

### Session 3: Intercultural Integration – From Concept to Policy

Many cities are advocating the concept of the Intercultural City. In realizing this concept, what types of policies are necessary, and the initiatives of each city were inspected, and issues were discussed.

Also, in moving to connect concept to policy, fulfilling the role of international cooperation between intercultural cities was discussed.



■ **Date** : October 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 (Friday) 16:30~17:50

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

■ **Moderator, Commentator, Presenters**

Moderator	Professor, Meiji University	Prof. Keizo YAMAWAKI
Commentator	ICC Program Manager, Council of Europe	Ms. Irena GUIDIKOVA
Panelists	Mayor of Hamamatsu City (Japan)	Mr. Yasutomo SUZUKI
	Deputy Mayor of Cheonan City (Korea)	Mr. LEE, Sung-ho
	Lord Mayor of Dublin City (Ireland)	Mr. Naoise Ó MUIRÍ

■ **Outline of Presentations**

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

- The word intercultural itself is still not very well known in Japan and Korea, it is fairly difficult to grasp as a concept, but I think there are many people who feel it a good concept or idea.
- I think it is still not understood how such a concept can be realized in policies, and how can it be implemented in practices.
- I hope we can have concrete discussions based on the initiatives of 3 cities during this session.



○ **(Hamamatsu City, Mayor Suzuki)**

- One of Hamamatsu's characteristics is that it is the birthplace of a number of international companies, and it is a top industrial cluster in Japan. With this vigorous economic activity as a background, another characteristic is our population with vast international experience and foreign residents of various diverse cultures.
- The current number of foreign residents stands at approximately 24,000, comprising approximately 3% of the total population of Hamamatsu. This is double the national average. Approximately 60% of these foreign residents come from Latin America, in particular Brazil. Hamamatsu has the largest number of Brazilian residents in all of Japan's municipalities. In terms of residence status, around 50% are permanent residents, 20% are long term residents, and about 10% are the spouses of Japanese residents. This makes up



approximately 80%.

- Many people came to Japan from Latin America after an amendment to the immigration law in 1990. Our city is an area flourishing with industry, and there were many opportunities for employment, so there was a huge influx of migrants from Latin America who hoped to find work. This was initially perceived as a temporary phenomenon with single dwellers coming to work for a short period of time, but some people came with their families, and some invited their families to Japan, which turned into long term settlement. This trend, which was increasing up until the Lehman shock of 2008, has since turned around and is now in decline. However, now we can see trends in progression of settlement and diversification of nationalities.
- With the progression of settlement, many challenges have come to light in local society, and as we could not wait for the national government to act, we have actively promoted intercultural initiatives as a local governing body.
- In Hamamatsu City, we recognize that the foreign residents living in the locality contribute to the local economy, and are important partners in building the community in Hamamatsu. Up until now, we have developed intercultural policies with the Intercultural Center and the Foreign Resident Study Support Center as a base.
- Our city has been a pioneer in actively promoting intercultural integration, but our initiatives up until now have been focused on policies developed to support the large numbers of foreign residents and respond to problems in the community etc. From now, as the settlement of foreign residents progresses, it is essential to utilize the power of cultural diversity brought about by foreign residents in developing the community.
- Now, we have evolved from the support based initiatives of the past to the viewpoint of proactively utilizing diversity, and we are currently working on drawing up a new city vision. As a main initiative, we aim to create a culture using diversity, increase opportunities for the cultural and artistic activities of foreign residents and use cultural exchange in creating new value and transmit this to the world. Further, we aim to best utilize diversity to vitalize our city, develop and nurture global human resources and develop business using diversity so that we can promote industrial development.
- Today's summit is the second part continuing from the Intercultural City International Symposium which was held in Tokyo in January by the Japan Foundation and the Council of Europe. I also took part in the symposium in January as a panelist and proposed the promotion of cooperation between intercultural cities in Europe and Asia. With the approval of all participants, the Tokyo Declaration was adopted. After the symposium, the 23 wards within the Tokyo Metropolitan Area began cooperation based on the leadership of Shinjuku City and Ota City, and I have heard that in Korea the first movements to establish an intercultural cities council, modeled on the Council of Municipalities with a Large Migrant Population in Japan, have begun.
- Through this summit, by furthering cooperation between intercultural cities in Asia and Europe, we will cross borders and share know-how and knowledge relating to intercultural integration; I anticipate that we will see the realization of better policies in each respective city, and we will see great progression in

intercultural integration.

○ **(Cheonan City, Deputy Mayor Lee)**

- Cheonan is a city with both urban and agricultural functionality. There are over 2,000 businesses and 11 universities. There were 6,864 foreign nationals in the city in 2006, but that figure rose to 19,028 by 2011, almost tripling. The number of foreign nationals increased rapidly over a short period of time.



- Regarding breakup of nationality, the majority of foreign nationals are Chinese of Korean descent, about 52% are Chinese and 11% Vietnamese. As for purpose of stay, 50% come for work and 13% come through marriage.
- We opened a multicultural family support center in 2009. Management of this center is entrusted with a university. In Korea, many of the initiatives of local governments are in effect in conjunction with those of national government so the policies look similar. Korean language education for foreign nationals, education for children and employment support etc. are conducted.
- As a unique initiative taken by the city, I would like to introduce the “Volunteer Share Group”. This is mainly for women who came to Korea through marriage. Within this group, multicultural families and Korean people share and exchange their abilities and talents. For example, foreign women who came to Korea through marriage provide nail art for elderly Koreans, help out with housework in homes where children have lost their parents, and provide these homes with someone to talk to. Alternatively, Korean people have been offering support to migrant women through teaching computer skills etc.
- There are also initiatives supporting married migrant women’s communication in the community such as traditional drumming and chorus group activities. We also have foreign residents give classes and talk about different countries of the world as intercultural instructors. There are various other support initiatives conducted by local communities like pickling kimchi, donations of everyday necessities and supporting the organizing of wedding ceremonies.
- Through these types of activities, the foreign resident’s role will change from that of receiving support to one of providing support. With this, residents will develop a sense of belonging with the local community and self esteem will increase. As foreign residents and the local community deepen their understanding of one another, efficient social cohesion becomes possible.

○ **(Dublin City, Lord Mayor Ó Muirí)**

- In Ireland, there was a real estate boom where prices increased rapidly, and at the same time, there was an enlargement of the EU. As a result, borders came down, and there was a lot of movement of migrant workers within the EU, and a lot of these workers came to Ireland.
- Ireland took a national census in 2006, which



provided clear stats on the demographic changes in Ireland. We could see clearly where concentration of migrants was happening. This also showed the dynamics of migrants within the city, and the challenges we were starting to have in terms of providing services. That started the discussion of how the city would respond, on a whole range of levels with representative groups, the city itself, and universities. Groups started to emerge that were discussing interculturalism. Major challenges were examined within these groups.

