

Children's Rainbow Center Newsletter

Rainbow Times

Introduction of FY2011 Training Schedule (continued)

Advanced Joint Training for Local Child Abuse and Neglect Management

We give out-of-center trainings for local child abuse and neglect management. This training is subjected to child guidance center and local authority staffs in the area. The program is organized to obtain knowledge on how to cooperate in regional conferences and how to support the family from the community. It include not only lectures but also group discussion, joint case discussion by local agency and child guidance center, and exercises for making a clear and simple report. This year, we are planning to open at Oita in December and Hyogo in March. Unfortunately, we are cancelling the training in Aomori scheduled in July in consequence of the earthquake northeast Japan.

Theme Specific Training

Every year, we select two themes to give a more in-depth training. The theme in this year is "Understanding the law and the system (May 17th-18th)" and "Neglect (Mar 14th-16th)". A sufficient legal knowledge is required to every child abuse and neglect related workers. The training is programed to gain the required legal knowledge from various points of view, and to get the idea of the full flow of the system. The urgency of neglect is often found smaller than physical abuse in spite of the huge effect on the child's development and the serious fatal risk. Through this training, including lectures, group discussion and case discussion on basic effect on children and support for the family, trainees will deepen their understanding.

* We sent out our FY2011 schedule booklet to each agency. Also available on homepage (PDF).

(Minamiyama)



Highest DV rate ever ~ 33,852 cases in 2010

The National Police Agency announced that domestic violence by spouse rose up to 33,852 last year. This is 5,694 cases more than 2009, the highest since the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims was enforced. As it has been for three years, the offender and the victim both were common among 30s, and they tend to be married. 97.6% of the victims are female, though the rate of male victim is slowly increasing.

Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims was enforced in 2001 Oct., and was revised in 2007. This revision made it possible to include the victim's background situation into protection relief procedure.

CRC gave a training program on "DV and Child Abuse and Neglect" on Mar 9th-11th. The relationship between DV and child abuse were discussed and the issue on cooperation between agencies were brought up. In the current system, depending on which agency you first called, you will receive a completely different service. Each agency should understand every agency's situation and role, and must discuss the best service for the family together.

(Minamiyama)

The National Police Agency:

http://www.npa.go.jp/safety/life/seianki/h22_stdv.pdf



National survey regarding the Hague Convention

Japan not entering the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, seems to be irritating the member nations. The Convention mandates return of any child who was a "habitual resident" in a contracting nation immediately before an action that constitutes a breach of custody or access rights.

The US, France, and Canada claim that Japanese ex-wives are kidnapping their own children to Japan. They issued an official statement to Japan requesting to enter the convention in 2009. 81 Country has signed up to this convention so far.

Last year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has conducted a national survey as part of the consideration for the entry to the convention. The questionnaire included the background situation of the experience and any opinion regarding the convention.

The result was open to public this year. In Japan, mothers are usually favored to receive children's custody. Some says "it just doesn't fit in our culture", some says "it's out of line not to enter".

Without entering to the convention, if a foreign mother took their children oversea, the Japanese father cannot do anything. If we entered, mothers who came back to Japan with their children escaping from domestic violence would have to give her children back. The Ministry is discussing to draw a conclusion soon.

(Yamabe)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/23/2/PDF/020201.pdf>

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