



Proposal of Kyoto Central Masjid

— Japan, 2017 —

Kyoto Muslim Association

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Kyoto Central Masjid Committee was appointed by Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) Executive Committee (EC) Members through an Official EC Meeting in 2017.

Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) is a non-profit religious organization in Kyoto that supports the welfare of the Muslim community in Kyoto and various Islamic events for Dawaa, and perform the cultural exchange between Muslims and Japanese community in Kyoto.

Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) is a registered religious corporation at Kyoto Prefecture (No. 1300-05-006671), and has a status of tax exemption.



Chairman's Message

Assalaamu 'Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

Kyoto is a very friendly city and Japanese people deserves our efforts to introduce them about Islam. As for Muslim community living in this beautiful city, we are in need to build a new Masjid to be an important place for daily prayers, community cohesion, and increasing Islamic knowledge. As appointed by Kyoto Muslim Association Executive Committee to be the chairman of this Kyoto Central Masjid committee, I called for members for the committee among Kyoto muslim community after Friday prayer on 12th of May 2017.

The committee has been working extremely hard to prepare the proposal and plans for our beautiful Kyoto Central Masjid and to establish new criteria and procedures that are vital to the success of a building of its size combining a prayer space, facilities, library, cultural and educational center for enlightening Muslims and non-Muslims about the religion of Islam. We kindly ask you to help us to build the Masjid in Kyoto and to have your sincere prayers that may Allah bless this Masjid. I would like to send special thanks for the Muslim community in Kyoto and all of brothers and sisters in Japan and worldwide for the donations and great supports during our campaigns.

Finally, I would like to give a note of thanks to all of our dedicated committee members including all KMA-EC members, for all of their precious efforts and thoughts. Needless to say, whilst the challenge and responsibility is great, Alhamdulillah, it remains an honor to serve Muslims and Islam in Kyoto.

Jazaakumullaahukhairan

Sameh Ahmed Abdelmaksoud Kantoush, Ph.D
Chairman of Kyoto Central Masjid Committee
One of Egyptian Representatives in KMA EC Members





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1. Introduction: Kyoto Central Masjid (KCM)

Establishing a masjid is a prophetic and Islamic deed for Muslim Communities. The first decision of our Prophet Mohammed "Peace be upon him" after entering Al-Medina, is to build the Masjid of Quba. For us as Muslims, Our religion is an integral part of our daily lives and a holistic approach to personal and community development. The role of the masjid has always been instrumental and central for Muslims.

However, there is currently no real Masjid in Kyoto City. The current main prayer space is running by Kyoto Muslim Associations (KMA) since 1998 as a basement of an apartment building. This prayer space is too narrow for our Friday prayer congregations and doesn't open for all of the five daily obligatory prayers time. Therefore, KMA Executive Committee Members appointed Kyoto Central Masjid Committee to build a new central Masjid named as Kyoto Central Masjid (KCM) as a good representation of Islam for Japanese and international society of Kyoto.

2. Muslim Community

The current population in Kyoto from several Muslim-majority countries includes 1599 people (Figure 1) as recorded by Japanese Government in 2016¹. We are able to expect or estimate that around 88% of these numbers (1407 people) are Muslims based on the average of each referred country's demographic ratio by type of religions².

