

INVITATION TO A NETWORKING SEMINAR ON KITAQ SYSTEM COMPOSTING IN ASIA

Date: June 30, 2011 (1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)
Place: No.1 Meeting Room, Ano-o Community Center

Eco-friendly Recycling Activity of Ano-o Community Center

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Drawing upon the lessons learned by the tragic Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake in 1995, the city government of Kitakyushu has increased its number of community halls (social education facilities) from one per junior high school district to one per primary school district, and has renamed them “community centers,” redefining their role as a base camp for voluntary activities of the community residents.

A community center is involved in a wide range of activities such as the following:

1) Community actions	5) Youth development
2) Continuing education	6) Child-raising support
3) Welfare	7) Health care and fitness
4) Eco-friendly recycling	8) Disaster/crime prevention

The Ano-o Community Center is currently particularly active in eco-friendly recycling activity. The following nine categories of resource materials are recovered all year round.

(1) Used paper: cardboard, newspapers, magazines, wrapping paper (the City subsidizes the cooperating citizen groups) (2) Cans: steel cans, aluminum cans (except for those collected by the City) (3) Ink cartridges (4) Caps from plastic bottles (for welfare) (5) Aluminum pull-top can tabs (for welfare)	Implemented as voluntary action of the residents; Collection and recycling done by contracted professionals
(6) Small metal items: Pot, frying pan, etc. (7) Milk carton (8) Styrofoam tray (9) Used tempura oil from households	The City collects and recycles

In addition, a recycling bazaar for second-hand books, daily utensils and clothes is run during summer holidays and at cultural festivals. The proceeds are donated collectively to the Japanese Red Cross Society once a year.

At the initiative of local residents, the members of the Environment Working Group and others organized the first compost workshop last January, with a follow-up class a week later. The second workshop will be held on the above date as an activity of fiscal 2011.

Through this activity, we hope to minimize kitchen waste, produce good quality compost and improve the soil of the vegetable garden that is worked on as a community effort.

Environmental problems are an urgent issue. We at the Center are focused on promoting activities that all residents of the community, children and adults alike, can participate in without much difficulty.



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