

Vol.13 1006

Dear members

Kanazawa city was approved as a city of Crafts in UNESCO Creative City Network last year and it' s already been 1 year!

We are working on projects which improve Creative City of Kanazawa more and more based on Creative City promotion program that we formulated in March.

We started up an examination committee to activate the Futamata Japanese Paper, which is a representative of Kanazawa' s rare-traditional craft, as one of the scheme.

Futamata Japanese Paper has 1,300 years of tradition and many craftsmen called "Kamisuki" were active under the patronage of the lord in Edo period. Futamata Japanese Paper was widely known as the best official writing paper for the domain government.

Subsequent, the demand has plunged because of the mechanization and popularization of machine-made paper through Meiji period into Showa period. As a result, the number of craftsmen was rapidly decreased after 1960 and there are only 3 entrepreneurs in Kanazawa at this time.

Even so, Japanese Paper represents the Japanese traditional culture and there are many magnificent crafts and products using Japanese Paper.

Extermination of Futamata Japanese Paper means a serious loss for Creative City of Craft, Kanazawa. So, we set up the examination group for succession of valuable technique and culture.

The Futamata Japanese Paper revitalization program, which contains plans for material production systems, training of successors and expansion of uses and market, was confirmed by members consists of gainfully employed people and makers at first meeting. We intend to hold 3 more meetings this year.

We' d like to promote these schemes as a City of Hand Craftsmanship, Kanazawa.

I wish you all the best and success more and more.

Yours sincerely,

Japan Creative City Kanazawa promotion coordinator

