

# **Civil Society Forum**

Vol.6



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ボランティア活動国際研究会
JAPAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR VOLUNTEERING RESEARCH

# 第10回東アジア市民社会フォーラムの開催報告

2019年10月28・29日に国際協力機構(JICA)地球ひろば・国際会議場(東京・市ヶ谷)で、「第10回東アジア市民社会フォーラム・長寿社会と市民社会」を開催した。そして、日本・中国・韓国の市民社会の研究者、市民社会組織の関係者など83名が集まり、長寿社会における市民社会の役割について情報共有と学び合いを行った。以下、28日の公開フォーラムの概要を報告する。

## (1)各国からの基調講演の概要 ◇高齢社会の挑戦と対応戦略(韓国)

韓国からの基調講演を行った韓国ボランティア学会の李龍会長(詳明大学校人文大学長)は、韓国社会の高齢化の現況について、2017年に14%だった65才以上の人口比率が、2025年には20%を超える見通しで、高齢化スピードが世界で最も早い"圧縮的"高齢化であると解説した。韓国の高齢者の相対的な貧困率は48.6%(日本は20%程度)と高く高齢世代内の格差が両極化していて、さらに年金や医療費の面では世代間格差が広がっているという。

このような現況において市民社会組織には、公共サービスの短所(独占化、非効率性、政治の影響)を乗り越え、市場原理の導入によるサービスの質の低下を牽制するとともに、脱物質的な欲求の高まりなど、人々の価値観やライフスタイルの変化にきめ細かく対応するサービスの利用者中心のサービスを提供する役割があると、李会長は主張した。



そして、もともと住んでいた地域で安心して充実した暮らしを続けられるようにするコミュニティケアの推進、民主的で透明性の高い運営、多様な財源確保の努力、市民団体同士のネットワークの強化、住民参加の促進、世代間交流の活性化、民間レベルの国際交流の必要性などが、今後の市民社会の課題として強調された。

李会長の基調講演に対しては、「問題解決の成果にポイントを置き過ぎると、市民社会は制度やお金の仕組みに取り込まれてしまう。市民が自ら仕組みを発明することにこそフォーカスしていくべきではないか。市民社会だからこその価値とは何か、政府や市場と市民社会の望ましい関係とはどうあるべきかを考え続けて、市民社会の独自性を追求する必要がある」という意見が出された。

◇南京地域コミュニティ在宅介護タイムバンクプロジェクト(中国)

中国からの基調講演を行った江南大学新社会組織研究センターの章興鳴副主任は、中国南京市のタイムバンクプロジェクトについて解説した。タイムバンクとは、自らのサービス時間を貯蓄し、必要時に介護を受ける時間に充てる仕組みで、南京市には現在、約30のタイムバンクがあり、基本は行政主導で民間組織が運営を委託されている。約1500名のユーザーがいる。隣人同士の関係が改善されるという効果もある。

章副主任によると、中国では現在、65歳以上の人口割合は11%だが、2050年には26%になると予測されている。中国は長期にわたった一人っ子政策が人口構造に負の影響を与えている。そして、中国では子が親の面倒を見る義務が法令化されており、高齢者の介護は依然として家庭が主体であり、介護施設や制度の整備は途上であるという。しかし、若年層はこの分野に参加したがらないので、前期高齢者が後期高齢者を助ける必要が生じている。

タイムバンクプロジェクトには、ボランティアの専門性の低さ、サービスの種類の少なさ、サービスエリアの狭さといった課題があり、現在はサービスの開始と終了時にQRコードで打刻する仕組みだが、更にスマート化、アプリによる一元化などをめざしているという。

タイムバンクプロジェクトについての質疑では、「参加者のボランティア性が薄くなる懸念はないか」という質問があった。これにたいしては、「結果的に互助が実現されることに意義があるのではないだろうか。ボランティアとは何かということに捕らわれ過ぎず、社会問題の改善という点に注目してほしい」という回答があった。

## ◇未踏高齢化と市民社会~日本の経験から(日本)

日本からの基調講演を行った東京通信大学の髙橋紘士教授(高齢者住宅 財団顧問)は、日本の高齢化について、世界の誰も経験していないという 観点から「未踏高齢化」ととらえ、高齢者が少なかった時代のケアの仕組 みをどう克服するかが日本では最大のテーマであるとした。そこでの大き なポイントは、人間の社会参加を柱とするケアの仕方、すなわち高齢者を 単なるケアの対象として見るのではなく、その人間が社会に参加している という姿をベースとしてケアをデザインしていくべきだという。

高橋教授は、このようなケアを実現するモデルケースとして、空き家を活用して普通の民家で行う在宅ホスピスケアの取り組みを紹介した。そこでは、フォーマルなサービスとインフォーマルなサポートを地域にある住まいで支える見取りの場が、市民活動の手によってつくられている。また、単身の高齢者が非常に多いところに作った拠点で、看護師や臨床心理士などプロの人たちのボランティアと地域のボランティアとが協働して参加して単身の人たちを支えている例も紹介された。

日本では、地域の様々な人が一緒に生きるコミュニティをつくるという動きになりつつあるが、そこでは、プロとアマチュアの垣根をなくし連携とネットワークによって地域に豊かなソーシャルキャピタルをつくることが大切で、地域総ぐるみで社会参加を柱とするケアの仕組みをデザインしていくことが市民活動に求められていると、高橋教授は力説した。

高橋教授の基調講演に対しては、ホームホスピスの具体的な仕組みについて質問があり、「介護保険の在宅サービス制度も活用しつつ、空き家を活用することにより、退院後地域に戻る際の借家入居費用負担をなくし、短期のターミナルケアを民家という親密性の高い場で実現している」という説明が追加された。

#### (2) 特別報告の概要

◇日中高齢者関係の交流現場=相互触発・相互補完=

日中福祉プランニングの王青氏は、特別報告として日中高齢者ケア関係者の交流とその中で得られた知見を紹介した。

王氏は、社会保障が完備され、医療と介護の融合が図られつつあるが、 過度に制度依存で、家族や地域との人間関係が薄い日本、社会保障が未整 備で、医療中心で介護が脆弱だが、「医食同源」を重視した自発的介護予 防が盛んで、家族との人間関係が強く、地域の互譲精神が健在な中国とい う、日中の高齢社会の強み弱みの違いを、日中交流現場における具体例か ら説明しつつ、日中の間で「相互触発・相互補完」を進めることの重要性 を説いた。 王氏の特別報告に対しては、「人権、尊厳、価値を市民社会が守りながら互いに発展し合う相互触発・相互補完が大切だとわかった」という感想が出された。

◇アジアの高齢化をどう捉えるか~「キャッチアップするアジア」から「学びあうアジア」へ

東京大学大学院人文社会系研究家の金成垣氏は、日韓の高齢化社会の比較を中心に、タイの事例などアジア諸国とも比較した特別報告を行った。

金氏は、社会保障が充実しているが財政の債務が大きい日本と低福祉だが財政の健全性が高い韓国の違いを示しつつ、ソーシャルビジネスの考え方を取り入れて、福祉館がハブになり、本業の一部をサービスとして提供する多様な商店と地域でサービスを必要とする高齢者をつなぐ韓国の新たな取り組みを紹介した。福祉国家とは別な方向として人々の支え合いを要とする高齢社会の福祉が求められているというアジアの共通項を強調しつ、金氏はアジアにおける学び合いの可能性の大きさを示した。

金氏の特別報告に対しては、「制度による現金給付中心の日本の状況に比べて、韓国おそらく中国も民間による現物給付が重視されていることがわかった」という感想が述べられた。

# (3) 事例報告の概要

◇長寿社会における地域コミュニティの互助関係構築の試み-成都愛有戯コミュニティのボランティア活動-(中国)

成都市愛有戯社区発展センターの劉飛主任は、中国で千年の歴史がある 伝統的なコミュニティのしくみを現代的にアレンジして、互助関係をつく り、強化していく「義倉」プロジェクトの実践を紹介した。このプロジェ クトは、2018年時点でのべ1000万人が参加するプロジェクトに成長してい るという。

「義倉」の実践は、例えばコミュニティの各戸から米一合ずつを集め、 粥をつくり、コミュニティにまた配るといった活動だ。食べ物だけではなく、様々な物品を持ち寄ってストックしアプリでどこに何があるかが分かるようにして、必要な人々に渡るようにするシステムだ。孤立していた高齢者を含め、こうした助け合いを通じてコミュニティをつくっていくプロジェクトだという。活動はこれだけではない。中国で盛んな「広場ダンス(娯楽と運動を兼ねた野外のダンス)」をする中高年の女性らに高齢者の家や施設、近隣などに行って踊ってもらうなどを通じて、世代間の交流も図っていると劉主任は語った。

## ◇高齢者教育における社会組織の役割(中国)

東北師範大学家庭教育研究院の趙剛院長からは、中国において家庭教育の一環として推進されている高齢者教育の事例報告が行われた。

中国では、急速に高齢化が進んでいる今、高齢者は充足感や幸福感が求める高齢者の学習意欲は高く、1983年に最初の高齢者向けの大学が設立され、発展してきた高齢者向けの大学は入るための競争率も上昇しているという。

中国における高齢者教育の主な課題は、リソース不足、様々な人々のレベルに合わせたカリキュラムの設定などだ。政府の力だけでは行き届かない点が多いため、民間の役割が重要だと考えられている。新しい試みとしては、福建省でオンラインの高齢者向け講座を開設した。また、「50+」という生活スタイルが民間組織によって提唱されていて、「50+生活館」がつくられ、50代以上の人々に充実した生活をサポートしている。中国では50前後で仕事を引退する人が多いため、50歳以上65歳未満の人々の余暇活動やサービスに対するニーズは大きく、同時にこの世代は後期高齢者へサービスを提供する潜在力も高いという。

### ◇コミュニティケアと地域社会の世代共感(韓国)

三育大学校保健福祉大の鄭鍾和学長)は、住み慣れた地域社会で必要なケアサービスが住民に継続的かつ安定的な提供を、家庭訪問介護サービス、要支援者の発掘と連携支援、住宅支援、住民自治と住民参加という4つの軸で推進しようという韓国のコミュニティケア構想について報告した。この取り組みは、2018年より10年間のモデル事業が行われていて、日本で言うと包括ケア支援センターのようなコミュニティケアサービスセンターからのコーディネーター派遣が行われている。

韓国のコミュニティケア政策の中での市民活動のアプローチ、地域活動の事例としては、たとえば独居高齢者の課題について、食事についての関わりから、おかゆを学生が配達する仕組みができたり、キムチも配達しようという活動の発展が生まれたりしているという。

◇「グローバル・ソーシャルライフ・プラットフォーム」を通した「良い 文化」の拡散(韓国)

社会的企業 HUG INの申聖國代表は、世界中のチェンジメーカーを一つのコミュニティとしてつなぎ、彼らが互いに応援し合いながら「良い実践」「良いプロジェクト」を楽しく続ける文化を創り出すソーシャル・イノベーションカンパニー「HUG IN」の取り組みについて報告した。

HUG INでは、ソウル市内でチェンジメーカーの拠点を運営して人材育成を行いながら、スマホのアプリをつくり、「良い実践」をすればするほどポイントが増えるゲーム機能を搭載して、楽しみながら社会的問題を解決する実践を広げようとしている。高齢化社会との関わりでは、客が高齢者スタッフのミスも温かく受けとめ、高齢者が安心して働ける「注文を忘れるカフェ」が、韓国国内で10カ月の間に3つの都市に拡大することにHUG INのアプリが役立ったという。

## ◇人生100年時代の新しい仕組みづくりへの挑戦(日本)

公益財団法人さわやか福祉財団の清水肇子理事長は、超高齢社会における互助・共助を柱とした地域づくりを推進してきたさわやか福財団が、2014年の介護保険法改正を受けた生活支援コーディネーター・協議体とその事業を住民主体で立ち上げる中間支援の取り組みについて報告を行った。

生活支援コーディネーターと協議体という仕組みは、さわやか福祉財団をはじめとした市民社会組織が、単に行政に資金がなくてできないから地域で行政が決めたサービスを安くやっていくというような地域福祉政策ではなく、どのような状況であってもその人が持っている能力を生かして地域社会につながれるような仕組みの重要性を訴える政策提言を行って実現した制度だという点について、清水理事長は強調した。

◇長寿社会と市民社会組織 -高齢単身者の住宅確保困難者に向けたNPO 法人抱樸事業紹介-プラザ抱樸プロジェクト(日本)

特定非営利活動法人抱樸の奥田知志理事長は、ホームレスの人たちの自立支援を行いつつ、子ども支援、障害福祉まで27もの事業展開を、制度に縛られないNPO法人の特色を活かして行っている中での、高齢単身の住宅確保困難者を支える取り組みについて報告を行った。

