

Workshop to Promote Internationalization of the Kashiwanoha Campus Area

The “Workshop to Promote Internationalization of the Kashiwanoha Campus Area” was held on November 16, 2016. We heard from foreigners who live and work in the area about issues they have faced, and several organizations from the area explained their current and future plans to promote internationalization in the area.

The workshop began with a short speech from Professor Oshima, the Director of the International Liaison Office at the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, the University of Tokyo. Due to technical difficulties, the discussion that was planned for the second half of the event was held first. There was a break where attendees conversed over light refreshments, followed by presentations from the Urban Design Center Kashiwanoha (UDCK), The Kashiwa City Office, and Mitsui Fudosan regarding their plans and efforts to internationalize the Kashiwanoha area. The event ended with a closing speech from the Assistant Director of UDCK, Mr. Mimaki. More details can be found below.

Date/Time:	Thursday, November 16, 2016	18:00 – 20:00
Location:	KOIL/6 th Floor of the Shop and Office Building	
Sponsored by:	The Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo	
Co-sponsors:	UDCK, Mitsui Fudosan, Kashiwa-no-ha Campus Town Initiative Committee: Subcommittee for Internationalization, The University of Tokyo Kashiwa International Office	
Supported by:	Kashiwa City Office	

Part 1: Local Efforts to Internationalize the Kashiwanoha Area

1) Efforts of the “International Campus Town Initiative”

Director Endo from UDCK gave an explanation of UDCK and the International Campus Town Initiative. UDCK works with Kashiwa City, Mitsui Fudosan, and the University of Tokyo as a committee called the Kashiwa-no-ha Campus Town Initiative Committee: Subcommittee for Internationalization. This committee has recently conducted surveys and meetings with international residents to determine issues and needs that international residents face. Director Endo presented the current and future efforts that UDCK plans to take to promote an international environment.

2) Kashiwanoha Smart City

Ms. Nishibayashi from the Kashiwanoha Urban Planning and Development Department of Mitsui Fudosan gave an explanation of Mitsui Fudosan's involvement in the Kashiwanoha Campus Area throughout history as well as their future plans for the area. She explained about Kashiwanoha Smart City Gate Square, which is based on the idea of collaboration between the Public, Private, and Academic Sectors, as well as introduced the Aqua Terrace, set to open on November 22, 2016.

3) Support Offered for International Residents from Kashiwa City

Mr. Fujita, Director of the Cooperative Promotion Division of the Kashiwa City Office explained the kinds of services that are offered to international residents of Kashiwa City. The services offered include: 1) A Kashiwa City Guidebook and packet of helpful information offered in multiple languages, 2) A multilingual consultation service, 3) A multilingual e-mail newsletter and disaster notification system, 4) Support staff for students returning from abroad and international students. For more information, please contact the Cooperative Promotion Division of the Kashiwa City Office.

Part 2: Open Discussion: Hear from International Students

After introducing themselves, 5 researchers and students from the University of Tokyo held a discussion about what they thought of the Kashiwanoha Campus area, including what they found convenient or inconvenient as well as what they would like to see more of. After introducing and briefly explaining each topic, the moderator asked the speakers to share their experiences and ideas. At the end of the discussion the moderator asked the audience for questions or comments. A list of topics discussed can be found below.

Topics Discussed

- 1) Schools
- 2) Public Transportation
- 3) Procedures related to the City Office
- 4) Cellular Phones, Banks
- 5) Places of Worship
- 6) Hospitals, Pharmacies

1) Schools

A researcher visiting from Canada who brought his two teenagers with him expressed his family's need for short-term schooling options that are nearby and affordable.

2) Public Transportation

Speakers agreed that while trains have ample information available in English either through maps, websites, cell phone applications, or on-board announcements, buses in the area lack English information. The scarcity of English on buses makes them intimidating to use. It would be helpful if there was a bus map and timetable available on board buses or at least at bus stops.

3) Procedures related to the City Office

Every foreigner who moves to Japan must visit the city office to complete certain procedures. Speakers agreed that while the workers they encountered at the city office are helpful, the forms that must be filled out and the information related to these forms is only available in Japanese. Residents who do not understand Japanese must rely on someone else to translate these very important and sometimes private matters. Resident would like to see more English on the forms at the city office so that they have the option of completing these important procedures on their own.

4) Cellular Phones, Banks

Most cellular phone providers in Japan do not offer contracts for international residents without a visa that is valid for two years or longer. A researcher visiting from India shared his experience of not being able to find any stores who would sell him a mobile phone even though he had a valid one year visa. In the end he purchased a SIM card to use in his phone that he brought from India, which allows him to use the mobile network but does not offer the ability to make or receive phone calls. All of the speakers agreed that they would like to see a system that makes it easier for international residents to acquire cellular phones.

5) Places of Worship

A Catholic student from the Philippines explained his experience with the scarcity of places of worship in the area. There are a few Catholic churches nearby, but the schedule is not consistent. In order to attend the same church every week, the student travel to central Tokyo.

6) Hospitals, Pharmacies

A researcher from Belgium shared his experience with multiple hospitals and clinics. His main issue was knowing which hospital to visit for a certain medical issue. When he broke his fingers he went to the nearest clinic in search of a referral, but since he was unable to communicate with the clinic staff, he was turned away. While most people in the community are friendly and willing to help, staff at clinics and hospitals show some hesitance when helping international residents. The researcher suggested that making it easier to look up which hospital or clinic to visit for certain issues would be helpful.

Event Photos:

