers from China, Vietnam, The Philippines and Brazil etc started

settling in the city. I believe eventually, the issue of human rights will involve these newcomers as well.

○ (**Gwangmyeong City, Mayor Yang**)

- Women from multicultural families have been carrying out projects such as starting up social companies and cafes etc. Migrants from multicultural families hope to create the foundations for financial independence. In order to achieve this, the city would like to establish regulations and laws, and strengthen systems that will allow them to become an incorporated association.
- In regards to cooperation with departments responsible for other social issues, the employment creation division looks after employment issues of the multicultural population. In addition, the child care division and the department responsible for education cooperate with the Multicultural Center and the Multicultural department to address issues with children from multicultural families. The center plays a primary role in these situations and promotes policies while organically cooperates with other departments.

○ (**Guro-gu, Seoul City, Deputy Mayor Jo**)

- Regarding policies in local regions, each local region holds a meeting once every two weeks. In these meetings, proposals were made to create resting houses for the elderly and there are currently plans to realize these proposals. These houses will be available for use not only by elderly Koreans but also the foreign resident elderly population. If this project is successful, I believe there is a possibility it can be expanded.

○ (**Copenhagen City, Mayor Allerslev**)

- It is of great importance to recognize the process.
- There is a strategy to engage the whole of Copenhagen and every year an evaluation of the initiatives and strategies takes place to see whether all companies and organizations are still involved.
- Engaging with other departments is the most difficult point of the process. Even though it is important to have one department or section taking responsibility, it is also important to have all the other departments engaged as well.
- The city government acts as a facilitator, by bringing people together and making the organizations and companies stronger and making them take responsibility. The city also facilitates meetings between citizens, and this is a great experience for us.
- Copenhagen is currently working towards providing equal services. From an analysis, we saw that we are not providing the minorities with the same services as the majorities. Therefore, we are changing the way we provide services by translating materials, reaching out to minorities and provide mother tongue education etc. I believe it is important to work with the civil society, as well as within the city government as it will increase your credibility.

○ (**Meiji University, Professor Yamawaki**)

- It was mentioned that one of the principles of the inclusion policy is active citizenship. Please explain what this means.

○ (**Copenhagen City, Mayor Allerslev**)

- Every society and every country must decide the meaning of active citizenship for themselves because the meaning varies depending on the country or society. In Copenhagen, active citizenship is defined as when the citizens are taking actual

responsibility for themselves and also for society.

- We would like the citizens to assist the city government in developing services in the city by taking responsibility, as well as helping the city to become a more inclusive city.
 - Democracy is not equal for all citizens. We would like all citizens, especially the minorities, to take more responsibility and actively participate in decision making so a true democracy can be realized.
- (**Dublin City, Lord Mayor Ó Muiri**)
- What is the minimum that migrants have to do in order to be able to vote in a municipal election?
- (**Copenhagen City, Mayor Allerslev**)
- In order for migrants to attain the right to vote, I believe they will have had to live in the city for 3 or 5 years. I believe this is important if the city wants its citizens to take a big role in the democracy.
- (**Higashiosaka City, Deputy Mayor Takahashi**)
- In Japan, those who do not have Japanese nationality do not have a right to vote.
- (**Guro-gu, Seoul City, Deputy Mayor Jo**)
- My understanding is that similar to Japan, in Korea, it is necessary to be naturalized and attain Korean nationality in order to have voting rights.
- (**Commentator - Institute for Human Diversity Japan, Mr. Tamura**)
- There are some local governments in Japan which grant those with permanent residency the right to vote in referendums such as whether to merge with other cities etc.
- (**Copenhagen City, Mayor Allerslev**)
- Currently, the voting age is 18 years old in Denmark. There are many parties and organizations that want young people to vote, and there are discussions taking place to lower the voting age to 16 years old. I believe this will be a good idea as young people will become active citizens and will learn about democracy earlier than young people do today. It is of great importance especially for immigrant youths. Copenhagen has learned from London, that they have been implementing a “youth mayor” initiative which engages all the youth in the city. I would like to initiate that in Copenhagen.
- (**Sungkonghoe University, Professor Yang**)
- There are national elections and local elections in Korea, and discussions have been taking place regarding the voting rights of foreign residents in Korea. Korean nationality is necessary for national elections, however, for local elections, those who have permanent residency and have lived in Korea for more than a certain period of time have the right to vote. There are 40,000 – 50,000 people who have permanent residency in Korea, such as those who are of Chinese heritage or those who attained permanent residency after they married a Korean national etc. Recently, the system has changed so that foreign residents who married a Korean national will automatically gain permanent residency after a certain period. In local elections, those who are of Chinese heritage, those who are migrants through marriage, or those who do not wish to attain Korean nationality but would like to attain permanent residency etc. are allowed to vote. However, they are restricted from running for an election.

○ (**Moderator – Council of Europe, Ms. Guidikova**)

- The last question was the question that everyone was the most passionate about. Indeed, because there is a great contradiction between asking people to pay taxes as residents and not granting them the right to vote. This is also a big issue in Europe. For instance, the Italian Intercultural Cities Network is currently running a campaign to promote local voting rights. I believe cities should take political initiatives and lobby behind this, because the right to vote is the basis of citizenship. Voting rights cannot be replaced in democratic institutions participation.