

Outline: The 21st Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women

1. Date November 13, 2010 (Sat.)–November 14, 2010 (Sun.)
2. Venue 2nd floor auditorium, Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center *MOVE* (500 person capacity)
3. Organizer: Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW)
4. Theme

“Raising Children around the World: The Structure of Children, Parents, and Society”

Currently, Japan is taking a variety of measures to provide child-rearing assistance amid a declining birthrate. The City of Kitakyushu is also striving to “create a community that is the top supporter of child rearing in Japan.”

The term “child rearing” does not refer simply to a task performed only by mothers or women. Nor is it only a family issue. Moreover, each family with children has its own set of circumstances and composition.

However, the healthy growth of children is wanted by all. Given this, what kind of systems, society, and environments would be more advantageous to child rearing?

The 21st Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women will look at “raising children around the world” and compare child-rearing circumstances in Japan and various countries, such as the United States, Korea, and Denmark, in an effort to search for what we can do to help to raise our children in future generations.

5. Program

Saturday, November 13th (Japanese-English simultaneous translation provided)

13:00–13:15

Opening Ceremony

Opening Address Ms. Kuniko Yoshizaki (President, KFAW)

Congratulatory Address Mr. Kenji Kitahashi (Mayor, City of Kitakyushu)

Congratulatory Address Mr. Kengo Sasaki (Chairperson, Kitakyushu City Assembly)

13:20–15:00

Panel Discussion

Coordinator: Mr. Norihisa Tsuneyoshi (Associate Professor, Dept. of Human Relations, Faculty of Humanities, University of Kitakyushu)

Mr. Tsuneyoshi has served on various advisory bodies, including as Chairman of the Kitakyushu Promotional Program for Lifelong Learning Committee and as a member of the Kitakyushu Work-Life Balance Awards Selection Committee. He studied overseas in Denmark,

a country leading the way in measures against the declining birthrate. In addition to serving as Coordinator, he will also introduce child-rearing assistance measures in Denmark and comparisons between actions taken in Japan and Denmark. As Coordinator, he will summarize circumstances in child rearing around the world, and draw conclusions about a future ideal that includes family, government, and local communities.

Panelist 1: Ms. Yu Hayami (singer)

Ms. Hayami is active in the Japanese entertainment industry, but from age 3 to 14 lived in Guam and Hawaii, and gave birth to her children in the United States. In her book, *Enjoy Raising Children the American Way*, she talks about her husband's participation in raising their children and balancing child rearing and work. She also received assistance in America from a doula (a person who provides information and emotional support to women during pregnancy and childbirth). She will speak frankly about her own experiences raising her children.

Panelist 2: Ms. Kyung Sook Kim (Former President, Chungcheongnam-do Women's Policy Development Institute (CWPD))

Ms. Kim will present an overview of child-rearing measures and an analysis of the current situation in Korea, and will suggest how child rearing should be in the future from the perspective of a gender specialist. She will also address child-rearing assistance measures such as preventive actions against child abuse and support for single-mother households in Korea.

Panelist 3: Ms. Karin Zaugg Black (Communication Director, Office of Economic Development, City of Seattle)

Ms. Black serves as the foreign correspondent for the KFAW's publication, *Asian Breeze*. She will talk about child-rearing measures in the United States and work-life balance from the point of view of a working American woman.

Sunday, November 14th (Japanese-English simultaneous translation scheduled)

13:00–16:00

Reports on KFAW Research Activities

Ms. Masako Ota (Senior Researcher, KFAW)

Mr. Katsuhiko Ishikawa (Researcher, KFAW)

Ms. Yumi Shikata (Visiting Researcher, KFAW; Associate Professor, Miyazaki Municipal University)

Ms. Yuriko Saito (Visiting Researcher, KFAW; Associate Professor, Meiji Gakuin University)