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Safe Community Network News

By Japanese Society of Safety Promotion

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Japanese Society of Safety Promotion
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1. Atsugi City Safe Community Citizens' Rally

Atsugi City held Safe Community Citizens' Rally on 13th November 2008. The rally titled "Developing citizens' health and safety with the collaboration" was held for strengthening the collaboration between citizen and the related organization.

The rally was started by the keynote-speech of Mr. Kuninori INOUCHI who is a chairperson of Shino-Cho Self-Government Association in Kameoka City. His speech was titled "Safe community developed by residents", he showed the back ground they started safety promotion and their original activities as pilot area in Kameoka City.

In Japan, many activities for safety have been conducted at community level since long time ago. Government also has been conducting many projects for safety. To develop Safe community, we don't need to start new special things, but we need to reconstruct these activities based on concept of Safe Community and six criteria. In other words, we can do that by changing the way to do and the point of view. Moreover it is indispensable to collaborate with a government and a university, company so on. It is not difficult for us to do that. I think Mr. Inouchi told citizen of Astugi such massage.

After keynote-speech, Symposium titled "Let's develop Safe City by Safe Community" was held. Six representatives of related organizations appeared on the stage as a panelist. Their activities were presented, and then they discussed about the collaboration for developing health and safety.

Their activities are commonly thought very good and high level. However Safe community will be not developed by only good activities. Further collaboration with lots of people and organization will make their activities more effective. Moreover it will steady grow the power of community.

At the end of the rally, Mr.Sakai (Atusgi City Crime Prevention Association) read out "Secure and Safe City Declaration" to raise awareness of Safe Community. I hope Safe community in Atsugi city will make rapid progress.



2 Towada City; Sharing their experience at Safe Community International Conference

Mr. Masashi Nakanowatari (Towada City) participated in Safe Community international Conference for first time and had presentation about activities for Safe Community in Towada City. Towada City has conducted activities for safety promotion since three years ago. To sharing their experience with other community in the world, Towada City sent him to the conference in this time

He came in touch with atmosphere of international conference, and learned a lot of thing to develop Safe Community Towada

Towada City has submitted application to become a member of international safe community on 8th Jan, 2009. We are sure that Towada will be 2nd Safe Community in Japan.



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3. Kyoto society for study of Safe Community: 4rd Meeting

Kyoto Society for study of Safe Community 4th meeting was held at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto City on 1st December 2008. The theme of this meeting was “Safe Community and Local Government” presented by Mr. Naoya Hatta (Kyoto Prefecture Government; actually it's me). A circumstance after designation in Kameoka City, and an effect on local government through Safe Community activities were showed with some data and examples.

The evaluation based on injury data is under doing, but we can find big change of circumstance in which Kameoka City is. At the same time Kameoka designated, Mass media paid attention to the first safe community in Japan. The attention has been spread rapidly all over Japan. Lots of local government, especially municipal assembly have been coming Kameoka to study safe community. By attention from all over Japan, Pride and a sense of responsibility as safe community are growing in resident. And their movement is getting more active.

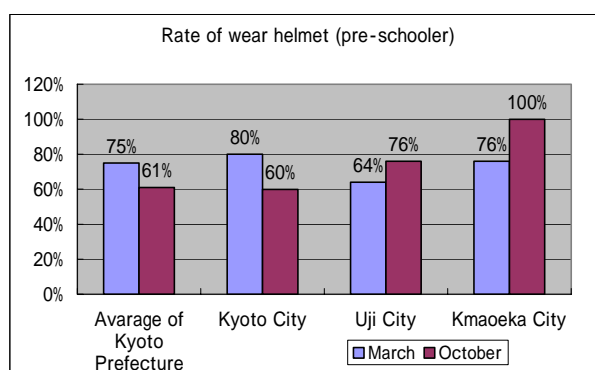
Universities also pay attention to Kameoka as a field they study developing Safe community. Now, Kameoka is carrying out six projects in collaboration with five universities.

Moreover Kyoto Prefecture Government is investing money in Kameoka to develop “Safe Kyoto”. Many important projects for Safe Kyoto have been started in collaboration with residents in Kameoka as pilot area. In other word, taxes they paid return to them efficiency, it is big benefit to residents.

We can find a change of residents' awareness too. Other communities in Kameoka have started activities for safety promotion. Work shop for finding problem in their community and making action plan for safety promotion is held actively by resident. Moreover a unique activity for bicycle helmet was took place by resident.

In this way, activities for safety is not only activities of resident own accord, but pilot project by related organization is carried out in Kameoka. Awareness of residents is rising rapidly because of a great deal of attention.

In this reports, Hatta mentioned that Safe Community is in a condition which every projects will be carried out effective with the resident and related organization. Therefore, when government carries out some projects for safety in there, they can get effective promoting and big result by the collaboration with residents. In other word, Safe Community is really effective policy for local government which tries to develop safe city.



Rate of wearing helmet after the enactment of safe bicycle ordinance

Introduction:Japanese Program for Safety Promtoin

+++Safe Walking Zone (National Government, Kyoto Prefecture, Kameoka City) +++

National Police Agency and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport have been working on safety promotion by setting up “safe walking zone” where roads are more human oriented than car oriented.

Based on the movement at national level, Kyoto Prefecture decided to set up “Safe Walking Zone”. An area around Kameoka Station is set up as one of pilot zones. Police offices, Civil engineering division of Kyoto Prefecture, and Kameoka City are working to make the area a human-friendly area in collaboration.

In the “Safe Walking Zone”, traffic safety has been promoted by improvement of hardware such

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as intersections, side walks, setting-up of traffic lights and so on in collaboration with departments of road management at National, Prefectural and municipality levels and departments of traffic managements at Prefecture, Police and municipality.

In this project, there are 3 main programs.

- Car road management;
- Zone management
- Side walk management

Before developing a strategy for this project, characteristics of the area in terms of geography and traffic accidents are examined. On top of that, in order to identify which factors make resident worry, surveillance was conducted to residents in the area. The result of the surveillance was reflected to an accident map which shows where and what people need to be aware of.

After that, Nantan Civil engineering division of Kyoto Prefecture held a work shop involved residents to make a plan for improving roads around Kameoka station. Lots of resident participated in this work shop, and discussed about safe road for pedestrians.

Out line of their plan was following

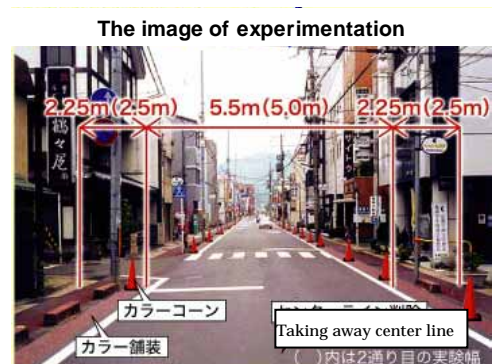
1. A center line will be took away
2. Two lanes will make it be one lane.
7 meters wide → 5.5 meters wide
3. After getting a space, Side walk will be set up.

Before they put the plan into practice, they experimented on real roads in order to make sure that car slow down by taking away the center line. The result of this experimentation was so good. The volume of traffic did not change, but car slow down about 5km/hour. And many people answered that they felt safer in a questionnaire survey because of wide side walk

Nantan Civil engineering division designed the improvement of this road based on the result of experimentation and the questionnaire survey. And then the improvement of road has been started to in 2007. The improvement will be finished in June, 2009



Map shows spots where residents feel unsafe



Before improvement



After improvement