- We had some negative issues to deal with. I'm sure other places also had negative issues to deal with coming from tabloids and press but there was a growing fear in terms of the impact of immigration.
- We were determined to learn from international practice in relation to responding to these challenges. We joined the European Cities for Local Integrated Partnerships in 2006 (CLIP), and the Intercultural Cities Network in 2011. We were involved with various Universities and there is quite good diversity legislation in Ireland so we had a good foundation to build on.
- We developed a strategy for integration. 16 partners (groups) around the city came together and signed a statement of intent, outlining how they would implement a strategy for integration. This was crucial for the city in that it started the process moving towards a policy. A vision was put in place: Dublin City is a city of welcome, that creates trust, appreciation and protection for all its people, and all its communities, a city that consciously celebrates diversity. We also created the city charter.
- Traditionally Ireland was a homogenous country. It was difficult in implementing policies in practice at service levels. Even if some legislation was passed, putting it in practice was difficult. The influx of migrants happened very quickly, so one of the biggest issues the city had was keeping pace with the influx.
- I am very interested in understanding when migrants get votes. In the city of Dublin, a migrant gets a vote when he or she is a resident. I think this is a very powerful statement to migrants that "you have a voice" and "what you think matters in the municipality". We run a voters' campaign in 25 languages, promoting migrant voters' rights and encouraging them to register and to vote. However, there is not much evidence of migrants becoming candidates and being elected, but I think it will increase in the future.
- We have an inter-faith forum. We have vast experience in terms of dealing with inter-faith issues. There was conflict in Northern Ireland, and over time we developed a dialogue between Catholics and Protestants, which has been useful experience in dealing with migrants.
- Up until now, if someone was to apply for citizenship, the decision would be made in court. It was quite a negative process because you could be in court with a judge before or after a criminal and it was quite a negative process. So the new government moved it away from that. There are now group celebrations for the awarding of citizenship for migrants in Ireland. It is a big, very positive and happy ceremony. It does not take place in court, but in Dublin castle. It is a real sign to migrants that the country values their accession to citizenship.
- Sport is a great way of integrating people. Declan, the manager of the office for integration in Dublin city council spoke about boxing this morning.
- Diversity is an advantage. There are two things: you get better innovation if you

have more diverse groups involved in companies; that is why companies like Facebook and Google have set up their European headquarters in Ireland. There are practical advantages to having diverse workforces.

- How has our strategy evolved? The office for integration is in charge of developing our strategy. We have various projects in place and we continue to promote these. We have cultural festivals such as the Chinese new year festival and an experience Japan festival.
- We run a “One City, One People” campaign in the national media and advertising, to hammer home the message that everyone is welcome, that discrimination is not allowed and that there is a role for everyone.
- As a part of a new project, Dublin City University received a European grant to study the spread of violent extremism on the internet.

#### ■ Outline of Discussion

##### ○ (Moderator - Meiji University, Professor Yamawaki)

- In the case of Hamamatsu City, the creation of a new intercultural city vision stood out for me. Within that, the two pillars of creating culture through the use of diversity, and utilizing diversity in vitalization of the city. As a pillar for realizing this intercultural social integration, I was impressed by the city’s drive to set forth in creating policies like these.
- In the case of Korea, through all 3 sessions, conversations focused on the support of multicultural family centers. Basically, there is a national law relating to multicultural families and local governments are basing their activities on this law. I was impressed by the statement that “Foreign residents are shifting from the side of receiving support to the side of providing support”. I got the impression that new initiatives are being born in Korea in crossing the borders of providing support for foreign residents, and it is already taking hold.
- Dublin’s initiatives came up to speed in 2006 and I feel that is relatively recent in European terms. Within that, Dublin first drew up an integration strategy, and in creating a charter the city’s vision was established, and I understand that various initiatives began to move forward with that.

##### ○ (Commentator - Council of Europe, Ms. Guidikova)

- Regarding the creation of new culture, clearly one of the key features of the intercultural approach is the recognition that when we share the same urban space, when we are all equal members of the same community, we influence each other, so our cultures change. So if you want to be intercultural, you have to accept that both the mainstream culture and the migrant cultures will change and exchange, but you also have to believe that you will both gain in this interaction, so you give up some of your cultural purity, you accept to create a new culture together, but that new culture is again, as the deputy mayor of Rotterdam said, more than a sum of its parts, it’s a new quality that is fundamentally better.
- I think of 3 levels of implementing the intercultural approach. In Europe we have cities that are at all the 3 levels. You see here some of the most advanced cities but there are cities that are very much still at the first stage, and the first stage is



the level that I would call the level of projects, initiatives that are carried out by various organizations and stakeholders, or city departments, but they are sporadic, they are not coordinated, they are not lasting, and they don't have a lasting effect on society.