経済的に不安定で、保証人が見つからず、日常的な生活の支援、見守ってくれる人もいないため部屋を借りられない高齢単身者にたいして、NPO 法人が家族の代わりとなり、家主と債務保証会社と本人の間に入って生活支援付き住宅を提供する事業モデルは、単に生活保護費を提供するだけでは自立生活が破綻しがちな生活困窮者を、総合的に生活支援する「地域・家族機能の社会化」理念の実践であると奥田理事長は力説した。

# (4) パネルディスカッションの概要

◇高齢者ケアの主な担い手について 制度により介護の社会化が図られている日本の状況に対して、高齢者 ケアの主な担い手について質疑応答が行われた。中国では、政府主導の政策に民間組織が参画して社会的なリソースを結集する取り組みが進められているが、介護に関しては依然として家庭が主な担い手だという。韓国では、お嫁さんが担うことが多いのが実態だが、若い世代が親と同居する意識や環境がなくなりつつあり、女性の社会参加率が高いこともあり、施設でのケアが急激に増えているという。

#### ◇看取りのサポートはあるか

身寄りのない高齢者の総合的生活支援の中で、赤の他人が葬儀を出し合う家族機能の社会化をNPOが行っているという奥田氏の報告を受けて、中国、韓国における看取りのサポートについて質疑応答が行われた。中国では、多くのボランティアによる看取りケアが行われていて、葬儀や家の整理などのほかに、故人の個人史をまとめたりもしているという。韓国では、独居老人見守りセンターが全ての事後処理をしてくれるが、遺品の処理に資格が必要で専門の会社はあるものの、法的手続きなど困難な課題があるという。

#### ◇ITはどう活用されているか

日本に比べてITの活用が進んでいるという中国、韓国の状況について、さらに質疑応答が行われた。中国ではITの発展が猛烈な速度で進んでおり、公益分野にも広く活用されていて、離れて住む親の健康状態を子がITを使って確認するシステムもあるが、多くの高齢者はこうした方法を好んでいない現実も一方であるという。韓国では、高齢者が倒れたときに地域にある支援センターが検知できるシステムがあり、さらに認知症高齢者が付けスマートウォッチをKTやサムサンが出していて、心臓の状況や、血圧を測り通知して病院やセンター、家族が状況を確認することができるという。

# (5) まとめ

今回のフォーラムでは、高齢化への対応という日中韓に共通する喫緊の課題をテーマとしたことにより、これまでと比べて議論がかみ合い深まる場面が多く見られた。そんな中で、モデル事業のブランド化によって広い国土への波及を図る中国、ソーシャル・ビジネスの手法を積極的に取り入れて制度の間を埋めようとする韓国、NPOなどが市民参加型の取り組みを通して積み上げたノウハウを政策提言によって制度改善や新たな制度設計に活かそうとする日本という、社会課題との向き合い方についてそれぞれの特色が浮き彫りになった。



韓国側視察(10月27日:巣鴨地蔵通り商店街振興組合)



中国側視察(10月27日:(特活)多摩草むらの会・夢畑)

# World Report

# China's Social Organizations Going Overseas for "the Belt and Road": Mission and challenges

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**ABSTRACT:** INGOs constitute the third path of global governance and vital participants on building the community of shared future for mankind. The rise of China's international status and the realization of international strategic goals require the comprehensive utilization of various resources, mobilizing the positive role of all parties. The Belt and Road Initiative provides historic opportunities for China's *social organization*s going overseas. And the social organizations' Going Overseas contributes China's global governance concepts and strategies, promoting public diplomacy, improving foreign aid efficiency, assisting enterprises to perform social responsibilities. Yet the lagging of social organizations' internationalization hinders China's soft power. Therefore, related laws, public policies and coordinating mechanism should be improved to conform the new trend of global governance and serving the nation strategy.

**Key Words:** Social Organization, "Go Overseas", the Belt and Road Initiative, Global Governance

Since 21st century, with the rapid growth of comprehensive national strength and international influence, China's foreign strategy has shifted from the traditional practice of "keeping a low profile" to the practice of "striving for success" in the new era. China actively implements the "Go Overseas" strategy, extensively participates in global affairs to gain more influence on major global issues. "The Belt and Road Initiative" is the most iconic project in China's "Go Overseas" strategy, which fully represents China's comprehensive national strength in putting forward and realizing the "China Solution" in global governance. However, due to the differences in political system, economic system and values, especially the conflicts between real interests, the promotion of "the Belt and Road Initiative"

strategy is faced with competition of strategic interests, doubt from the international community and negative public opinion at the very beginning. So in response, the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) proposed that "we are going to comprehensively promote major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics and form an all-round, multilevel and three-dimensional diplomatic layout". To achieve this goal, mobilization various resources to maximize the comprehensive influence of "the Belt and Road Initiative" is required. Therefore, China's social organizations are increasing expected to go overseas more actively.

What should China's social organizations do to go overseas? What are the specific challenges? And what suggestions should be formulated? Theoretical and practical research concerned is an urgent topic to be discussed in depth.

#### 1. The Third Path of Global Governance

Global governance is the process of coordinated and cooperative action taken by multi actors, who aim to achieve the common goal and solve global problems<sup>2</sup>.

In recent years, the in-depth development of globalization not only promoted the increasingly close global connection and interdependence, but also brought about a series of negative consequences, such as global proliferation of environmental deterioration, terrorism, epidemic diseases, poverty and other problems, which constituted a global crisis and raised the concept of global governance.

#### 1.1 State-Centered Governance and Non-State-Centered Governance

Global governance has more advantages than the traditional state-centered governance. Rosenau proposed that global governance is "governance without government". That is, in the absence of a worldwide government, nations and various non-state actors work together to solve global problems<sup>3</sup>. Power center that is not unified needs cooperative governance with multiple subjects and centers. What's more, no matter formal or the informal the transnational mechanisms are, they are equal in the cooperative relationships. In the report "Our Common Planet", the Global Governance Committee proposed that global governance is "the sum of multiple ways which are used to manage a series of common issues through organizations in social or private forms"<sup>4</sup>. This perspective has emphasized the importance of non-state multi actors (social organizations and enterprises) in those areas that encounter state failure.

