Challenge! Open Governance 2017 Application Form for Citizens & Students

Title of Regional Issue*	No.	Title	Name of Municipality
	- (for the administrative office)	Revitalization of Local Communities: Community Development with Reciprocal Connection and Support Among People	Osaka
Name of the Idea (disclosure)	Re: FURO OSAKA Project		

（*Enter the title of regional issue of the applying municipality as described in COG2017 website.

1. Applicant Information

Name of the team (disclosure)	Re: FURO OSAKA		
Team attribution (disclosure)	3. Team consisting of both students and local residents		
Number of members	90 members		
Team leader (only the name will be disclosed)	Name (disclosure)	Makoto Inoue	

※Conditions for information disclosure

　Information provided in "2. Description of Idea" beginning on the next page will be disclosed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license (CC BY 4.0) after confirmation of its contents. At the request of the applicant, however, such information will be disclosed under the CC BY-NC (Attribution – Noncommercial) 4.0 International license. Please let us know your preference at the time of application. In both cases, the name of the applying team will be used.

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(Notes)

<Name of the file for application and addressee>
1. Send the file with the filename COG2016_applicationform_teamname_municipalityname to the address below. You can also access this address via the application registration column on the COG2016 website of the Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo: admin_padit_cog2016@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp

<Public or private information>
2. The name of the idea, name of the team, team attribution, name of the team leader, and "description of idea" will be open to the public.
3. The contents above will be reviewed before disclosure (anything which is harmful to public order, unethical, or making use of a plagiarized idea will not be disclosed).
4. The "self-evaluation" column of the application form will not be disclosed. However, if the content is excellent and deemed useful for other applicants, it may be disclosed after consultation during the advice stage after the open review.
5. If any element associated with an intellectual property right whose holder is not a member of the applying team, such as texts, photographs, and graphics, is included in the "description of idea," it should be demarcated stating that it is quoted according to the relevant laws and regulations or that its use has been approved by the right holder. Please do the same for the "self-evaluation" column.

<List of the team members>

This page is public.

Submit the list of the team members in the attached Excel file (Any information about members other than the team leader as specified in 2. above will not be disclosed except to the COG Secretariat. Please see the attachment for details).

2. Description of the Idea

Fill in three items: (1) content of idea, (2) rationale for idea, and (3) how to realize it.
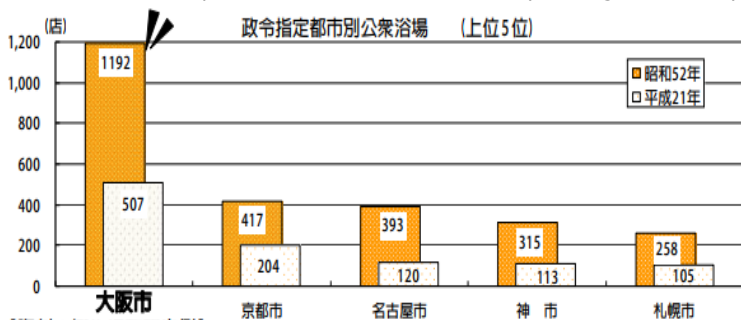
(1) content of the idea

Please show the content of the idea by putting these elements in the idea as to who, what, where, when, and how it is a public service (activity) to do.

The project aims to revitalize local communities using Osaka's public bath culture.

Sento (*Ofuro Ya* in the Kansai region) is a part of Japanese culture that has significantly contributed to public health. They are usually located in central areas of cities, and they have played an important role as a community hub.

Sento, which has existed as a part of the local infrastructure, has become no more than a form of recreation due to changes in lifestyle. It is now in decline, and it is said that one public bathhouse goes out of business every week.

(There were 2500 public bathhouses in Osaka 20 years ago, but today the number is fewer than 400)

By properly redefining the cultural role *Sento* has played to this day, we would like to preserve it as a place of acceptance. We would like to contemplate urban planning with an emphasis on *Sento* as a community hub.

By carrying out this project in cooperation with private companies, government, universities, communities, public bathhouses, and infrastructure companies, we would like to redefine the value of *Sento* and revitalize communities based on cooperation and reciprocity, similar to the communities during the Showa period.

(2) Rationale for the idea

Describe the rationale for the idea (why have you chosen this idea?) with numerical data (achievements, statistics, or questionnaire results) and evidence (materials, plans, or existing measures) that support the idea (collectively, the "data").

Definition of a local community

Family → Work/School → Community

We think that a local community is formed within the "family," at "work/school," and in the "local community." However, the local community, which should have intrinsically existed as a place of acceptance for such community refugees as single people, who have no family and single mothers who do not attend school or work, has collapsed. There are various reasons for the collapse of local communities, such as the growing increase in the population of singles, the low birthrate, an aging society, depopulation, urbanization, and the difficulty of socializing, but in any case, it is said that it has been some time since relationships with others have disappeared.

Issues such as single-living elderly, *kodokushi*, living assistance for single mothers, and day care waiting lists, which once used to be resolved by local communities, have emerged.
On the other hand, *Sento,* which once used to be a central part of local communities, is now at its deathbed due to factors such as the aging society, lack of successors, and changes in local infrastructure. However, *Sento* has an element of unclothed social gathering where people can socialize regardless of age, gender, or status.
Various communities are facing various issues. There are communities with a lot of households, communities with a lot of single people, communities with a large elderly population, communities that require a lot of public assistance, and if there is a community centered around *Sento*, these issues will either be resolved or alleviated.

Reduction of nursing-care expenses
In Osaka, future nursing-care expenses will exceed ¥10,000 per household, and if people visit *Sento* rather than spending this money on adult daycare services, they can receive similar service and reduce nursing care expenses.

Serving as a daycare center
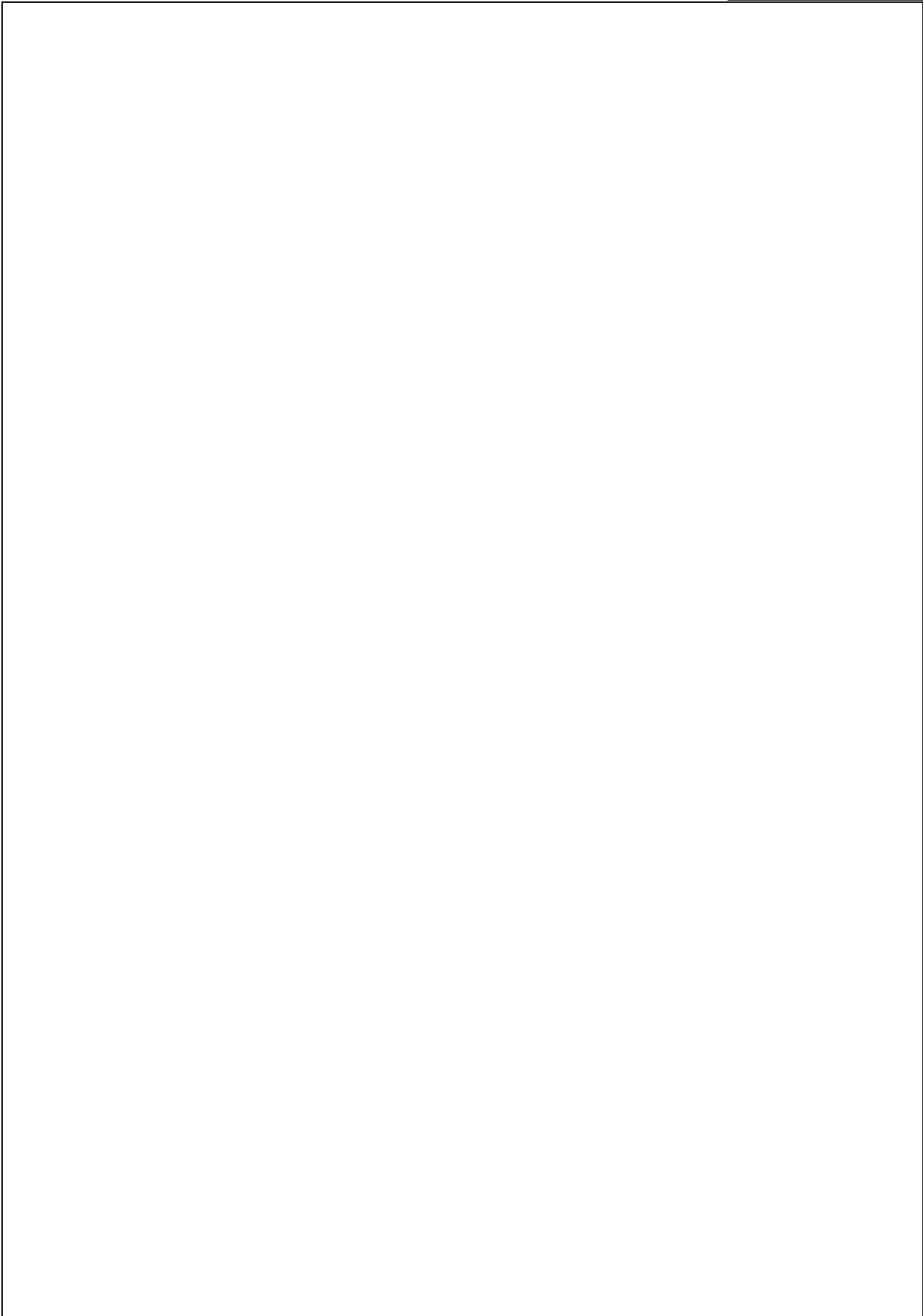Parents can temporarily leave their children at *Sento.*
The child will be bathed, while the mom is working, and once she is done, she can take the child home and put the child to bed.