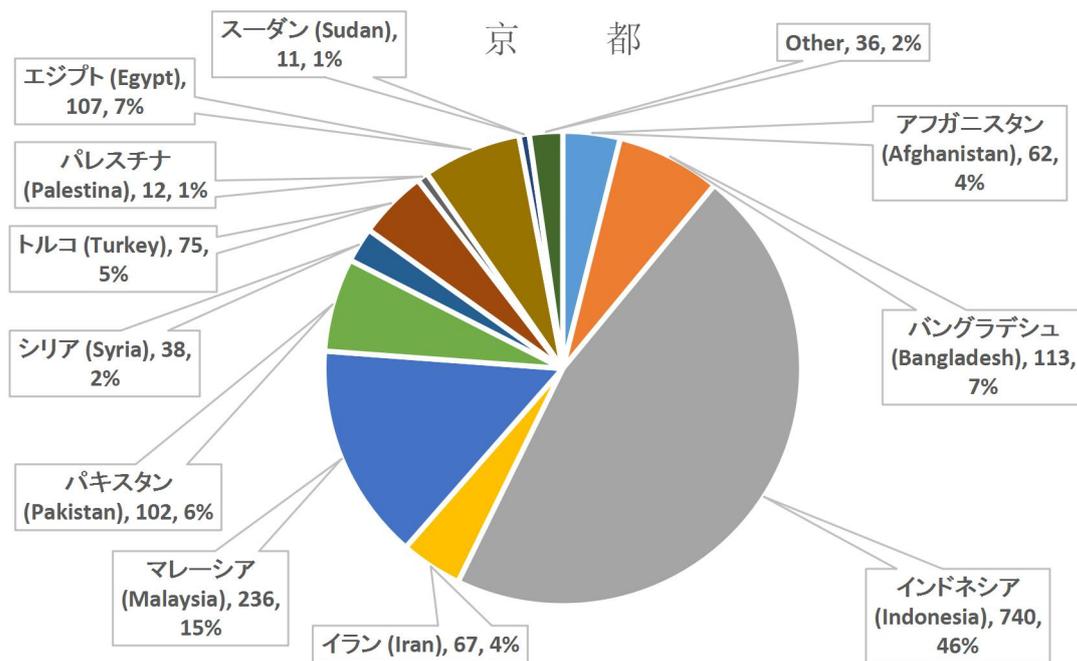


Fig. 1. Population from various Muslim-majority countries in Kyoto prefecture as in 2016³

¹ This data is based on <http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/List.do?lid=000001177523>, the dataset was titled as 都道府県別 国籍・地域別 在留外国人

² The ratio information was available at wikipedia.org for Afghanistan, UAE, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalaam, Indonesia, Iran, Irak, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yaman, Egypt, and Sudan

³ This data is based on <http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/List.do?lid=000001177523>, the dataset was titled as 都道府県別 国籍・地域別 在留外国人

One of the main reasons of the population growth is the study opportunity promoted by Kyoto University to the Muslims countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Egypt, Syria, Pakistan, Turkey, etc. That is why 80% of the muslim community who are the users of the current main prayer space in Kyoto are students or affiliated with Kyoto University (Figure 2)⁴. There are some Muslims from foreign countries come to Kyoto to work as well. Most importantly, Kyoto has proclaimed itself as a Muslim-friendly city⁵. Besides, there are about 200 Japanese muslims registered with Kyoto Islamic Cultural Center, an affiliation of Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA)

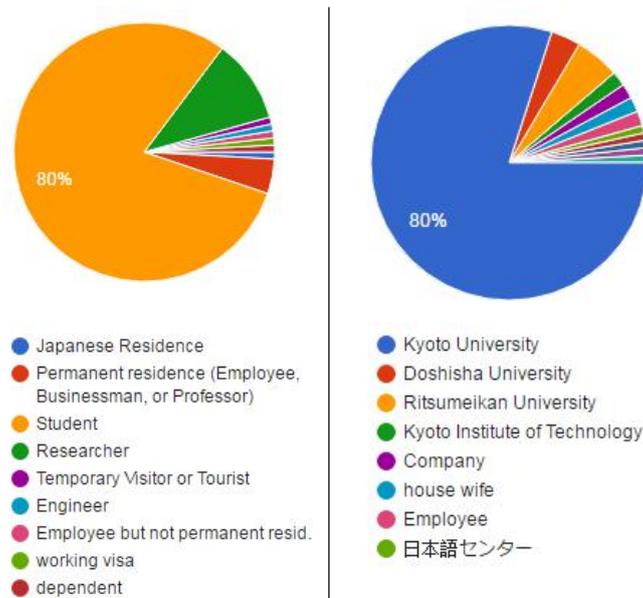


Fig. 2. Classifications of Muslims as the users of the current main prayer space at Kyoto based on professions and affiliation⁶

3. Significance

Kyoto is the old capital of Japan and still serving as the representation of Japanese cultures. In spite of its importance and position in the hearth of Japanese people, Kyoto has been aiming itself as a Muslim-friendly city⁷ even though it is a city known as a major center of Buddhism and a home of many famous shrines. For Muslims living as a minority abroad, this initiative from Kyoto government makes peace in our hearth. We should thank Japanese people and government for this kindness by good contributions to the city itself and one of them is introducing the beauty and the peacefulness of Islam. As we have no a truly dedicated Masjid structure yet in Kyoto city currently, we hope KCM could be the first true Masjid in this city that represents this thankfulness for example by using Japanese style architecture (explained further on Section 10) with Islamic identity. As a statistical comparison, there are more than 130 Christian churches⁸ but zero dedicated building as a Masjid⁹ along with 1600 Buddhist temples¹⁰ and 400 Shinto shrines⁴ in Kyoto (Figure 3).

