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1. Towada City Working Group Meeting

Towada City Working Group for Safe Community Meeting was held at Public Health Center on 10th Sep. 2008

This working group was established as expert group in Towada Safe Community Promoting Council, which consist of s eight parts; child safety, elderly safety, suicide prevention, traffic safety, violence, disaster prevention, sports and leisure safety, workplace safety.

To make effective programs for safety they have been studying and discussing at each group. In this meeting, each group reported about their idea and effective plan, and then they discuss and share information of injury prevention. In the result of this meeting, all member got their common goal and build up a closer cooperation among groups.

They are just making action plan based on the result of this meeting, in order to make their activities expand more. Towada City is going ahead steadily toward Safe Community.

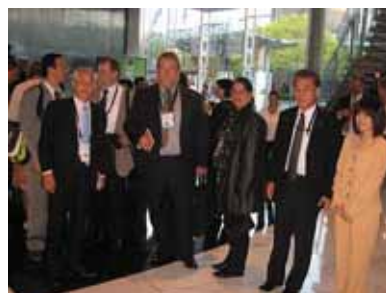


2 Atsugi City; Impression of first experience on Safe Community International Conference

Ms. Kiyoko Umehara (Atsugi City) who participated in 19th Safe Community International Conference sent her impression of the first experience to me. I would like to show it you.

I have had the valuable experience of participating in 19th Safe Community International Conference which was held in New Zealand on 20th – 23rd Aug 2008. First of all, I was surprised at a large scale conference which 505 delegates from 28 countries participated in. And I could understand the tragic background of starting Safe Community activities. Moreover I felt their passion aiming for the common goal. The word “We wish everybody to live happily” really impressed me.

This message reminds me of my first participation in international conference in Bergen. The passion I got from the conference lead me to the first Japanese Safe Community. I wish this impression will help activities for Safe Community in Atsugi City.



3. Kyoto society for study of Safe Community; 3rd Meeting

Kyoto Society for study of Safe Community 3rd meeting was held at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto City on 27th October 2008. This tames are “suicide prevention”. Ms Himeno (Kyoto Public Mental Health Center) gave presentation about the state of suicide and the program for suicide prevention in Kyoto Prefecture.

In Japan, Suicide Prevent Basic Law was enforced in 2006, and each prefecture organized a conference for suicide prevention. With this, the system and scheme were built up and started to cooperate with several organization for suicide prevention.

Suicide has been thought a personal problem in Japan. This law is changing suicide to a public

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problem. It is a big turning point of us to prevent suicide. However In this meeting, Ms Himeno pointed out there are some problems on conducting activities.

How we work on residents to expand activities for suicide prevention in community? When we would conduct the program, I wonder we take a closer into private problem? Who does it? Anyway, we don't understand the actual condition of suicide.

So, to gather information concerned suicide, Kameoka city has conducted a questionnaire survey about mental health on residents. And they are just analyzing the data of the surveillance in cooperation with university and Kyoto public mental health center. We have to make use good of the result of the analysis.

In other hand, we already knew that suicide correlate closely with depression. Therefore, it is important to take rid of cause of depression. To do that, we have to cooperate with person working at various fields. Our challenge has just stared!

Introduction:Japanese Program for Safety Promtoin

+++Safety Kids Programs (Kameoka City Kyoto) +++

By the Development and Promotion Bureau of Nantan district, Safety Kids program has been conducted. This program has been developed to raise awareness of safety and provide children with training of accident prevention & disaster prevention, establish safety culture.

In this program, school children at grade 5 are designated as Nantan Safety Kids after lectures and training about fire prevention, disaster prevention and first aid. Moreover, they attend at trainings of disaster prevention held by the self disaster prevention associations, and become to take a role of disaster prevention activities in their communities.

The process of this program is following.

At first, work-shop is held by only adult in community. They discuss about problem to develop the community that is natural disaster-proof. At second workshop, the solution to the problem is discussed, and then the solution and problem are organized systematically. (Phot-1)

At third workshop, this is the first participate of children in community, residents present children the result of two times workshop, and share their experience about disaster in their life. It is very important and valuable experience for kids to know a threat of disaster. Three times work shop put this program on a firm basis. (Phot-3)



Phot-4 Training Course

After these workshops, training course is held in cooperation with fire station. Kids can understand the need and importance of this training soon, because they already have got knowledge about the problem of disaster prevention. They enjoy and learn training course as a seen in photograph. (phot-3,4)

We hope kids will talk this experience to their family after program. If they do that, their knowledge will be shared with their family.

When you would like to get further information about this program, contact me!



Phot-1 Work Shop for Adult



Phot-2 Work Shop for both



Phot-3 Training Course