

Kyoto Declaration

on
Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration



IMAFUKU Shoji
Director General
Rehabilitation Bureau
Ministry of Justice
Japan

The World Congress

for
Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration



Presentation

- 1 What is the core value of VPO system?
- 2 How can we interpret the value of the VPO concept to other countries?
- 3 What are the differences between jurisdictions in the tasks and organisation of VPOs?
- 4 How are questions like recruitment, selection, health and safety, training, and evaluation managed?
- 5 In what direction should community volunteers be developed?

Panel Discussion

Adoption of the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration

Community Volunteers

Supporting Offender Reintegration



Who are the community volunteers?



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Community Volunteers

Supporting Offender Reintegration



What is the core values of community volunteers?

1. Private citizens and organizations with the purpose of supporting the rehabilitation of offenders
 - Working with government probation officers
 - Good neighbours' point of view
2. Equipped with key concept of volunteers
 - Spontaneity
 - Sociality
 - Unpaid volunteer

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Community Volunteers

Supporting Offender Reintegration



What is the core values of community volunteers?

3. Dimension of Community Volunteers

- ❖ Community-elected volunteers
 - Rebuilding the relationship between the offender and the community
 - Utilizing various social resources, both formally and informally, in the community
- ❖ community-based volunteers
 - Understanding the culture, lifestyle and values of the same community

➔ Very important role of building a community where people can relate to and help each other with the various challenges of living in loneliness and social isolation

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Preamble Paragraph 1

Acknowledging the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Doha Declaration and the declaration of each United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the relevant United Nations standards and norms in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), which encourages public participation as an essential element to keep ties and foster solidarity among offenders, their families and the community,,

➔ Provisions for the utilization of community volunteers and the public participation in offender reintegration

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Preamble Paragraph 2

Recalling the Asia Volunteer Probation Officers Meeting held in Tokyo in 2014, in which Volunteer Probation Officers from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, as well as observers from China and Kenya, shared practices and challenges of their countries' volunteer probation officers programmes and recognized the importance of the role of volunteer probation officers, and its Tokyo Declaration, which called for the establishment of a global network of volunteer probation officers and their continued mutual cooperation,



Asia VPO Meetings as our previous efforts and Tokyo Declaration

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Preamble Paragraph 3

Recognizing the fact that the *hogoshi* system, which has been developed with the vitality of private citizens and institutionalized in Japan for over a century and is one of the most successful and practical systems of community volunteers supporting offender reintegration in the world, now catches the global spotlight as one of the effective measures for achieving the reintegration of offenders, and furthermore the prevention of crime and construction of peaceful and secure communities,



Hogoshi system as one of the most successful and practical models with a long history for effective offender reintegration

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Preamble Paragraph 4

Noting the efforts which have been made by the community volunteers such as community probation volunteers in Kenya, volunteer probation assistants in the Philippines and volunteer probation officers in Thailand, and other community volunteers supporting offender supervision and reintegration in Asia, Europe and North America, for the development of effective partnership between the criminal justice practitioners and the general public in respective countries and regions,



Various pragmatic and outstanding efforts by community volunteers in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America

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Operative Paragraph

1. We recognize the pivotal role of community support and public understanding for the promotion of offender supervision and rehabilitation, the encouragement of a sound life of ex-offenders as members of the community, and the prevention of reoffending.



Pivotal role of community support and public understanding for offender rehabilitation through our experience

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Operative Paragraph

2. We recognize the value of community volunteers such as hogoshi who interact with and provide support for offenders as fellow citizens working with professional probation officers who have expert knowledge. They stand side by side with offenders from the good neighbour's point of view, attentively listen to their concerns, develop mutual trust, and give guidance to them at times warmly, at times strictly. Their support enables offenders to re-establish their identities, re-enter the community and live their lives independently without reoffending.



Good neighbour's point of view, mutual trust, etc. as the value of community volunteers

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Operative Paragraph

3. We recognize the effort of such community volunteers is in line with the principle of "*No one will be left behind*" which is encapsulated in the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted by the United Nations in 2015. We are convinced that more global efforts have to be made internationally to shed light on and promote the significant role of community volunteers.



The effort of community volunteers is indispensable for the achievement of "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

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Operative Paragraph

4. In order to achieve the above-mentioned purposes, we invite the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to build an international network of community volunteers in the supervision and reintegration of offenders, to provide technical assistance and to urge member states to enact laws to anchor community volunteers for the purpose of fostering volunteering, raising awareness among the public and establishing systems of community volunteers. We also invite the CCPCJ to formulate a United Nations model strategy for reducing reoffending in order to tackle issues on reoffending and encourage the utilization of the community volunteers in this field, and to establish the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, “Hogoshi Day”.



International network, technical assistance, legalization, model strategy and the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration (“HOGOSHI Day”)

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Operative Paragraph

5. In order to follow up this declaration, we will gather regularly to review its implementation and to provide a permanent stimulus for the development of community volunteers in offender reintegration.