⁴ This information is based on the survey conducted by the committee from June 9th - 23rd, 2017

⁵ This information is available at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/12/22/national/kyoto-aims-to-be-muslim-friendly-city/#.WfF0gVuCxp>

⁶ This information is based on the survey conducted by the committee from June 9th - 23rd, 2017

⁷ This information is available at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/12/22/national/kyoto-aims-to-be-muslim-friendly-city/#.WfF0gVuCxp>

⁸ Google map by key words: “京都のキリスト教会”

⁹ <http://www.masjid-finder.jp/>

¹⁰ <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/japan/kyoto>

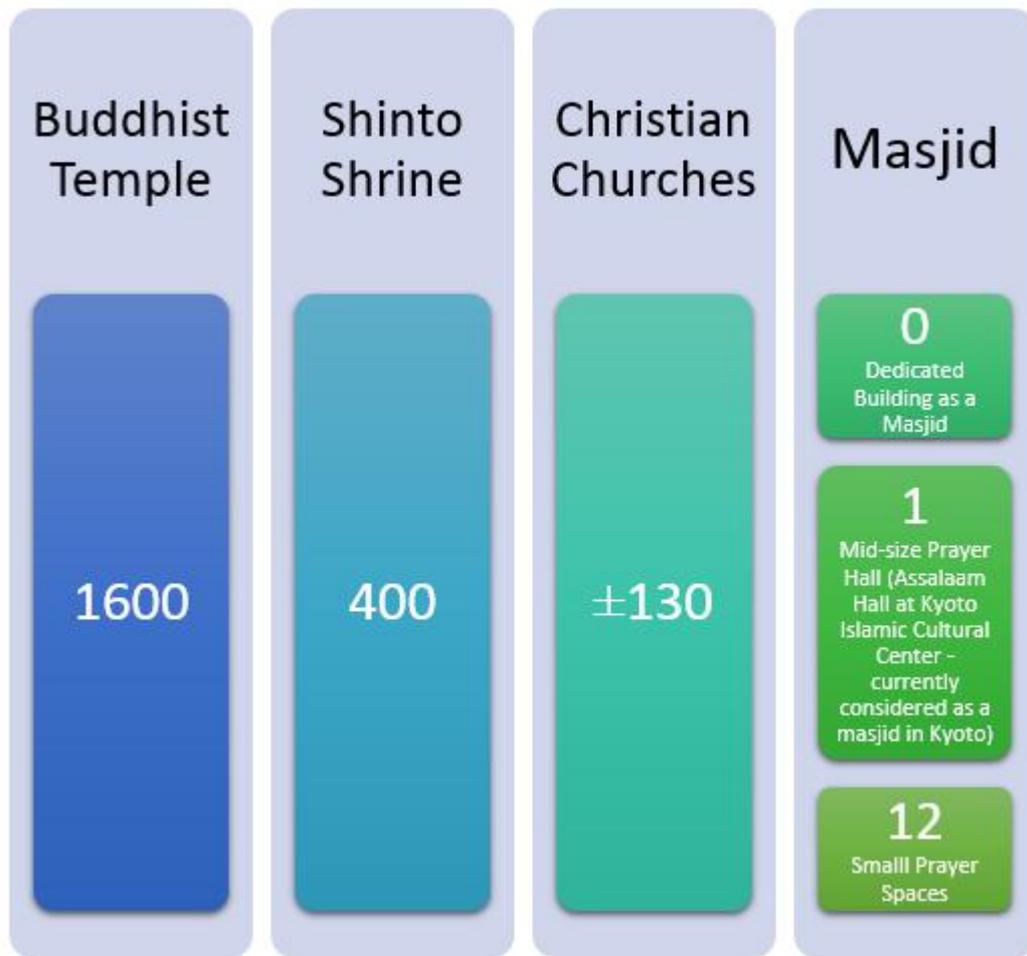


Fig. 3. Comparisons with Statistical Numbers¹¹

4. Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA)

Kyoto Muslim Association (KMA) has been established since 1987, and its Islamic activities have been highly appreciated by the municipality and the citizens supporting the welfare of the Muslim community in Kyoto and performing cultural exchanges between Muslims and Japanese community in Kyoto such as presentation and Ifthar party in Ramadhan. It has been also pioneering the Dawaa activities with Kyoto Islamic Cultural Center by unique programs and publishing several books. KMA is now a registered religious corporation at Kyoto Prefecture (No. 1300-05-006671), and has a status of tax exemption.

For now, KMA owns two floors in multistory apartment building located at Riverside Kojinguchi Building (RKB) where the first floor is used as Halal shop and the basement as prayer space. For large events, such as Eid prayers and Ifthar party, KMA usually rents a large hall with the expectation of around 1000 participants, three times annually such as for two eid prayers and ifthar party. To have a new Masjid is a living dream of Muslim community in Kyoto, as KMA has been collecting the funds for a new Masjid in Kyoto since 10 years ago reaching 23,307,405 JPY¹². KMA Executive Committee appointed Kyoto Central Masjid Committee in 2017 to realize Kyoto Central Masjid.

¹¹ These data are based on Google map by key words: “京都のキリスト教会”, <http://www.masjid-finder.jp/>, and <http://www.sacred-destinations.com/japan/kyoto> for churches, masjids, and temple or shrine respectively

¹² This information is based KMA EC meeting minutes and agenda on August 4th, 2017

5. KMA Activities in Pictures¹³



Fig. 4. Iftar Party



Fig. 5. Eid Prayers



Fig. 6. Halal shop sharing the space with multipurpose classroom at the first floor where Arabic lessons and several presentations have been conducted



Fig. 7. Books published by highly respected scholar in Kyoto, Prof. Koshugi

¹³ The photos were taken by the committee

6. The Challenges at Current Main Prayer Space of KMA



Fig. 8. Current main prayer space of KMA¹⁴

We are thankful with the current main prayer space and facilities of KMA. However, several challenges appeared with the current prayer space, among others are:

- located in the basement with a bit steep of stair which is not friendly for elderly, small kids, and people with disabilities. Even, for general people, it causes a bit of slippery sometimes,

¹⁴ The photos were taken by the committee

- not open for all of five obligatory daily prayers due to the agreed limitations,
- too narrow for the congregations of weekly Friday prayers,
- having one main door only for the prayer space, no separation for the main door between male and female,
- having very limited Islamic activities especially for increasing Islamic knowledge for all of ages and nations,
- is not enough for weekly or monthly social gathering to improve Muslim community cohesion in Kyoto between all of nations, including Japanese Muslims,
- having no full time imam or Islamic scholar that would serve us for providing Islamic lectures and counselling continuously

7. Objectives

Our main objective is to build a new Kyoto Central Masjid that:

- serves Muslims in Kyoto and Japan to be able to do Islamic ritual practices, to learn Islamic knowledge, to know-and-to get Halal foods in Japan, and to have good community cohesion for Muslim community in Kyoto from all of nations.
- become a bridge for Japanese people or non-muslim in general to know more about the true Islam.
- is sustainable with full of integrity to the Islamic values and respecting Japanese law and community

8. Expectations

From the survey conducted by the committee, Muslim community in Kyoto would like have a new masjid which is near to Kyoto University, more than 500 m² of land area, secured the ability to have 24 activities, and having 2-3 floors or more. Finally, the new masjid named as Kyoto Central Masjid is expected to be sustainable with vibrant Islamic services and activities with full of respects to Japanese community around.

9. Purposed Locations

As most of Muslim people using the current main space are students or affiliated with Kyoto University, we purposed a location that is near to the location of student's residential area. We found this location at Shirakawa, near to Shugakuin station and Kyoto University Shugakuin International House (around 5 minutes walk). This location is also not so far from the Kyoto University main campus itself, around 3 Km.

We also expect by establishing a Masjid in this location, it would attract more Muslim people to stay, live, or even open a business around it serving the needs of Muslim community around such as Halal shops and restaurants. we also purposed a location that is accessible by public transportation so general people could reach it easily.

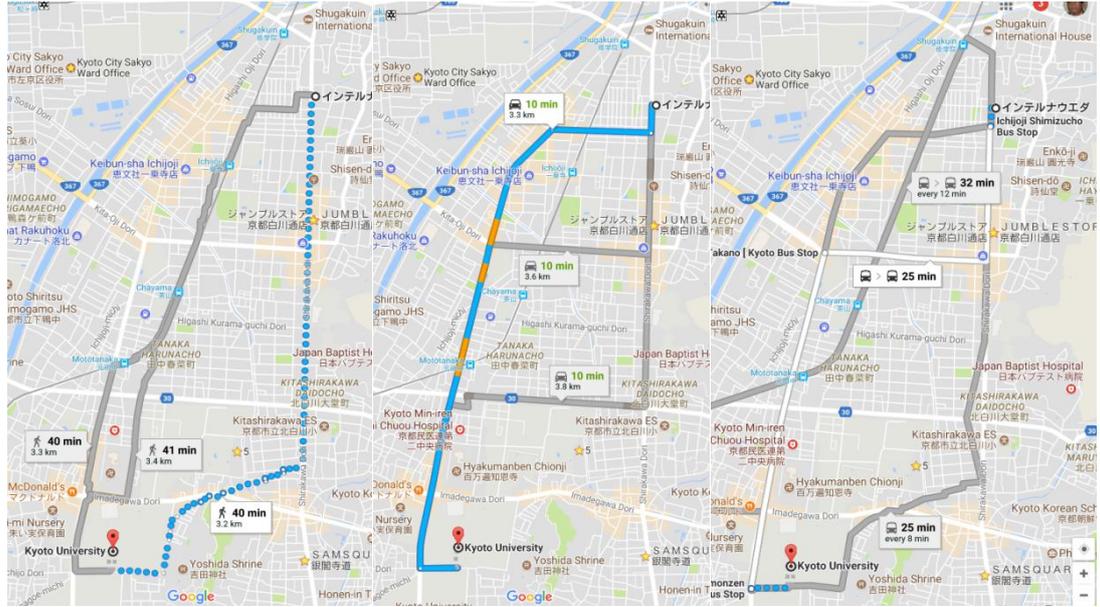


Fig. 9. Purposed location from Kyoto University 3.4 KM, Cycling: 10-15 minutes, Car: 10 minutes, Public Transportation: 25-30 minutes¹⁵

10. Purposed Architecture

As the purposed location is at Shirakawa-dori roadside, the Kyoto Central Masjid will be in the zone of roadside aesthetic landscape promotion district which needs to use modern Japanese Kyoto style architecture (Figure 10). Islamic identity will be added to the building. The details of the existing building and tentative purposed design is available in Appendix A.



Fig. 10. Design standards illustrations for Kyoto City which Our Kyoto Central Masjid will be in the zone of roadside aesthetic landscape promotion district¹⁶

¹⁵ This information is based on Google Map direction information

¹⁶ This information is available from book titled as The Landscape of Kyoto prepared by Kyoto City Government at <http://www.city.kyoto.lg.jp/tokei/cmsfiles/contents/0000057/57538/3shou.pdf>

For that reason, we hope that Kyoto Central Masjid will be the first Masjid to have Japanese Kyoto style architecture. Usually in Japan, Masjids have non-japanese style of architectures (Figure 11).



Fig. 11. Several Masjids in Japan such as Kobe Masjid¹⁷, Tokyo Camii¹⁸, and Osaka Masjid¹⁹ (from left to right) with non-Japanese style of architectures

11. Purposed Identity: KCM Logo

The design of KCM logo is inspired by a Muslim mosaic art, Chrysanthemum flowers, kanji character of 京, and a star-crescent combined as a dome of a Masjid (Figure 12). Muslim mosaic art, start-crescent, and a dome represent Islam. Chrysanthemum flower is chosen as it is traditionally loved by Japanese cultures and in fact, it is the icon of Japanese Imperial house²⁰. Momiji colors represents of autumn season which is one of the famous season in Kyoto. The kanji character of 京 represent Kyoto as a whole.

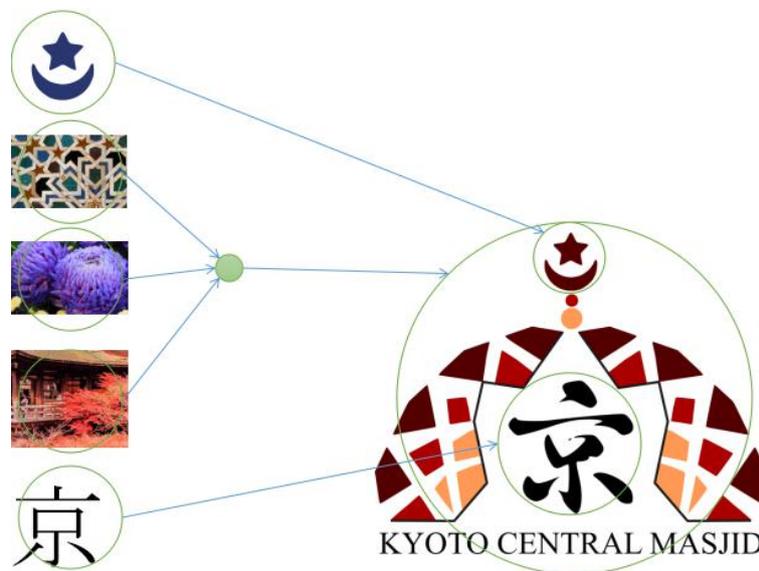


Fig. 12. The Logo of KCM

¹⁷ The information is available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kobe_Mosque

¹⁸ The information is available https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tokyo_Camii

¹⁹ The information is available <http://halalmedia.jp/>

²⁰ The information is available https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_House_of_Japan

12. Cost of KCM

Property Price	298,000,000 JPY
- Down payment: 10,000,000 by December 15th 2017	
- Completion: 288,000,000 by June 15th 2018	
Renovation Cost (Engineering Estimation)	100,000,000 JPY +
Total	398,000,000 JPY

Available fund for covering the down payment: 1,953,903 JPY per November 10th 2017²¹
 Available fund for covering the renovation cost: 23,307,405 JPY per July 2017²²

13. Financial Target and Plan

Kyoto city is ranked among top three world's tourist spots with limited residential land. made our demand budget of our project very big. The owner of the proposed site requested through a real estate company a down payment to sign the contract with Kyoto Central Masjid Committee and the rest of the money as described is due within 6 months. However, we are welcoming any generous donations without any limitations.

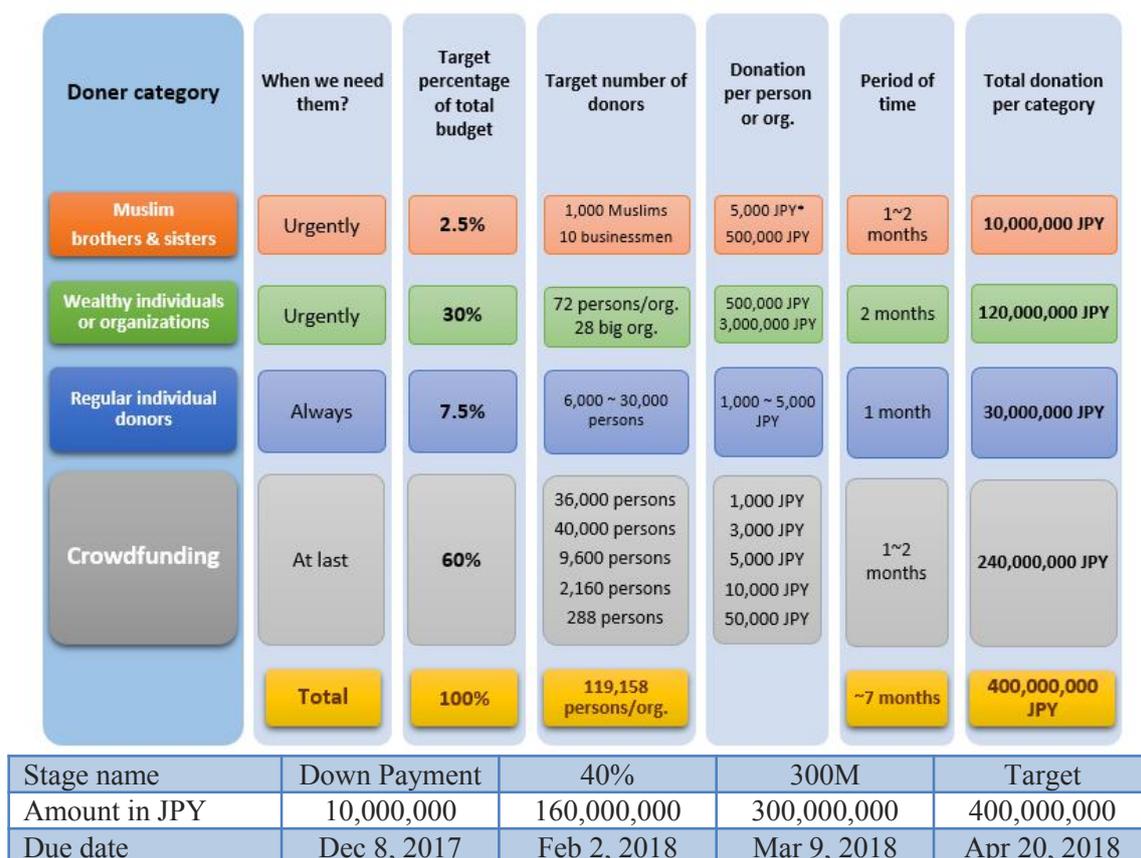


Fig. 13. Financial Target and Plan for Kyoto Central Masjid. For anticipating the price increase from the owner's side, we rounded our target to be 400MJPY. In the end, all of the collected donations will be put for Kyoto Central Masjid

²¹ This amount is collected from donation boxes since October 13th, 2017.