Supranational governance isn't governance excluding the state. Instead, it is an international cooperation mechanism features democracy, multicenter, multilevel and diversifiction in order to overcome the disadvantages of traditional state-centered governance. State-centered governance refers to the international cooperation mechanism dominated by the state and the international organizations which work as organizations accredited by the country. Since the state is of great authority and excels in mobilizing resources, it has a crucial influence on many aspects of global public

affairs. Hoshino Mitsuaki believes that state-centered governance has some features like "centering on a great power, being managed by powerhouse, centering on a power center, being governed in a top-down way, having passive constraints and so on". With all these features, state-centered governance are able to maintain the status quo of governance. While supranational governance includes NGOs, and those non-state actors in multinational commercial organizations, and it features "weak, top-down and universe-centered management that can change the status quo of governance". Global governance is an asymmetric form of governance, which consists of state-centered and supranational governance<sup>5</sup>.

However, with the development of globalization and the deepening of its impact, the common risks faced by mankind are becoming more and more complex in the large. Traditional state-centered governance has inherent shortcomings in dealing with global issues, especially with some unconventional security threats. In the absence of a global government, the state-centered governance mechanism is mainly based on the sovereign interests of the country itself, which inevitably leads to the deadlock of cooperation. For example, in August 2017, the United States formally withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement on global climate change, which was agreed with by 195 countries in 2015. Thus, the cooperative mechanism is faced a serious setback, which is a joint effort around the whole world to fight against climate change. What's more, the United States subsequently withdrew from UNESCO in October 2017 and the UN Human Rights Council in June 2018.

The disadvantages of state-centered global governance show that the participation of non-state actors is of great significance to enrich the global governance mechanism and improve the efficiency of global governance. Non-state actors include multinational corporations representing market forces and social organizations representing civil society. Multinational enterprises participate in global public affairs through corporate social responsibility governance mechanism. Multinational enterprises are the most active actors and the biggest beneficiaries in the process of globalization. Their activities not only have economic impact, but also have ecological, social, cultural and political impacts. In order to improve the success rate of overseas market, enterprises need to fulfill their social responsibility and thus establish a positive corporate image. Multinational enterprises establish continuous communication and consultation mechanisms with stakeholders (consumers, labor, community residents, local governments) through direct action or the cooperation with governments and social organizations. When enterprises make moral and environmental investments to obtain the social legitimacy of running business, they are more than purely profit-making organizations. They should also be social governance participants who are concerned with the public interest<sup>6</sup>. Multinational enterprises have exerted an important influence on global economy, politics, environment and social life, and are important participants

in global governance.

#### 1.2 Supranational Governance

As the government mainly focuses on the interests of sovereignty and multinational enterprises pursue profit, their resolution of international affairs has unavoidable defects. Instead, social organizations from the folk, which are non-political, non-profit, voluntary and charitable, etc, have a wide range of social foundation and public base. Especially in the fields that the government and market can't achieve or where they lack efficiency, such as cultural exchanges, poverty alleviation, disaster relief, education, medical treatment, environmental conservation, peace preservation and so on, social organizations increasingly take on the responsibility of public administration and make good use of exclusive advantages and influence in their respective fields, has become a third of global governance mechanism.

Specifically, the forms of social organizations' participation in global governance are:

First, revitalize the Global Partnership. The 2015 UN Summit on Sustainable Development adopted by 193 member states a programmatic document "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", aiming at eradicating extreme poverty, reducing inequality and injustice, and curbing climate change. It stresses that "The revitalized Global Partnership will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of all the Goals and targets, bringing together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizing all available resources." <sup>7</sup>. It reiterates the strategic significance of promoting sustainable development, which was contributed by the global partnership including civil society, private sectors and other stakeholders. Social organizations have established various forms of connections and cooperative relations with other social actors including sovereign states, international organizations, enterprises, etc. They have extensively participated in the process of global governance and become an important force in promoting the building of a community of shared future for mankind.

Second, engage in public diplomacy. Public diplomacy is an integral part of the country's overall diplomatic strategic framework. Public diplomacy and government diplomacy together constitute the country's overall diplomacy. In contemporary international relationship, social organizations are indispensable subjects of public diplomacy, playing a key role in enhancing trust and understanding between countries and eliminating misunderstanding and prejudice of foreign governments and people. In the post-modern society, the public tend to have bad impression of the authorities and be skeptical of government positions. However, social organizations come from the folk and also take root in the folk, and their organization forms, activity modes and value concept clearly possess supranational nature. So social organizations are more likely to win the recognition of the local people when carrying out public diplomacy, and can

better serve the national interest. Accordingly, the world's major countries attach great significance to unofficial public diplomacy and deploy it as an important channel to implement national strategies.

Third is development assistance. Due to the low efficiency of the traditional and official approaches, goals of the project designed by planners and decision makers are often hard to achieve. Nevertheless, social organizations directly face the community public, and have rich grass-roots experience and extensive networks. What's more, social organizations can achieve the maximum use of assistance when cooperating with local governments, local community and social organizations. Therefore, the international community pays more and more attention to social organizations in the play of foreign aid. And at the same time, benefactors have turned their aid more and more to nongovernmental organizations channel<sup>9</sup>.

In addition, social organizations also carry out global charitable philanthropy, assume global relief responsibilities, participate in humanitarian relief as a government partner, and assist the government in exercising social relief functions. Currently, there are a total of more than ten thousand of public welfare organizations active in international humanitarian aid, development assistance, environmental protection, women and children, culture education, public health, community development, peace and antinuclear, religious dissemination, etc. Every year, they spend almost 100 billion dollars in mobilizing fund to provide important complementary resources for global governance. Both sovereign states and the international community benefit from the cooperation with them.

#### 2. the Mission and Task of China's Social Organizations to Go Overseas

Promoting to build a community of shared future for human kind is the core content of the new era of China's diplomatic thoughts. Practicing the grand goal needs us to coordinate the use of various resources and fully mobilize the positive role of all parties, and therefore it needs social organization to go overseas with a more positive attitude – getting involved in international affairs more extensively and deeply, undertaking more important roles and more complicated tasks, and playing a more important influence.

The mission and task of China's social organizations to "go overseas" to participate in the construction of "the Belt and Road Initiative" are mainly reflected in four aspects: namely, to practice the China's concept and plan of global governance; to promote public diplomacy; to improve the efficiency of foreign aid; to assist enterprises to fulfill their responsibilities overseas.

# 2.1 Practice the China's development Concept

With the thrive of China and the transformation of global governance system, China is marching towards the center of global governance as a leader in globalization, and is becoming an increasingly important role in the international system and function. China

has had the comprehensive ability "to contribute more with its own development for world economic growth and global governance, to provide solutions on behalf of the interests of developing countries on global issues" 10.

In recent years, China grasps and utilizes the strategic opportunities of the transformation of global governance system and the reshaping of global governance. At the same time, China is playing an important role as a participant, reformer, builder and designer of global governance. China has not only taken an active part in addressing various global issues, but also taken the initiative to supply the international community with new concepts, mechanisms, strategies and other public goods of global governance. First, at the conceptual level, China has put forward a world view of "a community of shared future for mankind", an outlook of "balancing justice with interests and putting justice first", a concept of international cooperation featuring "harmony without uniformity and win-win cooperation", and an outlook of global governance featuring "extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits". Second, at the institutional level, China has not only actively participated in, created and reformed the global governance system, but also issued initiatives, set topics and built consensus on global governance issues. For example, through the 2016 G20 summit in Hangzhou, China and other member states reached the "Hangzhou consensus" on a series of issues of global governance, which promoted the G20 to transform from a crisis response mechanism to a long-term governance mechanism. Lastly, at the strategic level, China has made a series of strategic arrangements on global governance issues, such as launching the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), putting forward and implementing the "the Belt and Road Initiative", and so on, to provide pragmatic "China's solutions" for global governance.

Social organizations are an important force for bringing people together. By going overseas and participating in the development of the Belt and Road Initiative, China's social organizations can mobilize the resources of the international community to a larger extent and form a more profound social foundation and public support. For example, China' social organizations could launch initiatives to the international community on INGO forums; be directly involved in various specific UN affairs and conferences follow-up; and engage in the designt, organization and implementation of public projects and supervision. It is of great significance to the realization of China's international strategies.

#### 2.2 Promote Public Diplomacy

As China is increasingly growing in power and influence in global affairs, international concerns, suspicions and even denigration will still exist for a long period. Due to the values, ideology and the influence of the United States and western countries, China's public diplomacy has always been in a passive state for a long time. Traditional

public diplomacy carried out in the official form has a strong political color and is often affected by social system, ideology, cultural values, etc. Accordingly, it is difficult to establish effective communication with the overseas public. Therefore, more attention should be paid to the role of civilian forces in diplomacy.

Social organization is an important carrier for coordinating the overall situation of national diplomacy and conducting public diplomacy. First of all, social organization is an important embodiment of soft power of a country. Social organizations' unique way of spreading and its influence help them seize the international voice when going overseas. They can make China's voice heard on the international stage, speak Chinese story well, make China policy proposals more widely listened to and understood by the world, so as to improve the national image, form a positive international opinion environment for China's foreign strategy.

Furthermore, social organization is an important channel to build a community of shared future for mankind. Social organizations are platforms for full exchanges and consensus building with unique advantages in realizing the "public support effect". By seeking convergence of interests with other parties through social organizations, China's interests can be translated into common and legitimate concerns of all countries, and other countries' legitimate concerns can be accommodated while pursuing one's own interests. This will enable all countries to form a mutually beneficial cooperation network deeply integrated and inject China's strength into optimizing global governance.

Finally, social organization is also an important way of value diversification. As the western permeate universal values and ideology as freedom, democracy, human rights into China, China can promote Chinese traditional culture such as Confucian values of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, and spread China's development concept such as innovative, harmonious, green, open and shared. Thus social organizations are more competent carriers to attract more international "fans", affecting international public opinions.

#### 2.3 Improve the Efficiency of Foreign Aid

China has long attached great importance to foreign aid and achieved great accomplishment in the world in return for receiving international aid during the country's difficult times. However, China's oversea aid by the Belt and Road Initiative is relatively simple. The aid mainly depends on government-to-government mechanism, lacking of independent supervision and transparent efficient management system, which leads to the waste of aid resources and corruption. According to international experience, if social organizations are attracted to get involved by project entrustment and purchase service, the effect of foreign aid can be improved.

In recent years, China begins to enrich its oversea aid channels. On the premise of respecting the will of recipient governments, China works with other multilateral and

bilateral donors to steadily advance trilateral cooperation with complementary advantages, improving the effect of aid, encouraging stakeholders such as civil society and charities to play a greater role<sup>11</sup>. Social organizations can help government supervise the flow if aid, having the effect of spur and warning; they can build the bridge of communication between government and people, reducing the waste of materials and funds while adding the aid effect; they can add humanistic care to the aid process and the aid effect can be maximized through the tender feeling of social organizations to deepen the friendship between China and recipient countries.

# 2.4 Assist Enterprises to Fulfill Oversea Responsibilities

Overseas investment by Chinese enterprises exceeded foreign investment for the first time in 2014. With the continuous promotion of the Belt and Road Initiative, China is stepping up its outbound investment. As Chinese companies invest more overseas, accusations against them by western media and foreign NGOs are also on the rise, some of which are actually due to the insufficient investment of Chinese companies in social responsibilities. Due to the unfamiliarity with local laws, lack of experience in social communication, insufficient awareness of environmental protection and poor performance of social responsibilities of some enterprises in overseas operation, a small number of overseas media have negative reports and local people also complain about these overseas enterprises. In order to establish a long-term foothold in the overseas market, Chinese enterprises must follow the competition rules of the international market and fulfill their corporate social responsibility. Whether from the perspective of improving the core competitiveness or gaining social recognition of the host country, they have become the necessary conditions for Chinese enterprises to survive and develop overseas<sup>12</sup>.

Social organizations going overseas can help overseas enterprises fulfill their responsibilities, improve their images and their development environment. Specifically, the role and function of social organizations include three aspects. First is supervisor. Compared with enterprises, social organizations have a flexible and fast response mechanism, which can supervise the social and environmental impact of enterprises, so as to promote the smooth implementation of the country's overseas investment projects. Second is collaborator. Social organizations can provide information support, relationship dredge, corporate public relations services, and the ways for social organizations to do work from the grassroots for overseas companies. They can also help overseas companies better communicate with local people, make the potential interest demands of the community and related subjects explicit and communicate in a way that is acceptable to business and government. Third is solution provider. Social organizations have expertise in areas such as social welfare, environment and public relations. If social organizations can make full use of its resources, help enterprises

understand local demands and integrate into local society and adapt to local laws, they can provide solutions to social and environmental problems for enterprises and win the support from local employees, public and government.

On the other hand, from the perspective of enterprises, Chinese enterprises do not actively coordinate with social organizations in the process of going overseas. Overseas enterprises need to connect seamlessly with social organizations and complement each other with their advantages. They should take full advantage of the particularity of social organizations to understand local culture, reduce the cost of Chinese enterprises overseas to carry out social responsibility projects, improve efficiency, expand influence, establish corporate image, and truly achieve mutual benefit and win-win results.

#### 3. The Overall Status Quo of "Going Overseas"

Social organizations are an important part of global governance and an important channel for participating in the building of a community of share future for mankind. The increasing participation of social organizations in international affairs has become an important feature and trend of global governance.

#### 3.1 Environment

Government strategy. The construction of the Belt and Road Initiative has provided historical opportunity for social organizations. The national government has supported social organizations to "go overseas" repeatedly and explicitly. During the summit of "the Belt and Road Initiative" international cooperation, China social organization for the promotion of international exchanges, together with more than 80 Chinese social organizations, launched the "Chinese social organizations for the promotion of "the Belt and Road Initiative" people to people communication action plan (2017-2020)", in May, 2017, and set up a network of social organizations along the silk road with more than 150 Chinese and foreign social organizations<sup>13</sup>. At the same time, the government has developed some preferential policies to encourage social organizations to play a relevant role. For example, more non-public welfare projects will be contracted to social organizations. Government support provides practical opportunities for the development of social organizations. These measures can provide platforms and financial support for social organizations to go overseas.

**Policy mechanism.** Government has formulated some preferential policies in encouraging social organizations to play their relevant role. More non-public welfare projects will be contracted to social organizations. For example, the Ministry of Finance has issued opinions on encouraging state capital to increase investment in public welfare industries, and the Ministry of Commerce has issued administrative measures on the application and implementation of aid fund projects for south-south cooperation, providing support to social organizations where conditions permit. The support of the

government provides practical opportunities for the development of social organizations and platforms and financial support for social organizations to go overseas.

**Social organizations vision or will.** In recent years, social organizations have become more active in going overseas. Many social organizations are actively formulating international development strategies and international rescue strategies, and participating in, through various channels, international cooperation projects and overseas emergency relief work. Some social organizations have started to set up workstations overseas and invested a lot of money, manpower and material resources in overseas projects.

**Social organizations capacity.** After more than 30 years development, China's social organizations have gradually established a relatively sound governance structure, and made great progress in project management, financial management, human resources management and social mobilization. Many organizations have the capacity to carry out international public welfare projects.

#### 3.2 Channels

The continuous development of the Belt and Road Initiative construction provides a historical opportunity for social organizations to "go overseas". At present, there are several practical channels for Chinese social organizations to "go overseas".

- ✓ Cooperate with government, to undertake livelihood assistance projects arranged by the Chinese government in developing countries along the "the Belt and Road Initiative" route.
- ✓ Cooperate with enterprises, to assist enterprises to fulfill social responsibilities locally, solve economic and trade disputes, achieve mutual benefit and sustainable development.
- ✓ Territorial cooperation, to establish partnership with recipient countries, expand localization of public welfare projects to meet the needs of the people in recipient countries, and reduce political, economic, legal and culture conflicts.
- ✓ Cooperate with international organizations, to join regional alliances and international non-governmental organizations to develop and utilize multilateral resources.

#### 3.3 Scale

In the first quarter of 2018, the number of China's social organizations (including government-financed groups, social service institutions and foundations) exceeded 767000<sup>14</sup> of which the number and scale of "Going Overseas" have no official statistics. What can be for reference is the 2014 statistical bulletin of social service development issued by the Ministry of civil affairs. In that year, there were 529 international and other foreign-related organizations in China, accounting for about 0.8 % of the total number of social organizations in China. Among them, 516 are international and other

foreign organizations, 9 are foreign foundations, and 4 are private non enterprise units, respectively accounting for 0.17%, 0.22% and 0.001% of the total number of social organizations, foundations and private non enterprise units<sup>15</sup>. It should be noted that the relevant data of "international and other foreign-related organizations" not only include "Going Overseas" social organizations, but also "Imported Overseas" organizations registered in China. According to the data of China Foundation Center, there are 6434 foundations in China. As of 2017, only 49 foundations have implemented overseas public welfare projects. In general, at present, there are no more than 100 social organizations that really go overseas, almost one in ten thousand of them. Moreover, only a few social organizations, such as China Association For the Promotion of International Exchange, China Foundation For Poverty Alleviation, Amity Foundation and China Children and Teenagers' Fund, have complete organizational structure, formal staff and long-term financial support overseas.

On the whole, the process of China's social organizations' going overseas is obviously lagging behind, and its role in the international governance system is very limited. The international influence and discourse power are far from matching China's growing position as a great power, especially when compared with the scale of China's government's foreign aid and enterprises' foreign investment, the degree of social organizations' going out is still very low.

#### 3.4 Characteristics

In addition to the small number and scale, social organizations go overseas with the following characteristics:

First, the way of going overseas is fragmented and spontaneous. Under the macro background of " the Belt and Road Initiative" construction in the country, some social organizations have the ability and desire to go overseas, but they go out of their own enthusiasm, lack of scientific planning and effective action plan, lack of collective action mechanism, and lack of stable funding channels.

Second, it has low participation and limited influence. Due to the relatively late development of China's social organizations in general, most of them have insufficient brand influence except for a few, such as China Foundation For Poverty Alleviation, China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation, and Amity Foundation. Meanwhile, most of China's social organizations go overseas in the form of exchange visits, conferences and so on. The scope of going overseas is limited and it is difficult to integrate into the local social grassroots and community people.

Third, many social organizations go overseas in a one-off way, such as donation, rescue and facility assistance. For example, in recent years, Zhejiang *Gongyang Association* (http://www.ramunion.org/index) has gone abroad many times to participate in the transnational disaster rescue, which shows the strength of professional

rescue of Chinese NGOs. But on the whole, the social organizations still lack the normal and sustainable participation mechanism and project support.

# 4. Challenges of "Going Overseas"

Despite the positive factors mentioned above, the reality that the number and scale of "Going Overseas" of social organizations are small still remains unchanged. The international participation of social organizations is relatively low and its influence is limited. This is not only commensurate with China's growing comprehensive national strength and international status, but also restricts the smooth implementation of "One Belt and One Road Initiative". In fact, social organizations "Going Overseas" confront with many complex challenges.

## 4.1 National Security Risk

The top leaders of the country encourage qualified social organizations to go overseas to serve the country's foreign strategic needs, but how to supervise international social organizations is a political security challenge for the Communist Party of China. Some government departments with regulatory responsibility are worried about social organizations' going overseas, worried that they can't be supervised after "Going Overseas", and take a ambiguous posture of refusing or welcoming, perfunctory or hanging up.

# 4.2 Insufficient Legal Supporting

China's social organizations are established in accordance with domestic laws, and the premise of going overseas is to be protected by domestic laws and regulations. However, up to now, the national policies and regulations on regulating social organizations' going overseas are basically blank, and there is still a lack of legal basis for social organizations to participate in international affairs, establish overseas branches, and engage in project operation overseas. The "charity law of the people's Republic of China" passed by the National People's Congress in 2016 does not cover the relevant provisions of social organizations' activities abroad. In the 2017 legislative plan of the State Council, the revision of regulations on voluntary service, foundation management, registration of social organizations, registration of private non enterprise units, etc. has been included in the urgent need of comprehensively deepening reform<sup>16</sup>, not involved in the going overseas of social organizations. Due to the lack of laws and regulations, the overseas projects carried out by Chinese social organizations are still in the stage of special affairs and special handling, and there is no institutionalized way. For example, according to the regulations on the administration of foreign aid drafted by the Ministry of Commerce, foreign aid is mainly organized and implemented by the Ministry of commerce through the Intergovernmental channels with the recipient, and all kinds of social organizations have not obtained corresponding access status<sup>17</sup>. The lack of domestic legal basis also makes it difficult for Chinese social organizations to obtain

formal legal identity for overseas activities. When dealing with specific problems in specific work, it is easy to produce ambiguity and disputes because there is no objective and accurate basis, which affects international social organizations in terms of social legitimacy and public trust. social organizations are faced with legal risks in market, credit, politics, manpower, bribery, emergencies and so on.

# 4.3 Not Unified Regulatory Mechanism

At present, the regulatory functions of promoting overseas activities of social organizations are scattered in different departments, and the national regulatory framework for going overseas has not been completed yet. Taking international assistance as an example, it needs to be led by the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, and depend on its cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of civil affairs, the General Administration of customs and other relevant business departments, and each industry and department manages and operates its own region.

Due to the lack of overall planning in terms of management system, working mechanism and working procedures, it is not clear how social organizations participate in the process of "One Belt and One Road Initiative" construction, and how to manage the funds and so on. Because of the unclear regulatory mechanism<sup>18</sup>, there is neither a unified management system at the macro level nor a systematic internal regulation at the micro level when social organizations go abroad to carry out overseas business, resulting in the spontaneous and scattered disorder state of going overseas, lack of organization and planning, and the difficulty of obtaining the approval of the host government departments in the process of overseas registration is also increased, which makes it difficult to fully play the role of non-governmental diplomacy.

#### 4.4 Insufficient Policy Support

The construction of "One Belt and One Road Initiative" involves a large number of foreign aid projects, and there is no specific support policy for social organizations to participate in these projects. Due to the restriction of legal basis and supervision mechanism, the management of personnel, materials and funds in the process of social organizations going overseas are faced with practical difficulties, especially the restrictions on the entry and exit of personnel, foreign exchange quota of funds, etc.

On the other hand, enterprises that "go overseas" may encounter practical operation problems such as tax preference and audit supervision when cooperating with social organizations abroad. The direct result of the lack of policy support is that overseas donations by China's companies have increased in recent years, but most of these donations have not been channeled through social organizations in China. Some experts pointed out that at present, the proportion of Chinese government's international aid funds implemented through social organizations is less than 0.1 percent, far lower than

24 percent in the United States, 16 percent in Australia and 19 percent in the United Kingdom, indicating that the government does not pay enough attention to the participation of social organizations in international aid projects<sup>19</sup>.

#### 4.5 Cooperative system has not been established

The construction of "the Belt and Road Initiative" needs more social organizations to go overseas, which is consistent with the government departments and enterprises that go overseas both at the macro level and the concept level. At the same time, they three have different emphases on the action mechanism, cooperate with each other, so as to lead to synergy. At present, there is a lack of coordination and cooperation among China's social organizations which go overseas to participate in international affairs. The cooperative system between social organizations and the government, the one between enterprises going overseas and the social organizations, the one among social organizations have not been established. First, there is a lack of guidance and services from government departments. For example, when social organizations undertake international aid projects, the system for the government to purchase services from social organizations is not sound. Second, there is a lack of cooperation with overseas enterprises and a system for enterprises and social organizations to help and promote each other in the process of going overseas. Third, the lack of mutual cooperation among social organizations, the formation of a scale and an echelon of an all-dimensional pattern.

#### 5. Outlook and Suggestions

In the process of "the Belt and Road Initiative" promotion, China's demand for social organizations to "go overseas" to serve the national strategy is also increasing. Meanwhile, the Chinese government's support and supervision for social organizations to "go overseas" will be more refined. Some "social organizations with conditions" are bound to participate more extensively in global affairs, play more important roles and undertake more complex tasks in international affairs, exerting more important influence.

In today's global governance system, social organizations are indispensable behavioral agents. China's rising international status and the realization of international strategic goals need China to make overall use of resources and give full play to the positive role of all parties. social organizations' widely contacting member countries, launching international activities and participating in a variety of international systems is beneficial to promote China to build a new type of international relations featuring winwin cooperation, show the image of a responsible big country to other countries and improve voice in international affairs. The state clearly supports social organizations to go overseas at the strategic level, and relevant government departments should further

emancipate their minds, conform to the historical trend of social organizations to go overseas, and provide guarantees and support from laws and regulations, system and mechanism. Specific Suggestions are as follows:

Improve laws and regulations. First of all, it is necessary to clarify the legality of the establishment of overseas branches of social organizations in terms of law, so that the legitimate rights of projects for social organizations' going overseas are protected. Secondly, a series of detailed rules should be formulated to encourage social organizations to go overseas, including goods clearance, capital transfer, tax incentives, so as to ensure the smooth operation of overseas poverty alleviation projects of social organizations. On this basis, initiation legislative work of social organizations' participating in international aid, refine the content of relevant laws regulations<sup>20</sup> on the basis of constantly summarizing experience, to develop and perfect the relevant legal system construction, and in accordance with the law, to safeguard social organizations play a role effectively.