- Then we have a level of policy where some city departments develop policies from an intercultural perspective, that means, policies that foster interaction, co-creation, exchange, trust and inclusion. But not all policy departments do this at the same time, and there is no central coordination. Finally, the level of intercultural strategy, where there is a global vision as in Dublin, and as in some of the cities from Asia present here. Global vision that diversity is the defining factor of city identity, and that success in the long term requires a strategic effort.
- To reformulate the city policies, to realize the diversity advantage, this strategic level involves not only a review of policies and governance but also a change of language. To avoid designating groups as “they” and “us”, I think you realize that all of the Mayors from Europe were saying we Dubliners we Rotterdamers.
- We all are the same in our quality as citizens, and you also don't use language such as second generation, because that leaves people in the quality of still being migrants, so although they might be citizens and have a passport they are still somehow designated as not being quite true citizens. So that is a very important part of the strategy, to review the language that you use and the communication that you make to society.
- The strategic approach is very difficult, it is very demanding and this is why it requires a lot of commitment by the mayor and by all the different stakeholders, and this is why the intercultural cities programme actually offers a whole set of tools to help cities to achieve that strategic level. We have hundreds of good practice examples to support specific projects and initiatives, we have also analytical tools to help policy development from an intercultural point of view, so that helps you analyze the policy and see whether or not your policy in certain areas is intercultural.
- We have a step by step guide to building the intercultural city which gives ideas of how you can actually do a strategic approach to identify intercultural indicators, how to set up a support group that is large enough a big alliance of stakeholders, how to mobilize citizens and departments and how to measure progress.
- And finally there is an intercultural cities index that ranks cities, that evaluates the level of strategic achievement, and helps policy evaluation. Now, we have 50 cities in the index. We are doing a second wave analysis of the first cities that did it to see how far they have progressed two years ago.
- So that brings me to the questions, I think I have the same questions for all. What is the main challenge that you meet in relation to intercultural policy making? How do you evaluate policy outcomes? Because evaluation is one of our key challenges in Europe, it's very, very complex and we are struggling a lot. It is very costly, and we need very good partnerships with universities to be able to do that.

○ **(Hamamatsu City, Mayor Suzuki)**

- In Japan, local governments are the front runners in implementing various

initiatives, not the national government. A challenge for us is the consistency with national policies, how we should make sure that our policies are consistent with those of the national government. In Japan, there are many areas in which the systems of the national government are lagging behind. Many obstacles appear when local governments endeavor on the ground level. In order to overcome these challenges, Hamamatsu City proposed the idea of setting up a council of municipalities with a large migrant population in 2001, which based on local circumstances, proposes policies to the national government. Many areas have since been improved. However, now we must think how can Japan progress as a country in fundamental areas in the future, and can it be a country that will accept migrants. Are we ready for this as a country? I think Japan's current situation is still very unclear.

- As a country Japan is moving forward with FTA and EPA and if this continues, it will lead to an influx of migrants. Regardless of what we are doing at the moment, I think the current problem is the lack in production of a clear vision.

○ **(Cheonan City, Deputy Mayor Lee)**

- Although we have various projects in place, we do not have a sufficient budget. In our current situation, we still do not have enough money to support multicultural families.
- Although we are talking about cohesion, we still experience problems regarding perceptions of foreign residents and migrants who came to Korea through marriage. In particular, a serious issue surrounds multicultural families. There are various programmes for migrant women who came to Korea through marriage to adapt to Korea, but there have been cases where this has led to the collapse of families. This must be understood.
- As for evaluations and outcomes, we do not have tangible tools to measure these. However, as for migrant policies, "Let's make cohesion possible" is our goal, and if we can reduce social problems and friction with migrants then I believe we can say that this policy has been successful. It has only been 6 years since migrant related policies began to be developed in Korea. It will take a little more time to be able to evaluate this field.

