

“Town, Future, Dream” Children’s Playtowns EXPO (MiniCity EXPO) in Yokohama
Announcement of the Establishment of an Executive Committee

Since the first “Mini Sakura” was established in Sakura City, Chiba Prefecture in 2003, children’s playtowns have been spreading throughout Japan. The Miniyoko Study Group held the first “Mini Yokohama City” (hereinafter “Miniyoko”) in March 2007. Children (19 years and under) can have fun experiencing the functioning of a society through their own participation. We believe it will have a positive influence on their awareness of what it means to be a member of society. These playtowns have also been successfully established in Germany and other countries.

Our Aspirations and Thoughts: Yokohama will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the port this year. In conjunction with that, in August, a MiniCity EXPO will be held here in Yokohama in cooperation with other mini cities in Japan. The co sponsor of this event will be the Yokohama Child and Youth Bureau. Through this event, we want to convey to people (both young and old) the excitement of the children’s playtowns and their significance. We hereby announce the establishment of an Executive Committee.

There will be two major projects in the MiniCity EXPO: The first will be the World Conference Project at the Yokohama Port Opening Memorial Hall. The second will be the Miniyoko Event Project at the “Osanbashi Hall” International Passengers Terminal.

At the World Conference Project, the Second World Conference of Children’s Playtowns will be held. In attendance will be young people who have participated in mini cities as well as attendees from Europe and Japan to discuss issues relating to the playtowns. In addition, the 3rd National Exchange Meeting will be held for those adults who have participated in the organization of mini cities.

At the Miniyoko Event, an “enlarged Miniyoko” will be held. In addition, “Embassy Booths” will be set up in the city to encourage interaction and establish friendships with other mini cities both in Japan and throughout the world. The U-19 Children’s World Conference will also be held.

Through these events we hope to encourage more children and adults to join together and work towards the establishment of more living towns.

We would appreciate your support and cooperation for the success of the MiniCity EXPO.

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Children’s Playtowns EXPO (MiniCity EXPO) in Yokohama

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