Strengthen the supervision mechanism. (1) strengthen planning and deployment, establish a unified coordinating and supervising agency, and set up a special working agency for international cooperation of social organizations under the office of the national leading group for China's promoting the construction of "the Belt and Road Initiative" to coordinate planning and deployment of international project cooperation of social organizations. (2) Formulate and improve the management system, working mechanism and procedures for international cooperation of social organizations, establish a practical project approval, supervision and evaluation system, assist, supervise, guide and encourage social organizations to become international. (3) While encouraging the orderly development of social organizations, government should clarify relevant preferential policies and restrictions, and guide those social organizations that have strength and can play a key role to go overseas through healthy competition. Under the framework of the new South-South Cooperation, government should formulate plans for social organizations to participate in international aid, and coordinate interdepartmental and inter-organizational linkages, financial channels and personnel capacity and other establishments. (4) Improve the risk management mechanism, strengthen the declaration and review mechanism of social organizations' participation in going overseas, and ensure the safety of social organizations' participation.

**Policy support.** Government will increase more openness for programs of social organizations' international aid, and increase the proportion of social organizations that undertake international aid. (1) Set up a special fund for international aid from social organizations, which will be incorporated into the general international aid budget to purchase international aid services from social organizations and outsource some international aid projects to social organizations. China's social organizations can

independently contract part of the country's overseas projects, so that social organizations could accumulate funds through their own operations. While implementing the aid plan, they can expand the scale of overseas organizations. (2) Provide a green channel for social organizations to go overseas, and provide comprehensive support and cooperation for public welfare organizations that have conditions to go overseas in terms of personnel, funds and materials going abroad (customs) procedures and so on. (3) Encourage China's international aid enterprises to cooperate with domestic social organizations through preferential policies, improve the accuracy and professionalism of assistance, improve the implementation effect and social influence of projects, help enterprises build brand culture, and improve the overseas popularity of social organizations, so as to achieve a win-win situation.

Multi-party coordination. (1) Building cooperation platform and improve social participation mechanism of the Belt and Road Initiative construction. Relevant government departments should organize and liaise with international cooperation agencies of social organizations, regularly convene work coordination meetings between international ministries and relevant social organizations, integrate key social organizations into the inter-ministerial coordination mechanism of international aid, and establish stable cooperative partnership and complementary relationship with social organizations. Through the information sharing platform between social organizations, information exchange and communication between the government and social organizations should be strengthened to enhance the coordination ability of multiple departments. (2) Strengthen the coordination between enterprises and social organizations. Enterprises that go overseas directly sponsor social organizations, and social organizations give back to enterprises by assisting enterprises to fulfill their social responsibilities, carry out international public welfare charity, participate in tripartite interest consultation and dialogue coordination, and provide policy construction consultation and other forms to return to the enterprise. (3) Coordination mechanism among social organizations should give full play to the pivotal function, leading role of backbone social organizations. Through division of labor and cooperation among social organizations, a number of social organizations should be cultivated and guided to go overseas, so as to form a pattern of hierarchy, division of labor and all-round going overseas. Associations can also be established among social organizations to connect with relevant departments of the state, so that the government can fully understand the situation and needs of social organizations going overseas and provide targeted and effective help. (4) strengthen the cooperation between China's social organizations and international organizations, especially those of the host country, so that they can learn from each other's experience and promote the smooth implementation of the projects.

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# CSOs Across the World

## Azuki Foundation in Great Britain

Azuki Foundation founder 柳沢晶子

Azuki Foundationが発足したのは2012年の10月29日。ロンドンにある私のアパートのキッチンテーブルを囲み、協力を快諾頂いた4名の理事との第一回目の理事会でスタートした。その日の議事録を見ると、理事がお互いに自己紹介をし、役割を承認し、チャリティーのミッション・ステートメントを私が読み上げ、団体名を「Azuki Foundation」と決め、Governance Documentに理事達が署名をした、とある。

チャリティーの設立の準備については、私が住むイズリントン区内のチャリティーやボランティアへのサポートとトレーニングを行うVoluntary Action Islingtonの女性スタッフが、そのノウハウを親切にサポートしてくれた。Governance DocumentはCharity Commission のサイトからダウンロード可能なModel Constitutionがあり、「このひな形に必要事項を書き込むだけでOK」、と教えてくれたのも彼女だった。お陰で設立の事務手続きは想像していたより簡単だった。

音楽・舞台芸術のプロデューサー・コーディネーターを生業とする私がAzuki Foundationのようなチャリティーの設立を思いたったのは、貧富、階級、教育の格差が大きいイギリス社会の現実が背景にあるかもしれない。私が関わるイベントに足を運ぶのはミドルクラスの人々だ。しかし文化芸術は教養人や裕福層だけのものでない。全ての人々がその機会を享受するべきではないのか?また、日本の文化(踊り、遊び、食べ物・飲み物、音楽)は、イギリス人のウェルビーイングに、もっと役立つ事ができるのではないか?2013年から今日まで、Azuki Foundationは120以上のイベントやワークショップをイズリントン区のコミュニティーセンターを中心に行ってきた。決して裕福ではない地域の人々を対象に、日本の踊り、折り紙、お手玉、安い材料で作る日本の家庭料理などのワークショップを無料または材料費5ポンドで実施してきた。今年2019年の夏は、お隣のカムデン区にある Global Generationというチャリティー団体とCentral Saint Martin's 美大と提携し、日本の茶碗作りと茶道のワークショップを若者を対象に実施した。また、Tete A Tete

オペラフェスティバルに参加した谷崎潤一郎の小説『鍵』を原作とする新作オペラの英国初演に私がプロデューサーとして参加した事で、ロンドン南部のSouthwark区の人々を対象にしたドレスリハーサル見学(無料)等のアウトリーチイベントにAzuki Foundationが資金調達も含めて関わることになった。Azuki Foundationの活動資金はイズリントン区内のチャリティー活動をサポートする Cripplegate Foundation, National Lotteryの Awards for All, Japan Society, Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Arts Council England などの助成を財源としている。

Azuki Foundation発足の日、「小豆が大きく成長しますように。」と理事の一人より激励のメッセージを頂いた。が、今でも小豆サイズのままだ。来年はロンドンの外に活動を広げたいと話しているが活動は依然のんびりペースである。それでも今日まで活動を続けられたのは、4名の理事:日英における老人介護の比較研究の権威である林真由美博士(Chair person)、ジャーナリストで長年に渡って日英交流に貢献してきた功績が認められ、12月にMBEを授与された加藤節夫氏、UCL大学でビジネス・マネジメントを研究するSoong Moon Kang教授(Secretary)、そしてKPMGやロンドン市庁舎で公認会計士として現役で働く Richard Hayes氏(Treasurer)らの惜しみないサポートの賜物であると心から感謝している。

https://azukifoundation.org/









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□会費 3,000円(年会費)

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