

## Kama-yan and his friends are hard-working laborers.



I took these slides from a comic book, so they might be hard to read. Sorry!

## The Lives of 'Occhan' (older men) in the Airin District (Kamagasaki)

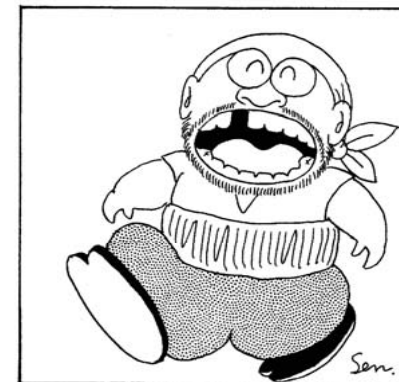
Arimura Sen / Takayuki Orita  
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## A day in the life of Kama-yan and his friends



Morning at the Airin Labor Welfare Center (in front of Shin-Imamiya Station)

## I'm 'Kama-yan.' I'll show you around.



# What kinds of jobs are there?

Let's have a look at a skills training poster to find out!



# Laborers looking for work



# If we get paid, we can stay in simple hostels (hotels for workers)

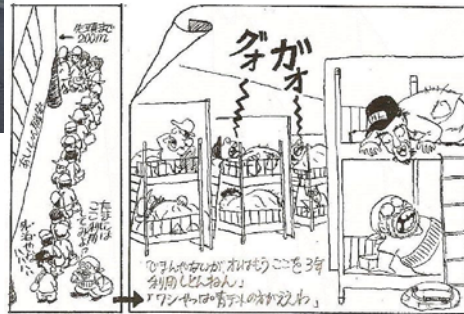


Ginza Doori (street) in Kamagasaki (Since it is daytime, most of the workers are out working so there are not many people around).

# They work really hard at construction sites



# These men will stay in an emergency shelter.



# But recently there are more and more people who can't find jobs.



The main reasons are that the workers are **aging**, the economy is in **recession**, and construction sites have grown increasingly **mechanized**.



# Lining up for a free meal.

## Sankaku (Triangle) Park

# Where should we go? What should we do?



(Left) These people have no place to go, so they stay on the second floor of the Airin Main Center Building

(Right) People buying expired box lunches.

# So we definitely need to stop this type of behavior!



# Collecting aluminium cans to eke out an existence



This is one of the only jobs for Kama-yan and his friends

By contributing to the recycling of aluminum refuse, these men also perform a vital social function

## What can we do? Aid policies were initiated in 1998.

The national government, local government (Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City), citizens' groups, and workers' organizations all initiated support projects.



# Some people live in tents



(Left) Osaka Castle Park

(Right) Kamagasaki's Shikaku(Square) Park

## Those who are too old to work receive welfare assistance



## In various places around Nishinari Ward community building began



Everyone shares their abilities and ideas

## These 'occhan' have begun a new way of working



For those who can work, new jobs need to be created

- There were successful and unsuccessful attempts



# Please help us to make Nishinari a wonderful place to live



# Some 'occhan' have begun a new way of living



# The end

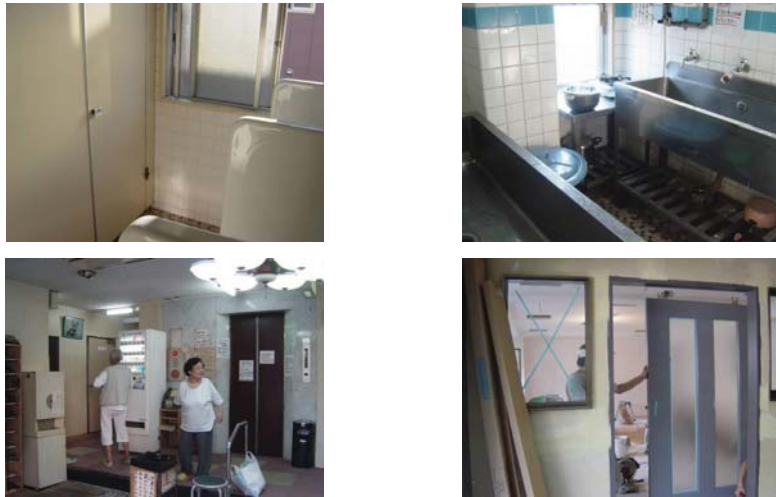


# But there are still a lot of people who need help, so the problem has not been completely solved



People from all over Japan are taking notice of the efforts of the people of Nishinari Ward

