

Address by Governor Kuroiwa

On behalf of the citizens of Kanagawa Prefecture, I respectfully offer my condolences for the victims of the incident of Tsukui Yamayuri-en on this occasion of the memorial service, attended by many people.

On July 26, 2016, precious lives of nineteen people were claimed by an atrocious act all of a sudden. Two years have passed since then, but I still feel a strong sense of resentment and deep sorrow when I think of the sadness of the families who lost loved ones. I would like to express my deepest sympathy again to the bereaved families.

Such an incident should never be repeated. We have to create a society where we live together in harmony. With this strong determination, Kanagawa Prefectural Government formulated “Kanagawa Charter for a Society Living Together in Harmony” with the prefectural assembly in October that year, and we have made strenuous efforts to spread the philosophy.

We should not let this incident fade away so as not to waste the precious lives that were sacrificed. This year, too, we carry out an intensive campaign to widely spread the philosophy and objective of the Charter during the period between today and the 29th, which we designate as weeks for promotion of a society where we live in harmony. We will also organize a forum in December for realization of an inclusive society to promote understanding of people with disabilities and eliminate discrimination and prejudice against them. We will carry on striving to achieve the Charter through conducting programs on a more continuous basis in a way that appeals to a wider range of people.

Currently, the former residents of Tsukui Yamayuri-en live in Serigaya-en and other facilities temporarily. Based on the “Basic Concept for Reconstruction of Tsukui Yamayuri-en” formulated in October last year, we are working on making places where they can live with a sense of safety and security in Tsukui and Serigaya in Yokohama City, which are scheduled to be completed in the fiscal year 2021. While proceeding with the facility reconstruction, we are carrying out a program to carefully listen to the intension of each one of the residents and support their decision making.

I hereby promise firmly that we will make an all-out effort for the reconstruction of Tsukui Yamayuri-en, and keep on working toward realization of a society where every life is respected and everyone can enjoy living in his/her own way.

Lastly, I pray that the souls of the nineteen people rest in peace forever. I also hope from the bottom of my heart that the family members of the deceased will recover their peace of mind.

July 23, 2018

Yuji Kuroiwa

Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture