Answers to Questions 1 & 2

Taking the opportunity presented by Japan’s ratification of the International Covenants of Human Rights, in 1980 Sakai City Government recognised the sanctity of human rights, affirmed that it would enlist the efforts of all citizens to establish a social basis for human equality, and declared that it would work towards the realization of a “Human Rights Protection City”.

Sakai City subsequently advanced policy based on the principles of that declaration. The city later joined other local governments in formulating its own education and enlightenment plan based upon the national government’s adoption of the “Basic Plan for Human Rights Education and Enlightenment” which was drawn up in the spirit of the 1994 “United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education” and pursuant to its “Law for the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Enlightenment (2000)”. The plan was called the “Sakai City Action Plan for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education”.

Following on from previous efforts, in 2007 Sakai enacted the “City Ordinance for Community Development Respecting Peace and Human Rights” which stipulated that all city government policies should be implemented with peace and human rights in mind. In accordance with that stipulation, in 2008 the city adopted the Sakai City Human Rights Policy Promotion Plan” and has since comprehensively and systematically advanced human rights policy.

For details (in Japanese) on specific human rights policies, please visit the URL below:

<http://www.city.sakai.lg.jp/shisei/jinken/jinken/shisaku/jinkenshisakugaiyo/index.html>

Answer to Question 3

While human rights awareness is spreading within the city’s population as a result of the advancement of human rights policy and the implementation of various human rights enlightenment and education initiatives, discrimination still remains a formidable problem. The city government shall continue to work with the population towards the eradication of discrimination.