

## Column: “Crime Victims’ Week” Project

In order to help the crime victims recover from the damage caused by the crime and restore their peaceful life again, not only should the national and local governments implement measures to that effect, but it is also essential to make each and every person in the community aware of it and work cooperatively on the basis of that. Consequently, as the Basic Plan, the Cabinet Office set up the Crime Victims’ Week (from November 25 to December 1) in collaboration with the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. In this week enlightenment programs are conducted.

### 1 Contest for selecting a Slogan

In addition to the introduction and explanation of the measures with the help of posters and pamphlets to foster the understanding of citizens concerning crime victims, it is also important to appeal to the public in a simple and intelligible language. For this reason a slogan needed to be identified that expresses the value of supporting crime victims by the nation last year. The result of publicity, especially emphasized for junior high school students and high school students, was 3815 slogans in 2008.

Of them “Everybody’s efforts provide us with the courage to surmount all odds” created by Arie OYAMA, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student at Maruko Shugakukan high school in Nagano Prefecture, was selected as the most excellent and subsequently used on posters with the ministry in charge recognizing her at a central “Public Meeting”.

4 other slogans were also selected and put on website of the Cabinet Office, Policies on Crime Victims.

### 2 “Public Meeting”

A Central Public Meeting was held on December 1, hosted by the Cabinet

Office, to foster the citizens’ understanding of the importance of consideration of crime victims’ dignity and their peaceful life, and the situation in which they are in. Also, the Cabinet Office and the local governments co-hosted regional meetings in 4 prefectures: Hamamatsu City (November 22), Hokkaido (November 25), Shiga (November 27), and Fukuoka (November 29). With support of the relevant ministries, victim organizations and support groups, and the participation of experts, the keynote lectures and panel discussions on the theme of crime victims were held.

Original events such as a concert and a report on victim support activities were also held at the meetings. An exhibition corner was put up in each hall to introduce the efforts of crime victim organizations and the concerned institutions.

At the central meeting Mr. Hiroshi MOTOMURA, a organizer of the National Association of Crime Victims and Surviving Families (Asu-no-kai) gave a keynote address entitled “a further jump in and development of support for crime victims” and explained his own experiences and the change in legal systems in simple words. He also appealed to the value of the participation of everyone in the nation.



Recognition of most excellent work  
(central meeting)



Display corner (central meeting)



Keynote address (central meeting)

According to a questionnaire visitors were asked to answer more than 90 % of them considered the entire meeting to be "meaningful". With regard to measures for crime victims a variety of opinions were amassed stating that the legal system was being better arranged but the promotion of understanding by citizens was a matter still to be faced, which emphasized the need for the approach of further publicity and enlightenment.

The results of the meetings were posted on the page of Policies on Crime Victims of the Cabinet Office and a report distributed to the organizations concerned.

In 2009 another central meeting of "Public Meeting" will be held in Tokyo under the auspice of the Cabinet Office along with regional meetings in 4 prefectures: Hokkaido, Kanagawa, Nara and Okinawa under the auspice of the Cabinet Office and local governments.



Hamamatsu Meeting



Hokkaido Meeting



Shiga Meeting



Fukuoka Meeting

### 3 Other efforts

During Crime Victims' Week and the period both before and after various activities such as an original symposium, different campaign activities, and the special establishment of crime victim counseling etc took place in the prefectures and by the organizations concerned. The Cabinet Office also made posters and distributed them. Various efforts for publicity and enlightenment will be continued to be made after 2009.