○ **(Dublin City, Lord Mayor Ó Muirí)**

- Migrants tend to be concentrated in certain geographical areas, and where they are concentrated, the local politicians will take notice. However, a lot of politicians won't take notice if there is not a substantial group. This is a challenge to the political system.
- Funding can be an issue. Dublin City Council's funding, we are in a difficult financial position in the country, and funding is scarce, in terms of financial support for integration. National government has cut backs for example has recently cut back on language support services around the country in terms of teaching support services for migrants and in a way that is easy to do because they don't have a national vote. That's the second challenge.
- We have a recruitment embargo in the public service, so the local authority cannot hire migrants; they cannot hire anybody at the moment. There are two advantages to hiring migrants, number one is they get a job but number two is that it is a statement to the migrant communities saying that they are valued. This makes it easier to provide services for migrants, but it is a statement of support by the

local authority. However, because we have a recruitment embargo, that can't be done.

- How to evaluate policy. Policy evaluation is very difficult in this area. It is a really good question because there is no easy answer. Take the whole area of giving a vote to migrants; let's say the last local elections in Dublin city were in 2009, probably at the peak point in terms of migrant population. Migrants made up 23% of Dublin's population, but not one migrant got elected to Dublin city council, and that is quite complex and you have to evaluate that and say is that a failure of policy, how do you bring people to vote.
- A policy may look simple, but it is difficult to evaluate its success. A lot of the things that Declan would work on are specific initiatives like festivals. Do you evaluate a festival's success based on the number of people that go to it? Is that the right metric? Perhaps it is, perhaps it isn't. It is not an easy thing to do, and I think it is an area that we should really be looking to develop in terms of this forum and this group.

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

- About 4 years ago, we made an index and evaluated intercultural policies of Japanese local governments at my institute. With that, we angered some low scoring local governments. In making evaluations, we learned that is important to praise things that have been completed. However, a goal must be decided on with an index, and I think now is the time for us to make an international standard to find out whether the achievement level is sufficient or not compared to the goal.
- Professor Yamawaki mentioned how should we get the business sector involved. Irena mentioned that we should change the words used, but in Japan, the organizations involved in intercultural activities are NPO's (non-profit organizations). They don't seem to be profitable. As for changing words, we currently use some terms like social entrepreneur and I think we are gradually changing to a more business orientation.
- A few days ago, I went to an international conference on universal design in Fukuoka. Next to the main forum, there were many booths from various companies. I thought there would be automotive or TV manufacturers there, but in actual fact, it was mostly software. For example, sign boards that are easy to see for different people. Some included signs in various languages. There are small businesses and social businesses, but when businesses get more involved interculturally I think it is possible to make international network of intercultural businesses.

○ **(CLAIR, Chairperson Kimura)**

- In Japan we are latecomers in terms of immigration. We learn that it is not easy to make an intercultural society, through the European experience. However having said so, there are non Japanese workers already working in Japanese society I think there is already a consensus that intercultural policies must be implemented by even local governments.
- One major problem as mentioned by the mayor of Hamamatsu is that the central government's policy of social inclusion, the division of roles between the central and local government and the financial resources are not yet clear.
- Looking at the process of forming policies in Japan in the area of welfare for example, local governments are the first to initiate a policy and they influence



and move the central government. Just like the city of Hamamatsu, I think there are many local governments pioneering in this sector and I think this is a method for having policies put into practice.

- We must involve central government in these symposiums. I also think it is very important to have the local residents, companies and universities involved while local governments make policy proposals.
- So we at CLAIR want to continue to provide support in making policy proposals, and as the importance of these policies does not change even in local governments with small numbers of foreign residents, we want to send advisors to the areas that need them. The practice of intercultural policy is needed by the local government, and we hope to raise the total level in Japan and influence and move the central governments policy.
- The most internationalized sector in Japan is the sumo wrestling. This is a national sport and it is no longer viable without foreign wrestlers. So by having international participation, it helps vitalize and protect culture. So if you can enjoy learning about other cultures, I think it will become easier to influence national policy.