Implementation and follow-up of the Kyoto Declaration on Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

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Kyoto Declaration on Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration



For further development...

- I. Advancement of international recognition of community volunteers supporting offender reintegration through international networks of community volunteers**
- II. Establishment of effective community volunteer systems in offender reintegration around the world by appropriate technical assistance**
- III. Establishment of the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration , "Hogoshi Day"**

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Thank you for your attention!



The Kyoto Declaration on
Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

IMAFUKU SHOJI
Director General
Rehabilitation Bureau
Ministry of Justice
Japan

(Slide 1) Introduction

Good afternoon, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure and honour to have an opportunity to speak in front of the distinguished international delegates attending this Congress including online participants.

Today, as the organizer of this World Congress, I would like to explain the concept of the Kyoto Declaration on Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration which we aim to adopt at the end of this Congress.

(Slide 2)

First, I would like to talk about the purpose of the Kyoto Declaration on Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration. I would like to call it “the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration” in short.

In the panel discussion, we will share how the various efforts, results and issues that community volunteers supporting offender reintegration have developed around the world. Considering the significance and necessity of such community volunteers to participate in efforts to prevent recidivism, I

believe that it is an urgent matter to disseminate these systems around the world. To this end, I am proposing to adopt the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration at the end of this panel discussion.

(Slide 3)

Next, I would like to talk about the definition of “community volunteers supporting offender reintegration” in the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration.

Although we do not have a strict definition, typical examples of community volunteers include Japan’s hogoshi, "community probation volunteers" in Kenya, "volunteer probation assistants" in the Philippines, "volunteer probation officers" in Thailand, and Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) in North America and Europe. Of course, in Japan, there are community volunteers such as the Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid or the BBS Association, as well as hogoshi.

(Slide 4)

Here, I would like to touch upon the concepts that lie at the core principle of these activities.

The first point is that they are private citizens and organizations with the purpose of supporting offender reintegration. The activities are carried out in collaboration with a government probation officers. While the government probation officers are in a position to have authority as law enforcement officers, community volunteers stand side-by-side with offenders from the perspective of good neighbours, and nobly offer voluntary support for their rehabilitation. These features are proven to be very effective in motivating offenders to reintegrate into society.

Second, these private citizens and organizations possess the three elements commonly cited as key concepts of volunteerism, which are free choice to undertake, positive outcome to the community, and without expectation of payment.

For example, one Japanese volunteer probation officer, hogoshi, said, (quote) “By continuing to work as a hogoshi, we become a real hogoshi.” (unquote) What is the driving force that keeps him going? He also said, (quote) “I could grow as a person through service as a hogoshi.”(unquote) In other words, their activities are characterized by the fact that they are motivated to make others happy as well as themselves by extending a helping hand. This is their motivation to make themselves happy by helping others.

Japan's hogoshi, as well as community volunteers around the world have their own unique histories. I believe that they all share these same core values. In the panel discussion, I would like to draw your attention to how these core values are discussed by the panelists.

(Slide 5)

Third, it is also important to have the dimensions of community volunteers as a principle of their core activities.

The rehabilitation of offenders is not completed within the penal institutions, but is achieved only when they are re-integrated in the community and lead a stable life free from recidivism. This is where the presence of community-based volunteers play an important role.

Community-recommended volunteers, together with other stakeholders in the community, play the central role in building a network of supervision and support for offenders. They also rebuild the relationship between the offender and the community, by utilizing various social resources, both formally and informally, in the community.

In addition, the community-based volunteers support the offenders to overcome many challenges faced in their path of rehabilitation, while understanding their culture, sense of life and values of the same community as their neighbors in the community.

Furthermore, as a representative of the community, the goal of their activities is to build a safe and secure community that is resilient against crime and delinquency. Being a community volunteer means that they are willing to take on the very important role of building a community where people can relate to and help one another.

(Slide 6)

With these conceptualizations as a premise, I would now like to explain the main points of the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration, paragraph by paragraph.

The Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration consists of preamble and operative paragraphs.

First, please look at the preamble paragraphs. The first paragraph lists international standards and norms, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Doha Declaration and the Tokyo Rules. All of these point out the

importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, public understanding, and public participation, and also provides important perspectives on the effective reintegration of offenders into society.

For example, Article 19, paragraph 2 of the Tokyo Rules recommends that it is very important for the smooth implementation of non-custodial measures and the prevention of recidivism that community volunteers, who have extensive information about the community and available resources, fully demonstrate these aforementioned characteristics.

Although not explicitly stated in the draft, as mentioned in the welcome remarks by the Justice Minister, the Kyoto Declaration adopted this morning is the first political declaration to focus on multi-stakeholder partnerships in the prevention of recidivism, and I am confident that it will effectively guide the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration into concrete practice.

