PRESS RELEASE  January 12, 2012

The Japan Foundation and the Council of Europe are pleased to invite the press to:

International Symposium on Intercultural Cities in Asia and Europe: 'Communicate, Collaborate and Create: Our Communities for Tomorrow'

10:00-18:00 Wednesday January 18th 2012
Venue: Korean Embassy in Japan, Korean Cultural Center (200 seats)
5 minute walk from Yotsuya Sanchome Station, Marunouchi Subway Line
Yotsuya 4-4-10, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
Language: English, Japanese, and Korean

For Details! Check our website! → http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/intel/new/1201/incul.html

Across Asia and Europe, cities are changing the way they serve their citizens, and citizens are changing the way they live together in diverse communities.

This international symposium on intercultural cities brings together civic leaders and experts in urban policy from Japan, Korea and Europe to share experience and expertise, and to discuss the future of our intercultural urban societies.

Key questions will include:
▲ How can cities become more responsive to the needs of diverse populations?
▲ How can cities foster new cultures of civic engagement in an age of rapid change and plural identities?
▲ How can cities help their populations make and keep global connections, to the benefit of all?
▲ What can Asian and European cities learn from each other?

Participants will include:
✧ António Costa, Mayor of Lisbon City and former Vice-President of the European Parliament
✧ Hiroko Nakayama, Mayor of Shinjuku City
✧ Robert Palmer, Director of Culture, Council of Europe
✧ Taro Tamura, Representative Director, Institute of Human Diversity Japan
✧ Yoem, Tae Young, Mayor of Suwon City
✧ Phil Wood, Principal Advisor to the Council of Europe on Intercultural Cities Programme

The symposium’s working languages will be Japanese, Korean and English, with simultaneous translation provided. The symposium is open to all.

Prior registration should be made to Ms. Goto or Ms. Ono at the Japan Foundation (email to incul@jpf.go.jp or telephone 03-5369-6071).
◆ Short introductions of some of our distinguished guests….

**<EUROPE>**

● **António COSTA (Mayor of Lisbon City, Portugal)** / Costa was born in 1961 in Lisbon. He is the son of writer Orlando Costa, who traveled to Lisbon at age 18, and Portuguese journalist Maria Antonia Palla. Costa studied judicial and political science in his undergraduate years at the University of Lisbon and engaged in postgraduate work in European studies. During his university years, he participated in student union activities and was active in the Portuguese Socialist Party. He became a member of the Lisbon Municipal Body, after which he was elected to Parliament for the first time in 1991. Costa has served in many positions including secretary of state for Parliament affairs from 1995 to 1997, minister for Parliament affairs from 1997 to 1999, and minister of justice from 1999 to 2002. He became a member of the European Parliament in 2004. Costa was elected mayor of Lisbon City in 2007. He is one of Portugal's most prominent political figures.

**<KOREA>**

● **YOEM, Tae Young (Mayor of Suwon City)** / Graduated from Seoul National University with a major in agrichemical studies. His past positions include Commissioner of President Advisory Committee on Policy Planning, Co-Representative and Creator of Suwon Eco-Center, First Secretary General and Chair of Steering Committee, Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea, Commissioner of Gyeonggi-do City Planning Commission and Commissioner of Gyeonggi-do Construction Commission. From 2005 to 2006, he served as Secretary to the President for National Agenda in the previous government. He was elected to the 26th Mayor of Suwon City in July 2010 as the 5th Mayor elected by popular vote.

**<JAPAN>**

● **Yasutomo SUZUKI (Mayor of Hamamatsu City)** / Mayor Suzuki was born in Hamamatsu City in 1957. A graduate of the inaugural class of the Matsushita Institute of Government and Management, he was first elected to the House of Representatives in 2000. He was elected mayor of Hamamatsu City in 2007 as an independent candidate, and reelected in 2011. In accordance with the city's position to actively promote the realization of an intercultural society, the first Committee for Localities with a Concentrated Foreign Population was formed there in 2001.

● **Hiroko NAKAYAMA (Mayor of Shinjuku City)** / Born in 1945, Nakayama started her career as a Tokyo metropolis official after graduating from the Japan Women's University Department of Humanities in Tokyo. She has been involved in many aspects of local government including labor administration, consumer policy and a project to recover greenery and other environmental features along the landfill of Tokyo Bay. She resigned in 2002 and was elected mayor of Shinjuku City that year, and is now in her third term. As Shinjuku City has the largest proportion of foreign residents in Tokyo, Nakayama has exercised her leadership in urban development efforts emphasizing harmonious coexistence among people of diverse nationalities and cultures.

● **Tadayoshi MATSUBARA (Mayor of Ota City)** / Matsubara was born in 1943 and is a graduate of Waseda University in Tokyo. He served on the Ota City Assembly from 1983 to 1993, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly from 1997 to 2007. Since 2007 he has held the position of Ota City mayor and is now in his second term. The opening of an international terminal at Haneda Airport was the catalyst for the city's new goal of creating a community in which both Japanese and foreign residents can live comfortably, based on the phrases "regional vitality" and "international city."