



From the "Takatori Relief Base" to the "Takatori Community Center"

Located in an area where 10% of the residents are of foreign nationality, the Takatori Community Center is the successor to the "Takatori Kyuen Kichi" (Takatori Relief Base), which acted as a hub for the Takatori Catholic Church's volunteer efforts after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995. As time went on, the Center evolved from a facility providing emergency relief to local residents, to one that houses numerous organizations with the shared aim of building a community where multicultural coexistence is an everyday reality. In the year 2000, the Center was reestablished as a legal entity and came to be known by its current name.

The Center consists of a network of 9 different organizations working together to build a new type of community, where people with different languages, cultures, races, and nationalities, etc., can live together as equals.

Each organization has its own specialized field in which it performs a variety of independent activities, in order to provide such things as multilingual information, educational services, IT related assistance, support activities to promote the self sufficiency of elderly and disabled individuals, and activities to support foreign residents and their communities (in the form of self-empowerment organizations). At the same time, there have been numerous occasions where these various organizations have been brought together, so as to allow them to share and consolidate their knowledge and personnel toward the goal of completing a common project.

Even as each of these individual NPO/NGOs pursue and develop their own independent activities, the Takatori Community Center continues to operate as a single, cohesive network that is highly adaptable to the demands of today. All of this is made possible by the wealth of talent offered by each individual organization, as well as the efforts of the countless individual members involved.



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Multilanguage Center FACIL (Multicultural Pro³) 078-736-3040
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World Kids Community (Multicultural Pro³) 078-736-3012
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AMARC Japan Working Group (Multicultural Pro³) 078-737-3205
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(Specified Nonprofit Corporation) Leaf Green 078-731-8577
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Asian Women's Empowerment Project 078-734-3633
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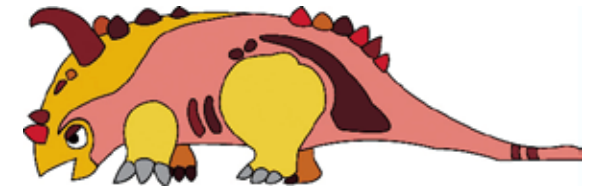
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Takatori Community Center

Creating a Community Based on
Multicultural Coexistence



Introduction to the Activities of the Groups which Make Up Takatori Community Center

Multicultural Pro³ (Pro Cube) Group

The Multicultural Pro Cube Group is an organization that strives to “Produce” an environment in which residents can come together to build a multicultural society, while at the same time further enhancing its “Professionalism” as a group, with the ultimate aim of transforming society in a “Progressive” manner. This Group consists of the following 4 organizations:

Community Radio Station FMYY (Multicultural Pro³)

Ever since the Earthquake, FMYY has continued to provide foreign residents in the community with essential multilingual disaster-related information, in addition to multilingual information that meets their everyday needs. To this day, FMYY broadcasts its message of “multicultural coexistence and humane community building” in a total of 10 different languages. In addition to the airwaves, FMYY also broadcasts over the Internet and archives its programming so that it can be listened to at any time. Moreover, FMYY also acts as a community salon where members of the community can gather and share “live” information and cultivate knowledge in a real world setting.

(Specified Nonprofit Corporation)

Multilanguage Center FACIL (Multicultural Pro³)

FACIL provides translation services for information that is deemed essential to the needs of the local foreign community, interpreters who are needed in everyday situations, and in general, works toward the realization of a multilingual community setting. At the same time, it also provides services that meet the multilingual/multicultural needs of both foreign and non-foreign residents, government offices, medical institutions, and local businesses. Although FACIL initially offered its specialized expertise as a “volunteer” service, it has since evolved into a community business that provides such services in 28 different languages.

World Kids Community (Multicultural Pro³)

As more and more children with foreign backgrounds establish long term residence in Japan, it is imperative that further efforts are made to improve the everyday conditions that they are faced with. Toward this end, World Kids Community provides activities to help these young people develop self-confidence, as well as activities for their parents to establish their sense of awareness as active members of the community, with the ultimate goal of helping the foreign resident community achieve self sufficiency. As part of its efforts, it offers “Re:C”, which is an activity that provides children of multicultural backgrounds with a means to express themselves creatively.

AMARC Japan Working Group (Multicultural Pro³)

Bringing together over 5,000 community radio stations that broadcast in 117 countries and territories across the world, the international NGO

“World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters” (abbreviated in French as AMARC) uses international cooperation as a means to promote activities that further the development of community radio as well as all forms of civilian-driven radio broadcasting. Owned and operated by the local community, the AMARC Japan Working Group (the Japanese branch office of AMARC) acts as a non-profit radio station that allows members of the community to come together to work toward eliminating such problems as poverty and discrimination, while at the same time providing minorities with a means of exercising their freedom of expression.

(Specified Nonprofit Corporation) Leaf Green

With the goal of realizing a society where senior citizens and individuals with disabilities are able to continue living in the communities they call home (through means, such as mutual assistance), Leaf Green provides home nursing, transportation, and childcare assistance to individuals who are eligible for assistance under the Nursing-care Insurance System/Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities System, as well as those who do not qualify for assistance. Furthermore, during the day, Leaf Green offers basic nursing-care services, in addition to the “Yui” public salon, which acts as a meeting place for senior citizens. Through these activities, Leaf Green strives to build a vibrant community where all residents can enjoy peace of mind, despite their differing needs.

NGO Vietnam in KOBE

NGO Vietnam in KOBE organizes a variety of activities, carried out by the Vietnamese members of the community themselves, with the aim of building a more hospitable community and a society based on coexistence. It provides a wide variety of services for Vietnamese residents, such as consultations for everyday issues in Vietnamese, health consultations for senior citizens, and mother tongue language classes for children, in addition to hosting traditional events. Furthermore, it also offers Vietnamese cooking classes, workshops to foster a better understanding of Vietnamese culture, as well as other activities to actively promote interaction between Vietnamese and Japanese people.

Asian Women’s Empowerment Project

The Asian Women’s Empowerment Project (AWEP) was established in 1994 with the goal of providing support to Filipina and Thai women who formerly worked in Japan but have since returned to their respective home countries. Activities include introducing fair trade products made by both

independent groups of Asian women and small-scale manufacturers to Japan, in addition to providing consultation for foreign women living in the Kobe area (a service it began providing after the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake). By transforming the existing structures of society that perpetuate inequality based on nationality, gender, and one’s place of origin, and by harnessing the talents of each of its individual members, AWEP hopes to realize a society where people can live in active cooperation with one another.

Hyogontech

Information Communication Technology (ICT) plays an integral role in the daily operations of NPOs and in civic activities in general. The Hyogo NPO Information and Communication Technology Empowerment Network (also known as Hyogontech) aims to build human networks of individuals and organizations, while providing solutions for many ICT related issues, so as to enable NPOs to fully utilize ICT to their best advantage.

Northern Noda Hometown Network

The Northern Noda Hometown Network is a network made up of organizations, groups, and individuals which share a common love for the Northern Noda region. By making use of its extensive experience in post-disaster community building, it actively helps in solving everyday issues that face the local community. Furthermore, it acts to share and disseminate lessons learned from past activities within and without the community.

★ Northern Noda/Takatori Earthquake Disaster Resource Center ★

Open year-round from 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM (please note that Center may be closed due to irregular, unannounced holidays)

Phone number: 078-735-9388

If you are planning on visiting as part of a large group, please contact the Center beforehand to make a reservation. In case you require a guided tour or detailed explanation, a local tour guide can be provided. For more information, please call the above-mentioned number.



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