



Invitation

June 29, 2012

Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit 2012 in Hamamatsu Cooperative project of the Council of Europe, the Japan Foundation and Hamamatsu City

Dear Vice Mayor,

The Council of Europe, together with the Japan Foundation, a Japanese public organization dedicated to international cultural exchanges, and City of Hamamatsu in Japan are very pleased to invite you to participate in a study tour and a symposium in Japan on the topic of Intercultural Cities.

Since the early 90s, a concept of *Tabunka-Kyosei* or intercultural community building has attracted the attention of policy makers and experts in the Japanese cities that found themselves confronted with a sudden and large influx of migrants. Further to their experiences they have since implemented a number of policy practices in this field. The purpose of this site visit and the symposium which will be held from 25-26 October 2012, together with a few city government representatives from Korea, is to explore the potential of leveraging cultural diversity for better community building by comparing their intercultural policies, good practices and challenges.

We have organized first symposium of this kind this January in Tokyo, with mayors from Japan, Korea and Europe. We have seen how the exchange and networking beyond the continent could be inspiring to all the participants, and thus decided to organize more enriched version of the event with the invitation of City of Hamamatsu.

We firmly believe that your city's commitment and an impressive track record of intercultural integration would be of great interest to cities in East Asia.

The visit will involve a one-day study tour (October 25th) and a one-day symposium (October 26th) in Hamamatsu. We would like to invite you to participate in this study tour and make a presentation of your city's activities on social integration during the symposium.

Mayors of Shinjuku City (Tokyo, Japan), Ota City (Tokyo, Japan), Hamamatsu City (Shizuoka, Japan), Higashi Osaka City (Osaka, Japan), Ansan City (Korea) are to attend the symposium at the moment.

The Japan Foundation will cover the airfare and the cost of your stay in Japan.

I sincerely hope to have the honour of your contribution to this project.
Yours faithfully,

Robert Palmer
Director of Democratic Governance, Culture and
Diversity
The Council of Europe

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Managing Director
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by the European Union
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