²² The amount is taken from the data of KMA Meeting minutes and agenda on August 4th, 2017.

14. Bank Account and Donation Confirmation

All of the funding and donations for Kyoto Central Masjid can be made through this bank:

Bank Name : Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Bank
Branch Name : Demachi-branch (No. 506)
Account Name : Kyoto Mosque Fund
Account No. : 0045348
Swift Code : BOTKJPJT

After doing the donation through this bank, please confirm us your donation through:

- email : confirm@kyotomosque.jp
- WhatsApp (WA) : +81-70-2676-3701

15. Our Commitment to the Sustainability of KCM

After the establishment of Kyoto Central Masjid (KCM), the committee with KMA will prepare an executive committee of KCM consisting all of nationality representatives ranging from students, professors, professionals, and businessman that will ensure the sustainability of Kyoto Central Masjid. Collaboration and Sponsorship of KCM activities might be purposed and developed through the networks of KCM. Transparency of administration and finances of KCM will be applied.

16. Contact Person

Sameh Ahmed Kantoush

Language : Arabic and English
Mobile and WA: +81-80-4390-2991
Position : Chairman of KCM Committee
Origin : Egypt
Affiliation : Associate Professor at Kyoto University

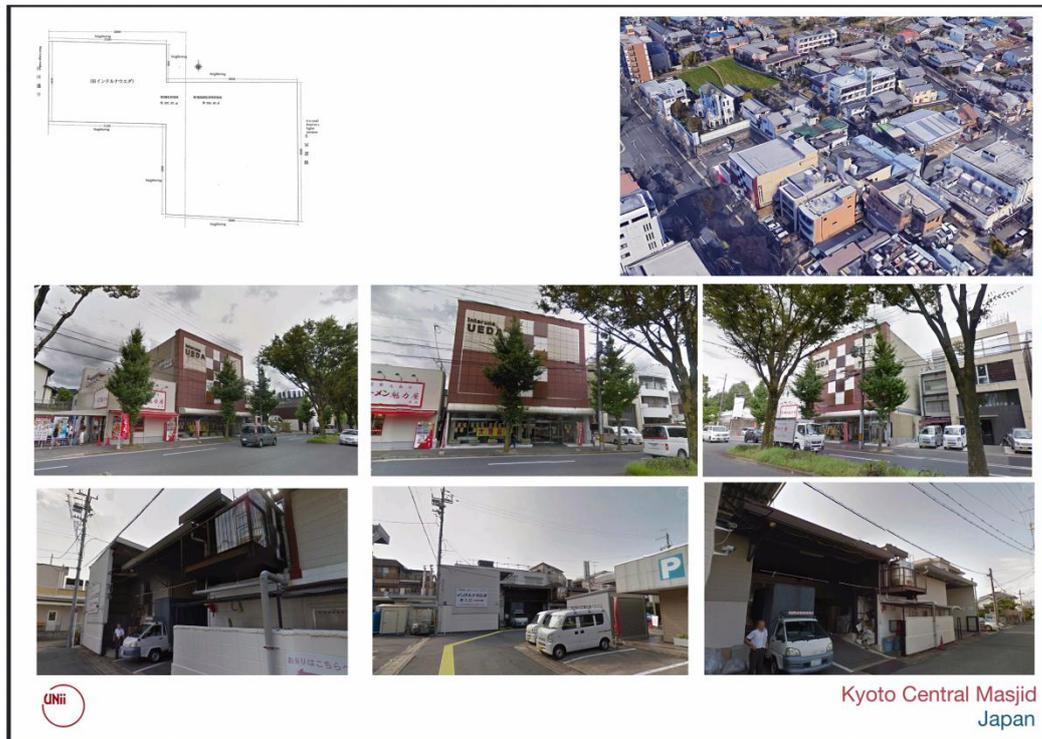
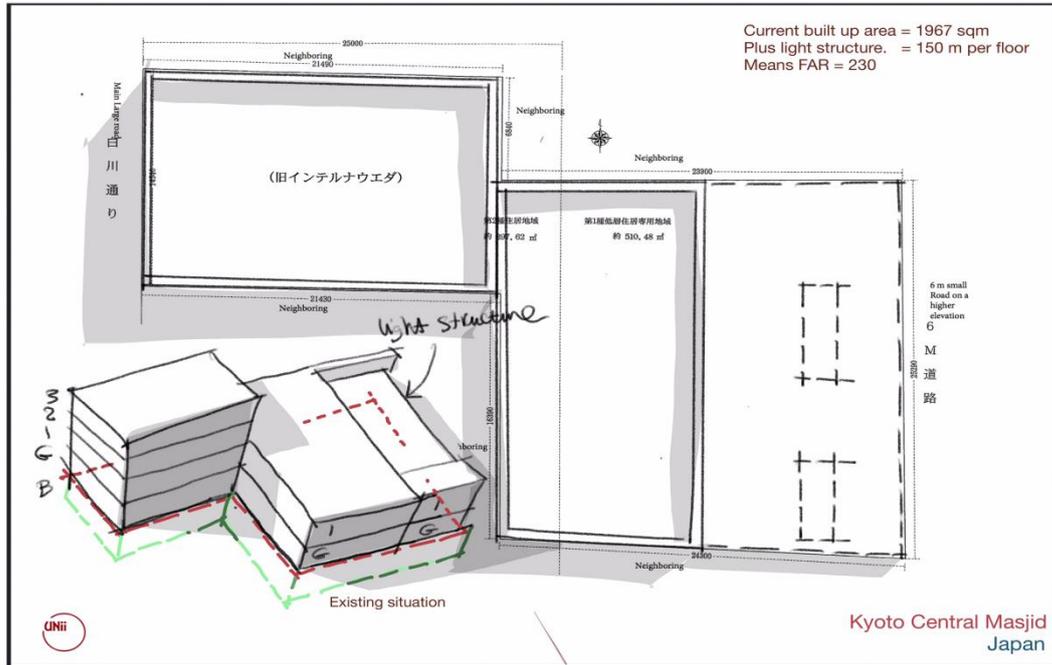
Fahmi Machda

