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Safe Community Network News

By Japanese Society of Safety Promotion

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1. The 19th International Conference on Safe Community in Suwon, Korea

The 19th International Conference on Safe Community was held at Suwon, Korea on 24th to 26th March 2010. About 450 people from 42 countries and districts participated in the conference. The conference, which started from Pre Conference Seminar on 23th, was quite crowded with many participants.

The number of Japanese participants was 32 peoples, who are experts, researcher and government employee from two Safe Communities (Kameoka, Towada) and five communities under preparation (Atsugi, Yokohama Sakae, Minowa, Komoro, Toshima). Participants from community under preparation presented positively their activities through oral and poster presentations.



Photograph with Prof. Leif Svanstrom

In addition to Safe Community, practitioners from Japanese elementary schools which is Safe School and under preparation participated in the conference. They discussed eagerly with experts from other countries.

Because a lot of Japanese participated in the conference, Prof Leif Svanstrom gave them a chance to explain the current state of their movement to him. Every participants from Japanese community came together in a meeting room, they discussed about the movement on their community with Prof. Leif Svanstrom.

Prof. Leif Svanstrom was pleased to have many Japanese participants at the 19th International Conference and showed the expectation that their continuous effort on safety promotion with understanding that Japanese people don't jump on new things, but once they decide, they pursue their efforts. (Yoko SHIRAISHI Ph.D (Policy Science), Mature Life Institute)

2. Astugi made application for becoming a member of International Safe Community

Atsugi City has made application to Prof Joon Pil Cho (Chair Certifying Center for Safe Community Ajou University School of Medicine, Suwon, Korea) for becoming a member of International Safe Community on 23rd March 2010.

As the application was accepted, Atsugi is scheduled to be made an official site visit by coordinators from Certifying Center on this June. Atsugi is aiming to have the designation ceremony on the 4th Japanese Society of Safety Promotion Annual Conference which will be held on November 2010.

In the case of Atsugi, City Government has been taking the lead in expanding the movement since starting programs. At the first, they started activities for crime prevention in collaboration with police and residents. And then, involving the lots of residents and volunteers, the movement has been expanding to child safety, elderly safety, and suicide prevention so on. It is still getting bigger and more active. Beside Atsugi municipal Shimizu elementary school has started Safe School Program.



チョ・ジュンピル教授に申請

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Going well, Atsugi will be 3rd Safe Community in Japan and the 1st Safe Community in Kanto region. We hope that community safety promotion movement will be expanding more in Japan, taking a chance of Astugi designation.

3. Komoro Nagano have started Community Safety Promotion Program

Komoro is a historic city with an old castle and surrounded by rich nature. It is located on the highland along a south foot of majestic Mt. Asama in eastern Nagano prefecture with the Chikuma River, an A class river, running through the city. (The location of the City Hall is at altitude 679m above sea level.)

The city was municipalized as Komoro City in 1954 by merging one town and five villages. As explained by a motto; “Making Komoro a community with a harmony of peoples’ smile and the nature”, the administration and residents have been working in collaboration to make Komoro a vital community where each one of people can enjoy the feeling of happiness.

To do that, Komoro enacted “Komoro safe and secure ordinance” on 2006. Komoro has been conducting various activities for developing safe and secure Komoro since the enactment of the ordinance.

In such situation, Mayor of Komoro decided to adopt a concept of Safe Community, in order to expand movement in collaboration with citizens all over city and to improve their activities better with power of citizen. And then Mayor has declared to start community safety promotion Program.

The movement in Japan is expanding steadily. By Komoro starting, the number of community conducting safety promotion program became seven.

4. Kameoka Safe Community Seminar as the 55th anniversary of the city’s incorporation

Kameoka Safe Community Seminar as the 55th anniversary of the city’s incorporation was held on 31st Jan 2010 at Kameoka City Hall.

This seminar was in order to prevent suicide which is the biggest reason of death caused by injury and to raise awareness of mental health, and to promote activities for injury prevention including suicide. About 120 people participated in the seminar.

On the seminar, Ms Mie Matsuda; clinical psychologist, Prof Naoki Watanabe; Kansai University of International Studies, gave lecture about suicide prevention, and Mr. Tdayoshi; President of Chitose Self Government Association showed activities by residents for promote Safe Community.



Ms Matsuda reported a result of a mental health questionnaire survey that Kameoka City Government and she did to make a program for suicide prevention in Kawahigashi area.

It made clear a lifestyle, awareness of suicide, a current state of mental health in Kameoka. According her report, a half of people in the area don’t have knowledge of a depression. Especially, elderly tends to be clearer.

These result was compared with the data of Tago Town Aomori which is in the group of the highest rate of suicide, it will be use helpful for making effective program for suicide prevention.

Prof. Naoki Watanabe gave lecture titled “For developing safe and secure community”, which was about suicide prevention on community level, showing the result of surveillance in Rokunohe Town and Sannohe Town Aomori. He said it is very necessary to have the place everyone can talk a heartache as many as possible. Moreover, to prevent suicide, it is important to build the collaborative relation among government, experts and residents, and communication among residents.