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

- In Korea, there are concrete policies such as the basic law for the treatment of foreigners in Korea and the multicultural family support policy, and there is also a model ordinance for each municipality, but is there respect for diversity in these ordinances or even in national policies, and is there any way of promoting interchange or any concept of a working dialogue among residents.

○ **(Sungkonghoe University, Professor Yang)**

- In Korea, a model ordinance was drawn up and there are currently around 80% of all local governments implementing this ordinance. I have heard that this kind of cultural diversity and statements of embrace were not included in previous drafts. As for providing services to foreign residents as local citizens, we do have policies relating to foreign residents. In Korea, multicultural support systems differ from place to place. Some municipalities in Korea are considering including inclusiveness.

○ **(Gwangsan-gu, Gwangju City, Mayor Min)**

- Protecting fundamental rights, and reducing discrimination. That is how diversity is protected. We must promote interaction and ensure it is happening. Regarding realization of policies, this depends on the choices of each local government. However, the problem here is that, when bringing concept to policy, will diversity in itself induce changes, would it be the source of creativity, and will it be realized naturally? I don't think so. Just like you have to have a moderator in this type of symposium, there must be a moderator in the intercultural process. Having such mechanisms implemented by the municipal government, and how proactive they can be is the key from now on.

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

- The Mayor of Hamamatsu mentioned building cooperation between cities both at home and abroad at the end of his presentation. I would like to discuss that.

○ **(Dublin City, Lord Mayor Ó Muirí)**

- We will be holding a conference on interculturalism in Dublin in February. Ireland will hold the presidency of the EU for the first 6 months of next year. Diversity

advantage is going to be a big part of the agenda. We will be using it as an opportunity to take stock of what cities have achieved, what works and what doesn't. We will discuss what challenges remain and how they can be addressed with other networks and organizations.

- European cities will be taking part in this conference but I also hope as many of you as possible will come and take part. Other international cities will be there, with projects from the USA, from Latin America and Asia, to share their experience and learning.
- How do we measure an index. Is there an index that we could agree on amongst ourselves? In terms of measuring interculturalism, it would be very important. There is an index produced by the British Council, but we don't agree with that index. I think everyone has their own views on indices.

○ **(Commentator - Council of Europe, Ms. Guidikova)**

- The intercultural city network is growing. It will be enlarging certainly after the Dublin conference. We have several cities that are on the way to joining the network. Although, we are really trying to reach out to countries where we don't have members yet. So that is our priority. Our other priority is to create national networks, as that is the way to reach out to as many cities as possible.

○ **(Sungkonghoe University, Professor Yang)**

- The Tokyo summit was held January, and now we are here at the second summit in Hamamatsu. After the January summit, Ansan City, who participated in the Tokyo summit, took the initiative in setting up a nationwide intercultural city council, which will begin on November 7<sup>th</sup>. 23 Korean cities will participate. So far, the central government has led the way with multicultural initiatives, but now, the next step is for local governments their own action. It is bottom up rather than top led.

○ **(Shinjuku City, Mayor Nakayama)**

- There are different circumstances in each of the 23 cities in Tokyo, but it is very important to share with each other, so we have a meeting between the 23 city mayors of Tokyo. Beginning with the supervisor level, and then the mayoral level, Mayor Matsubara from Ota City and I are talking about the sharing of information at the Tokyo mayors' meeting.

○ **(Ota City, Mayor Matsubara)**

- Circumstances differ with every city. I think some sort of index is very important. Approaches in Korea and Japan are opposite to each other. For instance, in Japan we start with the local government and then move to the national government. I think it is important to expand the connections among local governments. The chairperson of the 23 mayors' meeting in Tokyo is very interested so I hope to further promote cooperation, together with Mayor Nakayama.

