

## Japan holds workshops for head managers of Family Departments

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We held a workshop for the head managers of the Family Departments throughout Japan at the Isshin Special Education Building. This is located in Urayasu City in Chiba Prefecture. The workshop lasted three days, July 2–4.

Seventy-nine head managers from the Family Department in each region gathered, and they spent a satisfying three days attending various lectures and speeches, discussions and question and answer sessions. The purpose of the workshop was

- 1) Primarily to understand the eight major policies that the Family Department is focusing on in 2015.
- 2) The proper internal attitude of a department head in the Family Department was also conveyed and a reconfirmation of the work duties of the department head took place.
- 3) The Various responsibilities, standards and existing interdepartmental agreements were confirmed.
- 4) It was an excellent opportunity to interact and discuss issues of interest and importance.



*Ms. Yuki Uchida giving a presentation*

The many invited lecturers created a good learning environment and it was a precious chance to examine and seek solutions to real problems.

At the workshop, Rev. Tokuno, the Japanese Unification Church president spoke about True Mother and True Children's recent situations. He also guided the department heads on their mission and the heart-centric attitude of a Family Department manager in the field. He stressed how important it is to create true families. Such insightful guidance allowed the participants at the end of the workshop to depart with a completely new feeling from the one they had on arrival.

Through the speech given by Dr. Kunio Sano, the national Family Department leader, we learned the direction of the Family Department as we approach 2020, how best to act and the hope we have for the blessing in this present era. The person in charge of each area gained new determination and we had one consciousness.



*Participants interacting and discussing the revitalization of blessed families*

One of the major problems of this workshop was to improve the internal attitude of Family Department head managers. The Family Department's field of responsibility is to listen to members sincerely and to receive their hearts because the Family Department is concerned with the each person's practical and religious lives deeply.

Thus, for this workshop, Miki Abe, the director of church growth research gave a lecture on communication about having real conversations. It was a precious learning time within a calming atmosphere. Through the lecture of Ms. Yuki Uchida, the participants reconfirmed that one of the main tasks of the director is to facilitate family members gaining closer bonds to one another and to support education on personality traits and lineage. Participants spoke of increased personal determination to care for each person's spiritual life.

At this workshop, we had longer discussion time than usual to engage with one another over how to solve many problems. Family head managers, who are responsible for the blessing, interviews, matching support, faith guidance face many of the same challenges. Sharing their situations, relieved their heart and made a fresh start possible as they receiving new power.

Looking at difficulties from another perspective, participants gathered by area and had the time to discuss plans for the future by themselves and field activities for future. The question and answer time was serious, covering basic questions and difficult cases.

Participants recognized and strongly felt that their mission required them to keep learning in many areas in order to support the couples and families in their areas. They hope to study more in the future. They are determined to progress in internal and external education even as the head managers of each church. With this resolve, they returned to their fields.



*Miki Abe, director of church growth research, giving a lecture*



*Eiji Tokuno, president of the Japanese Unification church, giving a sermon*