(Slide 7)

The second paragraph of the preamble states that we should recall the “Tokyo Declaration”, adopted at the very first Asia VPO Meeting held in Tokyo in 2014. The Tokyo Declaration was adopted by Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, as well as observers from China and Kenya. It was ground-breaking in that it called for the establishment of an international network of volunteer probation officers, officially. The Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration is formulated based on the Tokyo Declaration, and it is systematically taking more specific and proactive initiatives to achieve the goal, as well.

(Slide 8)

The third paragraph of the preamble reviews how the “hogoshi system” was developed in Japan. As repeatedly mentioned in previous speeches, Japan’s hogoshi system has played an indispensable role in offender rehabilitation in Japan. The system has enjoyed widespread public support over 130 years, as one of the effective measures for offender reintegration, and as one of the measures effective in creating safe and secure communities.

The principles of the hogoshi system are of universal value in criminal justice in countries around the world, overcoming the difference of their systems and cultural backgrounds. The underlying concept of hogoshi system has universal value in criminal justice, and had an impact on the development of community volunteer systems in countries with different institutions and cultural backgrounds. Thus, this paragraph describes such recognition.

(Slide 9)

The last paragraph of the preamble confirms that the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration aims to develop these effective approaches based on the practices accumulated by community volunteers around the world, and create an international network of the volunteers.

For example, as mentioned earlier, community volunteers are playing important roles in countries such as Kenya, the Philippines and Thailand. Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) is a group of professional volunteers who help sex offenders reintegrate into society upon their release from penal institutions, and is a common initiative in Europe and North

America.

These approaches will be presented by panellists from respective countries in today's panel discussion.

(Slide 10)

I will now move on to an explanation of the operative paragraphs of the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration.

In the first paragraph, it is clearly stated that the basic understanding that appropriate operation of the offender rehabilitation system, requires support and understanding from the community. This is, as mentioned earlier, the principle that emphasizes usefulness of community volunteers in supporting offender rehabilitation.

(Slide 11)

The second paragraph, points out one of the characteristics and values of community volunteers supporting offenders from the perspective of good neighbours. They are working with offenders based on the stance of these community volunteers as residents of the same community. They are listening attentively to how offenders see things from their own point of view, trying to open up their heart and concerns, building trust, and providing guidance and advice, sometimes warmly, sometimes strictly. By these efforts of community volunteers, the offender has an opportunity to reestablish offenders identity. In light of the findings of the desistance theory, which has attracted much attention in recent years in the study of offender treatment, this fact touches upon important matters for effective treatment.

(Slide 12)

The third paragraph makes it clear that in order to achieve the SDGs, it is extremely important that the activities of community volunteers become more active and that their approach is widely disseminated throughout the world.

These community volunteer efforts are aimed at realizing a society in which "no one will be left behind," which is the basic principle of the SDGs, and their efforts can be seen as one of the best practices of multi-stakeholder partnerships, which is a fundamental approach to realize an inclusive society.

The importance of public participation in prevention of crime and delinquency was pointed out at the Kyoto Congress held in 1970 a half century ago, and Japan's hogoshi system was taken up as a good practice. The Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration, further emphasizing this point, is drafted with the understanding that this approach of proactively utilizing community volunteers is essential from the contemporary perspective of serious efforts to achieve the SDGs.

(Slide 13)

In the last two paragraphs, the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration proposes specific matters for which the cooperation and initiative of the international community and the United Nations should be continued to seek in the future.

In other words, we request the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to take some specific actions in order to promote more activities, awareness and institutional development on community volunteerism.

The first is to build an international network of community volunteers in the supervision and reintegration of offenders.

The second is to provide technical assistance to member states, and to encourage the Institutionalization of community volunteer systems. The third is to formulate a United Nations model strategy for reducing recidivism in order to tackle issues on recidivism and encourage the utilization of the community volunteers in this field.

The last is to establish the "International Day of Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration", "Hogoshi Day".

(Slide 14)

The last paragraph clearly states that we will continue to follow up on this declaration to ensure that it is implemented systematically. To this end, we would like to meet regularly in the future to review its implementation and constantly encourage the development of a community volunteer system.

(Slide 15)

Lastly, let me point out our current challenges which are important for the further development of community volunteers. The first is that it is important to build an international network of community volunteers, and to promote international recognition of this network. I firmly believe that the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration will open up the door to inclusive society where each one of us can live in peace and harmony, which is the aim of the SDGs.

Secondly, we need to encourage effective community volunteer systems to support offender reintegration around the world with appropriate technical assistance. Needless to say, such international cooperation takes the cultural background and legal system of the recipient country into account.

Finally, the establishment of the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, Hogoshi Day, is a must for encouraging and promoting the activities of community volunteers around the world. Under the banner of this Hogoshi Day, I sincerely hope that the international solidarity and cooperation of all member states will be realized to rehabilitate offenders, prevent recidivism, and realize an inclusive society where no one is left behind.

(Slide 16)

In closing, as the organizer of this World Congress, I sincerely hope that the Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration will be adopted and that we will continue to work hand in hand with the people of the world so we can steadily achieve the desired results by systematically implementing specific actions based on the Declaration.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.