

Holding of the Symposium on the “Support of Children Who Lost Their Families in Traffic Accidents”

The Ninth Traffic Safety Basic Plan (adopted on March 31, 2011 by the Central Traffic Safety Measures Council) lists the “promotion of the support of victims” as one of the pillars of traffic safety measures in order to promote the support of victims of traffic accidents and their families and bereaved families (hereinafter, victims of traffic accidents).

Under the circumstances, the Cabinet Office promotes the “projects to support victims of traffic accidents” (hereinafter, “support projects”) since 2003 which is designed to enable victims of traffic accidents to recover from deep sorrows and painful experiences, to reestablish themselves and to protect the rights and benefits of the victims of traffic accidents.

In support projects, information has been provided to the victims of traffic accidents from a variety of perspectives. From 2012, the focus has been shifted to children who lost their families in traffic accidents in order to summarize opinions on necessary supports and challenges and to provide information not only to children who lost their families in traffic accidents, but also to benefactors around them and people engaged in support activities. For this reason, activities designed to collect information have been developed by holding lectures by various experts on the respective themes.

So far, these meetings for gathering the said information were restricted to interested parties. Following the indication by a member of the support projects committee, however, that “these valuable lectures should be targeted at and addressed to more people,” several symposiums were made available to general public in the support projects of 2013 in which lectures by experts on mental support for children who lost their families in traffic accidents, experiences of bereaved families as well as efforts of the Cabinet Office were presented.

～平成25年度内閣府交通事故被害者サポート事業～

「交通事故で家族を亡くした子どもの支援」 に関するシンポジウム

～「交通事故で家族を亡くした子どもの支援」のために、必要な支援や課題等の意見を集約し、子どものみならず、その周囲にいる保護者や支援に携わる方等に対して情報を発信します。～

日時：平成26年1月11日(土)
13:00～16:30

会場：女性就業支援センター 4階ホール
(東京都港区芝5-35-3)

主催：内閣府
協力：独立行政法人自動車事故対策機構/
公益財団法人交通遺児育英会
事務局：日本PMIコンサルティング株式会社

Keynote talk by the professor Kazumi Fujimori of the Musashino University



[Overview of the keynote talks of the professor Fujimori]

- The event that provided the opportunity to get involved in “Children and deaths”
- The influence of an experience of bereavement on children
- Children’s growth steps and the understanding of the “deaths”
- Children’s growth steps and expression of feelings
- The role of emergency support team
- The difficulty of addressing words
- In search of recovering children

Talks of Ikumi Inoue, secretary for the national council of bereaved families and related parties in search of severe punishment of criminals who caused fatalities by drunk driving and hint and run events and a bereaved family (a lady)



[Overview of the talk of Ikumi Inoue, secretary for the national council of bereaved families and related parties in search of severe punishment of criminals who caused fatalities by drunk driving and hint and run events]

- Outline of the accident and the situation at the time
- To talk about the accident to the bereaved sister
- The importance of interacting with children having the same experience
- Addressing words by people around

[Overview of the talk of the bereaved family (a lady)]

- Outline of the accident and the situation at the time
- Appearance of the bereaved sister (elder)
- To convey the importance of life

Panel discussion “To lose a family member in a traffic accident in childhood”

Coordinator: Professor Kazumi Fujimori

Panelists: 5 people (3 persons who lost their family in a traffic accident in childhood, Ms. Ikumi Inoue, secretary for the national council of bereaved families and related parties in search of severe punishment of criminals who caused fatalities by drunk driving and hit and run events and 1 bereaved person (a lady))



The 3 persons (who lost their family in a traffic accident in childhood) as panelists talked about their experience of having lost their families, about their pains as well as about when they felt relieved when they were feeling down and sad.

- That they found themselves unable to attend school by talks of people around
- Lack of understanding by people around
- Presence of families and friends despite their painful experiences
- Lack of understanding by people around of the pain of losing the family
- Support required for a child to recover from the deepest sorrow
- Importance of interaction with persons in the same circumstances and of connection
- Announcement of the accident of the father and his death
- Gratifying words from a friend
- Event in which I felt my father should be present
- Feeling of gratitude towards the parents

Following these talks, Ms. Ikumi Inoue, secretary for the national council of bereaved families and related parties in search of severe punishment of criminals who caused fatalities by drunk driving and hit and run events and the bereaved person (a lady) said that “adult persons should be sensitive to what they say because words with good intentions may hurt the feeling of a bereaved person.” On the other hand, the professor Ms. Kazumi Fujimori said that “there are a number of cases in which we get involved in crimes and in many of them children have nothing to do. Adult persons should learn from the talks delivered today.”

[Information on the topic is available on the website of the government]

The “Projects to support victims of traffic accidents” is available on:
<http://www8.cao.go.jp/koutu/sien/index.html>