

[Column 3 : In what way can we build up helping hands for an aged society?]

-Initiative of leader education for regional activities that emphasize “hands-on policies”, “multi-faceted thoughts”, and “follow-up” (Initiatives of the Sawayaka Welfare Foundation)—

○The shortfall in human resources of leaders raising regional activities is becoming an issue in every area.

○Here, the initiatives of the “Sawayaka Instructor’s Training Course” (Sawayaka Welfare Foundation [Public Interest Incorporated Foundation]), which support the launching of local citizen groups, are introduced.

·Experienced persons who have launched regional contact volunteer groups or NPOs have taken part in training out of their own accord with the desire to make use of their experiences to support the launching of new groups.

·The objective is to raise leaders knowledgeable in flexible methodologies that don’t adhere to “one’s own way”.

Training characteristics are “hands-on policies”, “multi-faceted thoughts”, and “follow-up”.

·Instructors who have taken the course support the activities of groups in other areas, and furthermore bring up the next instructors as training leaders. Through training first-line experiences are passed on to the learner, and the circle of mutual support expands.

·As of 2009, 174 people have received Sawayaka instructor commissioning from foundations and are engaged in activities.

[Column 4: The initiative of regional currency aspiring for the vitalization of “cooperation”]

○Regional Currency possesses the characteristics of being (1) issued by regional neighborhood community and shopping district associations, etc., or citizen groups, (2) limited by utilization areas, and (3) used when services or goods are exchanged within the concerned region.

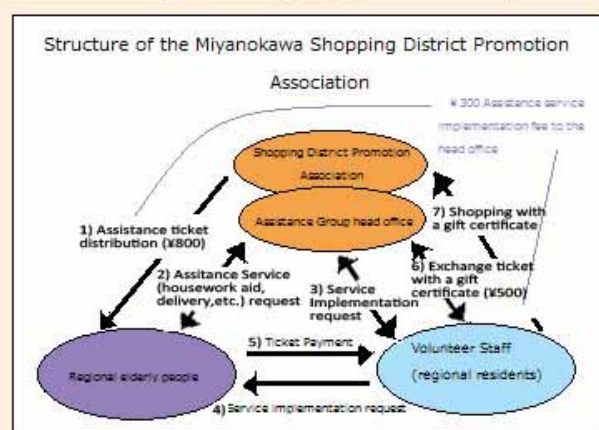
○Regional currency that aims for “regional mutual support” applies the abilities of individuals that aren’t harnessed in money-based “markets”, and functions as an intermediary that directly and indirectly connects “people we want to help” with “people who can help”.

○Here, the initiatives of the Miyanokawa Shopping District Promotion Association (Chichibu, Saitama) are introduced.

·In the Miyanokawa Shopping District Promotion Association, the “Volunteer Bank Assistance Group” initiative has been implemented from 2007 while cooperating with Saitama prefecture and the city of Chichibu.

·Here, the livelihood support of elderly people in need of the assistance of energetic elderly people is carried out, and is part of a structure in which it is accepted as regional gift certificates that can be redeemed at regional business establishments. This initiative is becoming a multi-functional mechanism that secures the peaceful daily living of elderly people in need of assistance, and contributes towards care prevention of energetic elderly persons and regional economic vitalization.

·At present, there are 111 members of the assistance group that carries out aid, and shops that accept the regional gift certificates have spread beyond the Miyanokawa shopping district, and is now accepted by 453 shops in the entire Chichibu city.



[Column 5 : "Spaces" anyone can easily stop by are increasing]

- There are spontaneous exchanges between people, and it is possible to lead a spirited life. Initiatives are in the process of expanding in each area and aim to create places where anyone can easily stop by, chat, drink tea, and spend time.
- There are types that are easy to stop by in, and others that focus on eating and tea drinking. Targeted persons such as the elderly and multiple generations of people and the frequency of event holding are indeed various.
- There are numerous managers in resident groups, specified nonprofit organizations and social welfare councils, but there are also places where temples or social welfare corporations are primary. Here, 3 different types of initiatives are introduced.
 - The local café "Furatto ('Wandering') Station Dream (Totsuka Ward, Yokohama, Kanagawa) which is connected to the New Town estate residents, is a daily open café space type.
 - The "Chat-Over-Tea (Sawa)yaka Hall" (Nagareyama, Chiba) located on the corner of a shopping district is a public space type that applies the city's unutilized equipment. From 10am to 4pm on weekdays, it is made a healing place where one can drink tea or coffee, and elderly people, disabled people, and mothers and their children can assemble there freely. (picture)
 - In "Yashiro Happiness Salon", which is a type of space run in cooperation with the local residents/government and welfare establishments, a salon is held twice every month (first and third Thursdays). The program was decided on the basis of the views of its users, and at present health checks and health-building exercises, and food/social events are carried out.



[Column 6: Initiative for security and safety confirmation] (Introduction to Hino, Tokyo and (independent) Urban Renaissance Agency)

- In Hino, in order to grasp the purpose relating to supporting the current living conditions and protection of elderly people, the "Contact Visit Survey" was implemented in 2004 in which social workers visited elderly residences in the city from door to door. Elderly persons who seemed likely to be targeted for aid were organized into 12 patterns, and the support content was organized into 5 patterns.
- Based on these survey results, the "Elderly Watch Support Network Project", which offers 5 patterns of protection, was incrementally started from 2005.
- "Contact Watch Promotion Volunteers" are engaged in talking to and watching elderly persons. There are two methods of watching that promotion volunteers use:
 - ① Promotion volunteers greet elderly people at their doorsteps at an interval of once a month.
 - ② Nonchalant watching of the elderly such as checking if newspapers have piled up in the mailbox are implemented once a week.
- In addition to watching by promotion volunteers, watching during combustible garbage collection is also carried out. Communication is sent to the regional comprehensive support center if combustible garbage has not put out in front of a household for about 3 consecutive times.

* In the implementation of these surveys and projects, a discussion was held in a city information disclosure/privacy management council meeting from the viewpoint of personal information protection. In addition to this, signatures of agreement concerning the sharing of information with welfare participants in regards to content in the surveys were received, and attention was paid to confirming the desire to participate in the watch support network.