○ **(Hamamatsu City, Mayor Suzuki)**

- The conference of the Council of Municipalities with a Large Migrant Population will take place in November in Tokyo, and this year marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year since the council was established. Up until now, cities with large numbers of newcomers from Latin America gathered, and challenges with supporting children and other social challenges were discussed; we have acted as the voice for the community in bringing about changes in the policies of national government. However, in line with today's theme, I think it is now time to use the diversity of our foreign residents in vitalizing our cities. We are entering a new stage. It will no longer

just involve the problems of cities with a large number of newcomers from Latin America, but I think it is necessary to cooperate and exchange information with other cities like Ota, Shinjuku and Higashi-Osaka.

○ **(Japan Foundation, President Ando)**

- The Japan Foundation celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> year this year, and international cultural exchange has undergone some major changes over the last 40 years. In the past, the purpose was to unilaterally introduce the culture of Japan to the rest of the world, but recently there has been a two way contribution, and exchange is transitioning towards the direction of making something together.
- Listening to today's discussion, I think interculturalism is moving in the same direction. That is to say, rather than unilaterally supporting foreign residents, we should be creating new value through actively using their diversity. We need to open up our future. In hearing today's comments, I firmly believe that the direction the Japan Foundation is moving in the same direction as the intercultural society.
- We had comments from Professor Yamawaki about national and international networks. We heard that these networks must be expanded, and the Tokyo Mayors said that we must strengthen these networks domestically etc. On behalf of the Japan Foundation, I would like to express our intent to offer our utmost power in helping to develop international networks.

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

- I think the positive comments received from President Ando make for a fitting close this meeting. With that, session 3 is now closed.

## Hamamatsu Declaration

The “Hamamatsu Declaration” was presented by Yasutomo Suzuki, Mayor of the host city Hamamatsu, as a summary of the summit, and was adopted with the approval of participants.



Yasutomo Suzuki, Mayor of Hamamatsu, presenting the  
“Hamamatsu Declaration”

### <Hamamatsu Declaration>

26 October 2012

We gathered here today in the city of Hamamatsu to address our common challenges in managing intercultural cities and to explore ways in which we can build upon diversity to foster dynamism, innovation, and creativity.

Having acknowledged the importance of embracing and promulgating the concept of interculturalism, we hereby declare

That we will work in partnership with multiple stakeholders, including governments, nonprofits, enterprises and universities, each with their unique strength, and that we promote dialogue and active participation among all residents in our cities, in order to promote a cohesive and pluralistic community..

That we regard the cultural diversity as a source of city’s dynamism, we will bring together people of different cultural backgrounds to foster innovation and creativity, and that we will explore a new urban vision in the age of globalization based on the realization of the diversity advantage.

That we share the concept of intercultural city with the residents, establish and implement concrete policies, and review the outcomes for more effective practices.

To that end, we will promote global partnership among intercultural cities to learn from each other’s knowledge and experience to develop more effective policies.

## Closing Remark

**Irena GUIDIKOVA**  
**Head of Division and Manager of Intercultural Cities Programme**  
**Council of Europe**

Ladies and gentlemen, Mayors, dignitaries, I really feel I am part of a historic moment. I feel that the intercultural city concept is gaining critical mass here in Japan, in Korea and also worldwide. I feel a part of a very strong coalition of visionary leaders, who are ready not to repeat the mistakes of the past, and want to embrace a modern, contemporary concept of diversity, the diversity advantage.



All these leaders are determined to work with each other, to support each other, to criticize each other, not to be always kind and gentle, and also to lobby together national authorities for the recognition of the value of diversity at the national level. What I bring home is this wonderful phrase in Japanese *tabunkakyousei*; when it is translated as intercultural symbiosis, it really exemplifies the core of the intercultural approach, that cultures live from each other, support each other and nourish each other, and we have to help them do that. Diversity policies today are as important for local authorities as managing garbage and managing electricity supply; they are vital, vital for the survival of our cities and our societies. It is no longer a luxury, it is a matter and it is a must; you as leaders are responsible for making this happen. Thank you very much.