

Annex 5. Policy speech by the Governor of Tokyo and media coverage on local governments' suspension of subsidies to Korean schools

A. Policy Speech by the Governor of Tokyo, Shintaro Ishihara, at the First Regular Session of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, 2012¹

(Subsidies for North Korean schools)

Moving on, I would like to discuss the subject of subsidies to North Korean schools. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government provides subsidies to "miscellaneous category" schools that educate foreign children in order to help defray their operational costs. This is because having foreign nationals deepen their understanding of Japan and develop an attachment to our country is also very meaningful for Japan's future.

However, this becomes a totally different story in the case of schools that are indicated to have a close affiliation with Chongryon, the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, which is under the influence of the North Korean government, which abducted Japanese citizens, and when there are doubts about the school's curriculum and political neutrality. Because of such reasons, we have decided not to include subsidies for North Korean schools in our budget. We will continue thorough investigations into the management and curriculum of these schools.

B. Media coverage on local governments' suspension of subsidies to Korean schools (31st Oct 2013)

Yokohama Stops Subsidies for Chongryon Schools²

The Japanese city of Yokohama has decided to stop annual subsidies to pro-North Korean schools this year, citing North Korea's nuclear test and other provocations, the Tokyo Shimbun daily reported Wednesday.

The schools are affiliated with the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan or Chongryon, a Pyongyang mouthpiece.

The education committee in Yokohama informed three of the Chongryon schools in the city last week that they would not be receiving the subsidy of 2.5 million yen set aside in this year's budget.

They include two primary and one secondary school.

Yokohama Mayor Fumiko Hayashi said she is halting the subsidies as long as the issues of "North Korea's nuclear weapons development and abduction of Japanese citizens remain unresolved."

Earlier in February, the Japanese government cut Chongryon schools out of federal subsidies. Seven regional governments, including Saitama and Hiroshima, have followed suit.

The Chosunilbo

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¹ <http://www.metro.tokyo.jp/ENGLISH/GOVERNOR/ARC/20121031/SPEECH/2012/fgm57103.htm>

² http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2013/10/31/2013103101641.html