Sanya Area

One of the three largest laborers’ communities in Japan. Sanya is still known as a poor district of Tokyo.

SANYA is a Day Laborers’ Community. We are against redevelopment which excludes laborers!!
YUI Associates is a social enterprise which runs Hotels and a Cafe in SANYA

Hotel Meigetsu
Since August, 2009

Juyoh Hotel
Since June, 2013

Sanya Cafe
Since March 30, 2018

Hotel Ariake
Since June, 2014
Description of Project Activities

- Local residents
- Former day laborers
- Welfare recipients

Increase of Travelers
International stayers

Diversity and Social Inclusion in Sanya

Reappropriation of “Sanya”

People become proud of Sanya

YUI runs hostels for travelers and welfare recipients

- Hostels for travelers
  - Juyoh Hotel
  - Hotel Meigetsu

Diverse people gather at Sanya Cafe

Economic revitalization by introducing external economy

Job creation for homeless individuals and the needy

Hostels for welfare recipients
- Hotel Ariake

Regaining dignity in better living environment
**Under COVID-19: Our Challenges**

**People have lost their jobs and become homeless**

**YUI Associates:**

- Accepted chronically homeless individuals in Sanya in a hotel for tourists in May for 7 days during the emergency declaration.

- Started “food distribution” to homeless people on street with “Sanya Cafe Cleanup Team” by visiting them and conduct short interviews each time.

- Keep accepting people who newly become homeless due to COVID-19 and helping them to find a job.

- Plans to renovate a wooden structured building to accommodate the homeless people on street.

**What if the 2nd wave comes to Sanya?**
Under COVID-19: Our Challenges

YUI Associates also faced a big challenge

Keep serving for:
- Local residents including former laborers stay at hostels without kitchen
- Refreshment from self quarantine in small rooms (5.5 ㎡)

- Case conference through Skype
- More support for a person in terminal care
There are fewer construction works and fewer works provided by Tokyo Metropolitan government. They have to make a living by collecting cans.
Food Distribution: “Gohan Kubari”

Nikkei Newspaper: “Day Laborers are in a plight under COVID-19: Tokyo Metropolitan Government stopped providing jobs for 2 months.”

“Which would you like, a beef rice bowl or a chicken & egg rice bowl?”
Drinking on street

Playing Japanese chess in the park
Sanya Cafe Cleanup Team

Current Issues: disrespectful townscapes
- There are long lines for food distribution in the end of each month.
- Trashes are thrown on the streets after drinking.

Who joins?
- people who (used to) live in Sanya
- people who are drinking on streets
- Ariake residents

Towards respectful and clean townscapes
- Participants will feel sense of belonging.
- Regain dignity and self-esteem.
⇒ Avoid exclusion pressured by local regular residents
Next Project?

Shared Housing for Homeless People
- Seismic reinforcement
  ⇒ Safe and comfortable living environment

Growing vegetables “SanYasai”
Social Skill Training at cafe

Support for Continuous Employment
- Type B Service Office
What do people need to regain their dignity?

◆ A homeless person with schizophrenia recovering in better environment

◆ Interview survey with long stayers in hostels (2011)

  • “Which do you choose between a NPO facility where you can have support you need or a hostel? ”
    - 95.24% out of 147 interviewees chose hostels.
      ⇒ Most of the facilities are under restrictive interventions. 
      Dignity comes from the choices you make for yourself.

◆ How can former homeless individuals regain their dignity and become more self reliant and independent in Sanya community?

Improving hostels [Community Life Support Service]  Social Participation [General trust Sense of belonging]
Renovation in Ariake in 2014