

Dramatic efforts behind the establishment of Kobe mosque



The first step of the establishment of the mosque is in 1928 when Indian merchant started to collect the funds in accordance with the increase of Muslim population in Kobe just after WWI.

Before that, although some attempts to build a mosque happened, they ended in failure. Ferozuddin, who is one of Indian merchants, shouldered more than half the total amount of fund.

At the same time. Kobe Turkey Tatar Association also saved their living costs and donated much though they were not that wealthy. In addition to them, many Muslims regardless of nationality were despe rately contributed themselves in building one. They consisted of Tatars in Korea, Egyptians in Kobe, Syrian merchants, and so forth.

In November 1934, cornerstone ceremony was organized and it is said many people including Afganistani ministry in Japan, Egyptian consular official in Kobe, British vice-consul official in Kobe, Japanese scholar of Turkey, attended to the event. In 1935, the permission as a mosque was given, and chairman from the mosque committee declared "the opening of the first Islam mosque in Land of the Rising Sun".





Kobe as a "gate of God"



Mian Abdul Aziz, a chairman of All-India Muslim League, explained that this establishment represents Japan's tolerance to religion while interpreting that Kobe is a "Gate of God" (in Chinese character, "Ko" represents God, "Be" Gate).

And he added that the pronunciation of word "Kobe" is similar to "Koba (Quba')" which refers to Quba' mosque in Medina, Saudi Arabia.

Legacy remains until now



Since the establishment, Kobe mosque had survived major historical events, including its confiscation by the Imperial Japanese Navy in 1943. One of the most remarkable history is Kobe mosque was not destroyed after bombing of Kobe in World War II in 1945 because of its substantial body and sophisticated structure. Even when Han -Shin Awaji Earthquake disaster occurred in 1995, the building was not damaged and accommodated Japanese refugees from disaster. Year by year in Japan, those who are interested in Islam are increasing in number. Now, this mosque opens not only for Muslim but for everyone who would like to know Islam. Some Islamic teachers give a lecture or a talk there periodically to spread knowledge about Islam and enrich relationship between Muslim and Japanese society.



Meet Muslim in Kobe



Zulkarnain (Malaysia)

There are various religious facilities in Kobe that provide you a chance to learn. Please drop by Kobe Mosque if you have time.



Kobe is a comfortable place to live in for me because it is rich in nature and we can spend Eid in Kobe Mosque too. I hope there will be more places to pray and eat in the city.



Ana Farhana (Japanese)

Kobe Mosque is where I did Shahadah, so it is important and special to me. I feel how huge and deep Islam is as I can purify myself and meet Muslim friends when I visit the Mosque.

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