## The shared toilet, kitchen, and bathroom at Supportive House



## <Supplement 1> Inside the Supportive House facility



In the Osaka area, there are 10 to 15 such facilities accommodating between 1000 and 2000 men and women

## The Lounge at Supportive House

Some occupants even had the good fortune of sharing a game of *shogi* (Japanese chess) with famous seventh-rank chess master Mori Nobuo/Nobukatsu

when he visited the facility



## A look inside a room at the Supportive House



Every month we hold a public meeting where we discuss a broad array of themes. The meetings are attended by a diverse group of individuals.



(Upper left) The Nishinari Ward Welfare Survey Report Meeting. (Upper Right) A discussion involving young members of Japan's N.E.E.T. (Not currently engaged in Employment, Education, or Training) population and older Kamagasaki residents. (Lower left) A joint lecture with participants from Osaka City University's Nishinari Plaza. (Lower right) A lecture concerning the issue of the large-scale deletion of Kamagasaki area residents' names and addresses from the local government registry of current residential addresses.

## <Supplement 2>

### Support projects initiated by the Kamagasaki Regeneration Forum

In an effort to counter the impoverishment and instability of the 1990s and aid the poor of Kamagasaki, we established the non-profit Kamagasaki Regeneration Forum.



The members of the Kamagasaki Regeneration Forum.

The picture on the left is from a gathering in 2003. The picture on the right is from our annual meeting in 2006.

## Workshops to brainstorm new ideas



When we were just starting out, we frequently held workshops.



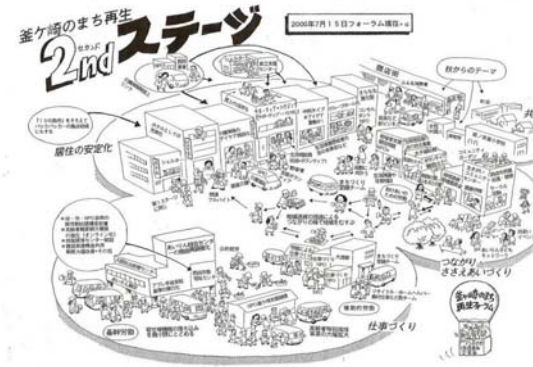
We converted a garage into a small shared office space.

Currently, we share the space with the *kami shibai* story-telling troupe *Musubi*. *Kami shibai* is a traditional Japanese form of artistic performance in which the performer tells a story using both words and picture cards.

Out of the 「A Workshop to Reexamine Local History」 a chain of interesting activities emerge. The project of “town-making” begins under the directions of aid organizations and shifts to one supported by formerly homeless area residents. The circle widens.



Eventually we formulated a vision of how the community could be regenerated so that area residents could continue to live there and through the initiation of wide array of projects, we began to work towards the realization of that vision.



Our so-called grand design. On the right is one concrete manifestation of that design, the Supportive House. (The supportive house is a shelter-style facility in which the rooms have been converted into individual apartments and various forms of support and aid for the residents are provided). We operate 10-15 such facilities and there are currently 1000-2000 occupants under our care.

Re-envisioning our town → Receiving visitors from outside →  
The Kamagasaki study tour project began



Out of our monthly public meetings, a wide array of connections, activities, and projects have emerged.



<Left> Older male welfare recipients carrying out field work related to local disaster prevention.

<Right> Working at the vegetable garden.

On the basis of a shared interest in the issue of homelessness, we have begun to build connections within in Japan, in the East Asian region, and in Europe and the Americas.



Members of the business organization, the Osaka Network, also began to participate.



In fields outside of welfare, the methods that we employed to reinvigorate the Kamagasaki area (town-making · community business · local care) increasingly thrive. Kamagasaki is especially skilled in the area of local care.

## Future Issues



- Bringing and end to official practices of social exclusion, including the striking of the names and addresses of the homeless from official residential registries. < See the picture above >
- Formulating measures to cope with the issue of homelessness among young people, including members of Japan's N.E.E.T. population and the working poor
- Opposing the dismantling of the welfare system and contributing to its proper development
- Getting more of Kamagasaki's elderly male residents to participate in "town-making" activities

< Supplement 3 > The Regeneration Forum is also proficient when it comes to survey activities (There are a large number of researchers)