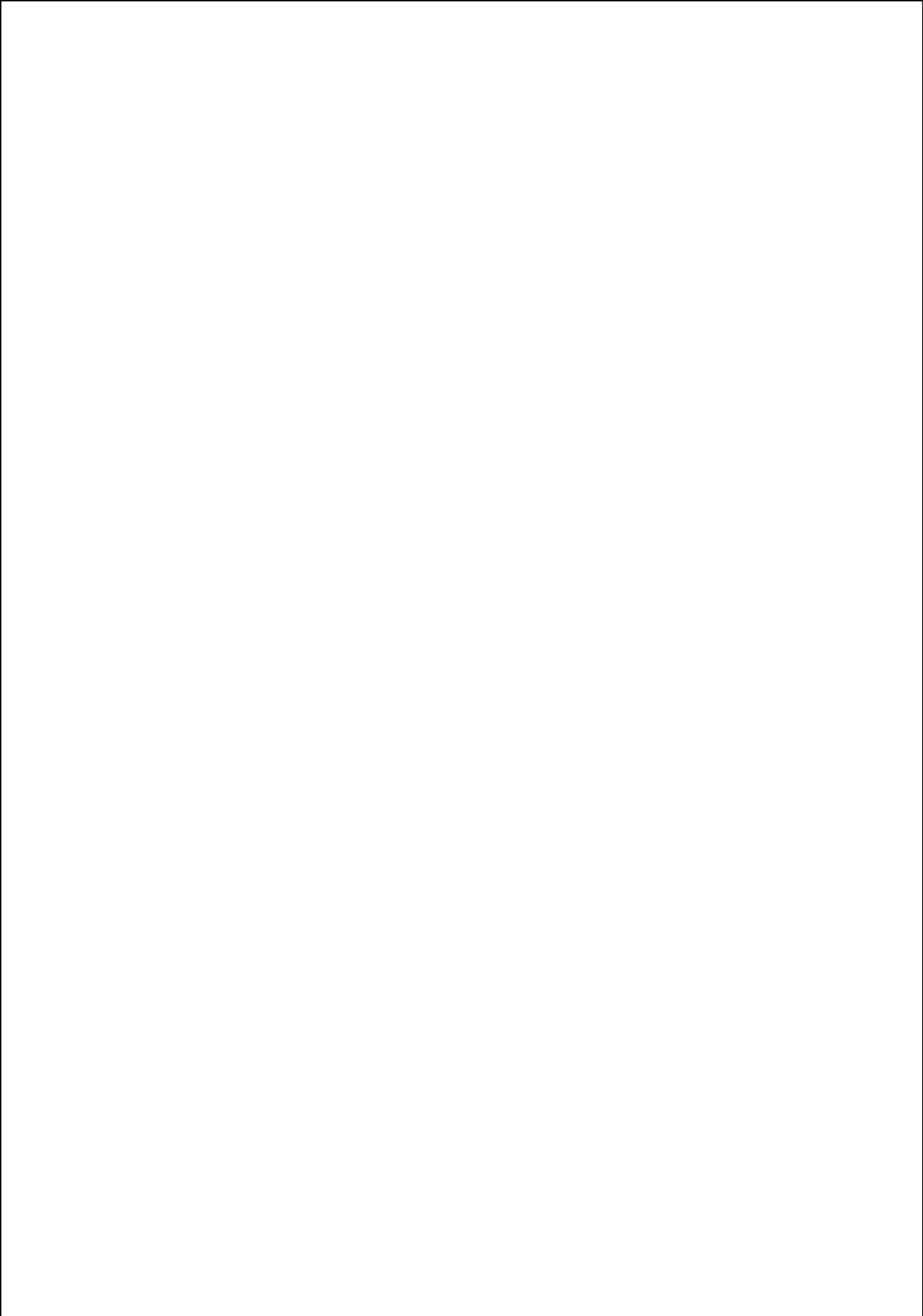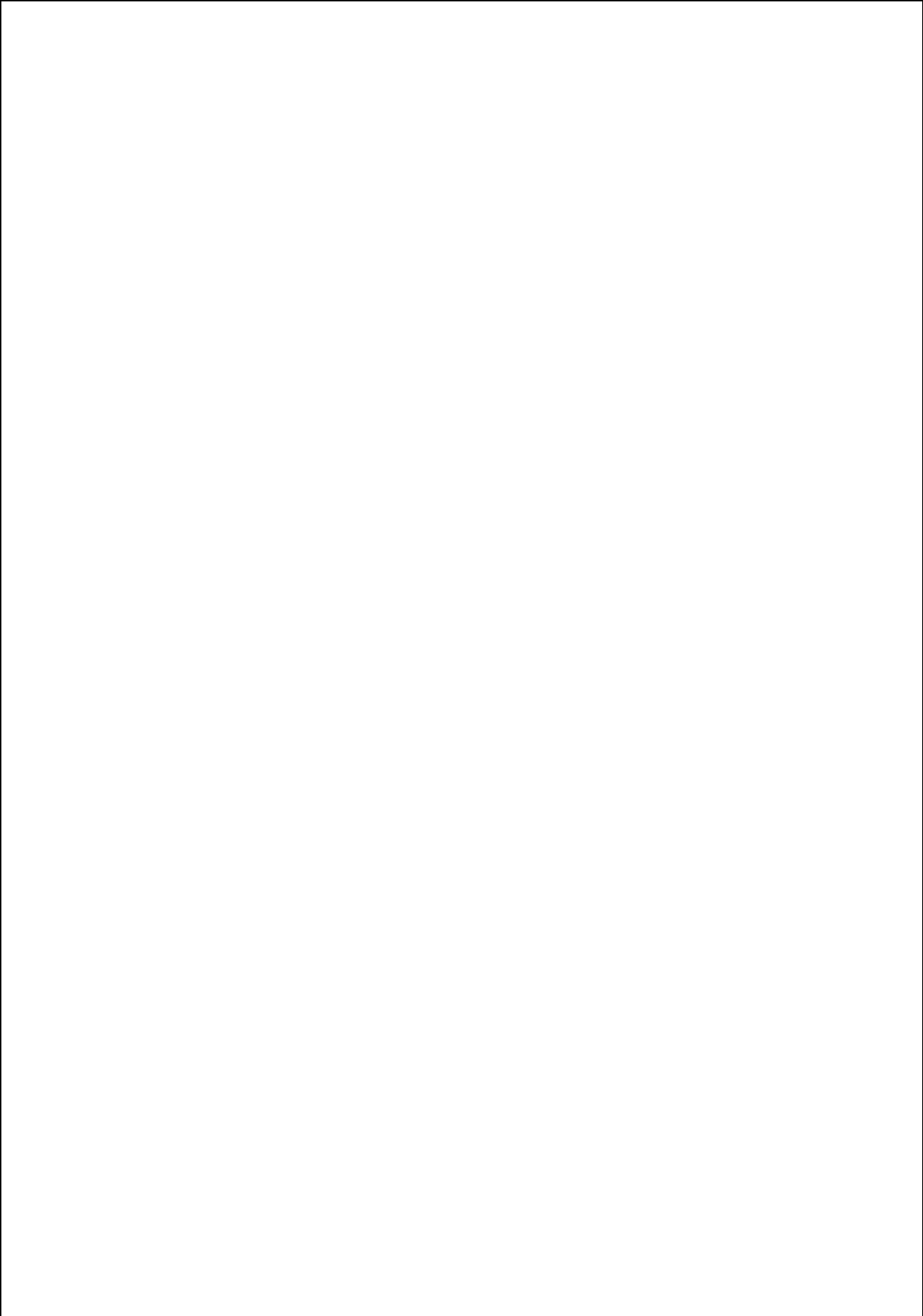
Managing health of the elderly
The dressing rooms can be opened to instructors to conduct exercises, which can be a health benefit to the elderly. Furthermore, it can serve as a place for socializing.

A place where men and women can socialize

Places like *Utagaki Furo* (searching for a marriage partner while reciting *tanka)* are increasing in number to appeal to the single population. Similarly, late marriages can be curbed by using a visit to *Sento* as an opportunity to search for a marriage partner.

(3) How to implement the idea.
Describe the process and milestones, etc.

Step 1: Identifying regional issues and regional resources
Holding a mapping party to identify the local resources (schools, restaurants, cinema theatres, daycare centers, stations, etc.). Confirming that the owners of Japanese public bathhouses are aware as to what kind of city they live in.

Step 2: Management of IT systems
Maintenance of media and database. Creating a shared database in a format that is easy to maintain and setting it as open data.

Step 3: Development of original novelties and goods
We will produce original novelties, food items and beverages, and we will offer an experience and things that can be obtained only that day and in that place.

Step 4: Strengthening regional cooperation system
We will aim to strengthen the cooperation among *Sento* facilities, with the municipal administration, universities, and local communities, and foster local communities of the city.

Step 5: Holding events
Funds will be raised via crowdfunding, and PR events will be held. Knowledge of each *Sento* will be shared and applied to the rest of the facilities.

Step 6: Involvement of infrastructure companies
Each railroad company, gas company, and electric company will be involved, and the connection and means of transportation among *Sento* facilities will be newly created. Conditions for easy travel among *Sento* facilities will be created.
In addition to the existing means of transportation, vehicles such as rental bicycles and rickshaws will be available.

MTG on October 10.
47 attendees. Among them: one ward boss; staff of each welfare department; university professors; three *Sento* facility owners
First workshop on November 11.
80 attendees. Among them: two ward bosses; university professors; five *Sento* facility owners; head of the Association of Public Bathhouses
MTG on December 20.
38 attendees. Among them: one ward boss; staff of municipal administration; university professors; university employees.
Progress report. Identifying issues of *Sento* facilities, whose owners are participating for the

first time. Generating ideas.