

Values of the Hogoshi System and the Establishment of the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, “Hogoshi Day”

A Discussion at the World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration



World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration
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IMAFUKU Shoji, Japan Hogoshi Federation
MINOURA Satoshi, Rehabilitation Bureau, Ministry of Justice, Japan

Outline

This presentation aims to identify the core values of Japan's *hogoshi* system.

- ▶ Three key questions to understand the core values of the *hogoshi* system

Q1. Who are *hogoshi*?

Q2. Why is public understanding so important in order to promote offender reintegration working together with community volunteers?

Q3. Why do *hogoshi* need to be community members?

Introduction: *Hogoshi* System in Japan

► Characteristics

- Citizen volunteers who support the rehabilitation of offenders in the community
- Commissioned by the Minister of Justice based on the Volunteer Probation Officers Act
- No salary provided (except for reimbursement of travel expenditures etc.)
- Rooted in Japan for more than 130 years. Now fully established as a part of the statutory offender rehabilitation system in Japan

► Core roles

- Accepting probationers/parolees as neighbours
- Providing probationers/parolees with empathetic care, consultation and advice by standing by their side as community volunteers, not law enforcement officers
- Building inclusive communities by bridging gaps between offenders and the community, raising awareness of community support for offender reintegration and addressing social isolation in the community
- Volunteerism: hope for happiness of others and the community

Core Values of *Hogoshi*

Q1. Who are *hogoshi*?

A1. Community members with the purpose of supporting offender reintegration

- Working with government probation officers
- Good neighbours' point of view

A2. Equipped with key concepts of volunteers

- Voluntary participation
- Beneficial to the community
- Unpaid volunteers (without expectation of payment)

Core Values of *Hogoshi*

Q1. Who are *hogoshi*?

A3. Acting based on the volunteers' knowledge of their own community

❖ Reputable community volunteers

- Building a network of support for offenders with other stakeholders
- Utilizing various social resources, both formally and informally, in the community

❖ Concerned members of the community

- Building a safe and secure community that is resilient against crime and delinquency
- Understanding the culture, lifestyle and values of the same community
- Rebuilding the relationship between the offender and the community



Community volunteers play a very important role in building a community where people can relate to and help one another with the various challenges of living in loneliness and social isolation.

Core Values of *Hogoshi*

Q2. Why is public understanding so important?

A. Offenders will eventually return to their communities.

❖ Inclusive communities

- People should not be excluded from society just because they committed a crime.
- No one can live alone. People live by mutually supporting each other.

➔ **No one will be left behind.**



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

Core Values of *Hogoshi*

Q3. Why do *hogoshi* need to be community members?

A. *Hogoshi* undertake different approaches from the government probation officers, and the collaboration between these two approaches is significant.

❖ *Hogoshi* (community volunteers)

GLM

- Heal the “wounds” that lead to reoffending by establishing rapport and giving warm consideration for offenders’ circumstances
- Exist as a trustworthy person and a neighbour in the same community
- building capabilities and strengths in their clients through developing rapport
- Building a foundation for acceptance of the offender by the society

❖ Government Probation Officers

RNR

- Exercise the role of law enforcement officers (arrest for probation/parole violations)
- Reduce the risk of recidivism through scientific techniques (e.g. specialized programmes, case management, etc.)

✓ **Integration of effective theories in crime prevention**

✓ **Building a safe and secure society through Public-Private Partnership**

Challenges for Further Development of Community Volunteer Systems

Evidence-based research proving the core values of community volunteers supporting offender reintegration

❖ We would like to clarify

- how the activities of community volunteers are helping to build a safe and secure society by strengthening the bonds between residents of the community.
- how the activities of community volunteers are helping offenders to desist from crime.

Kyoto *Hogoshi* Declaration

(Kyoto Declaration on Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration)

- ◆ *For the proud of community volunteers supporting offender reintegration and advancement of a sense of satisfaction for duties worthwhile to accomplish...*
- ◆ *For the encouragement of the activities of community volunteers supporting offender reintegration around the world...*



- 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”**

All of the above are important and universal in line with the SDGs' principle building a safe and secure society where “no one will be left behind”.



Roadmap for the Establishment of the Hogoshi Day

Main Stakeholders

World Congress on Probation

Rehabilitation Bureau, MOJ, Japan
Japan Hogoshi Federation
Japan Rehabilitation Aid Association
APPA, CEP, ICCA, ICPA, UNAFEI, etc.

World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

- UNODC
- Parole Board of Canada
- Confederation of European Probation (CEP)
- State Department for Correctional Services, Probation & Aftercare, MOI, Kenya
- Parole and Probation Administration, DOJ, the Philippines
- Department of Probation, MOJ, Thailand
- Thailand Institute of Justice

Asia VPO Meeting

- The College for Criminal Law Science (CCLS), Beijing Normal University
- Probation and Parole Department, Crime Prevention Policy Bureau, MOJ, South Korea
- Parole and Probation Administration, DOJ, the Philippines
- Probation Services Branch, Rehabilitation and Protection Group, Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore
- Department of Probation, MOJ, Thailand
- Thailand Institute of Justice
- State Department for Correctional Services, Probation & Aftercare, MOI, Kenya (observer)

Other Practitioners and Experts in Criminal Justice and Offender Rehabilitation

Various events to promote the Hogoshi Day around the world

UN Member States

Considering the essence of the Tokyo Rules, Kyoto Declaration on advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law, Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration, outcome of the World Congress for Community Volunteers, etc., **Japan is to submit a draft resolution to the UN calling for the establishment of the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, "Hogoshi Day".**

[2021.3](#) Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration @ World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration (extract)
*We also invite the CCPCJ ...(snip)... to establish the **International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, "Hogoshi Day".***

[2022.9](#) Workshop focusing on community volunteers supporting offender reintegration at the 5th World Congress on Probation and Parole @ Canada

[2023](#) 2nd World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration
➡ **Adoption of the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, "Hogoshi Day"**

Promoting the Hogoshi Day in the international community

Thank you for your kind attention!

**Rehabilitation Bureau
Ministry of Justice, Japan**



World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umDNZPWLrxU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck1Uo81iqUc>