Language : Indonesia and English
Mobile and WA: +81-70-2676-3701
Position : Vice Chairman of KCM Committee
Origin : Indonesia
Affiliation : Doctoral Student at Kyoto University

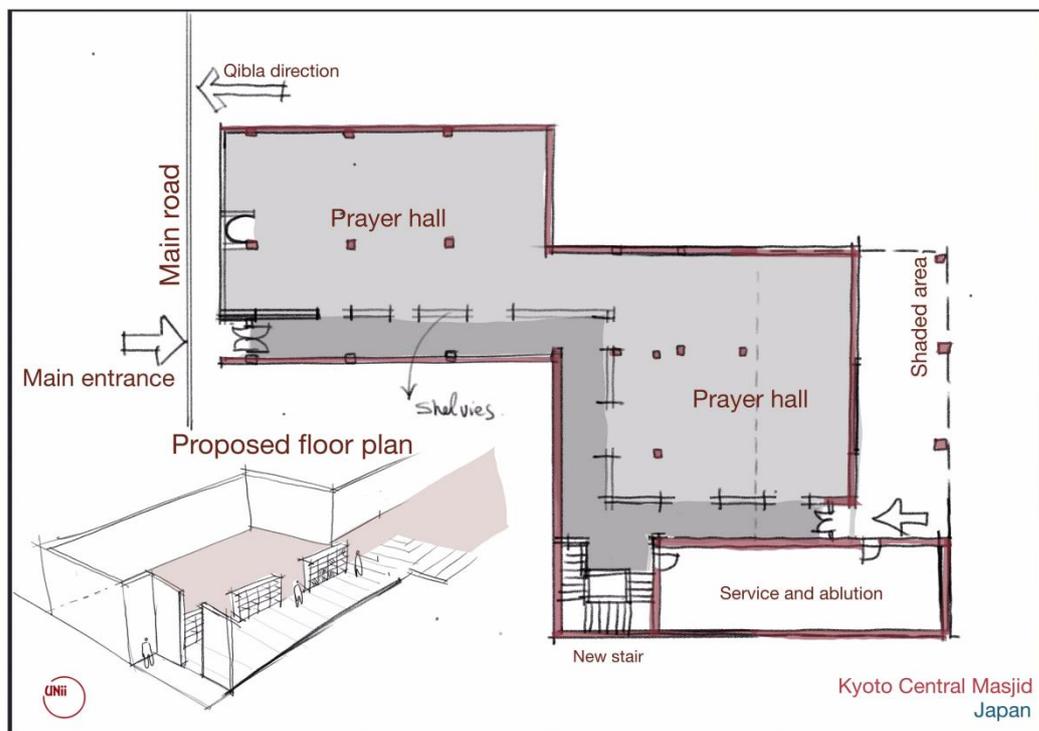
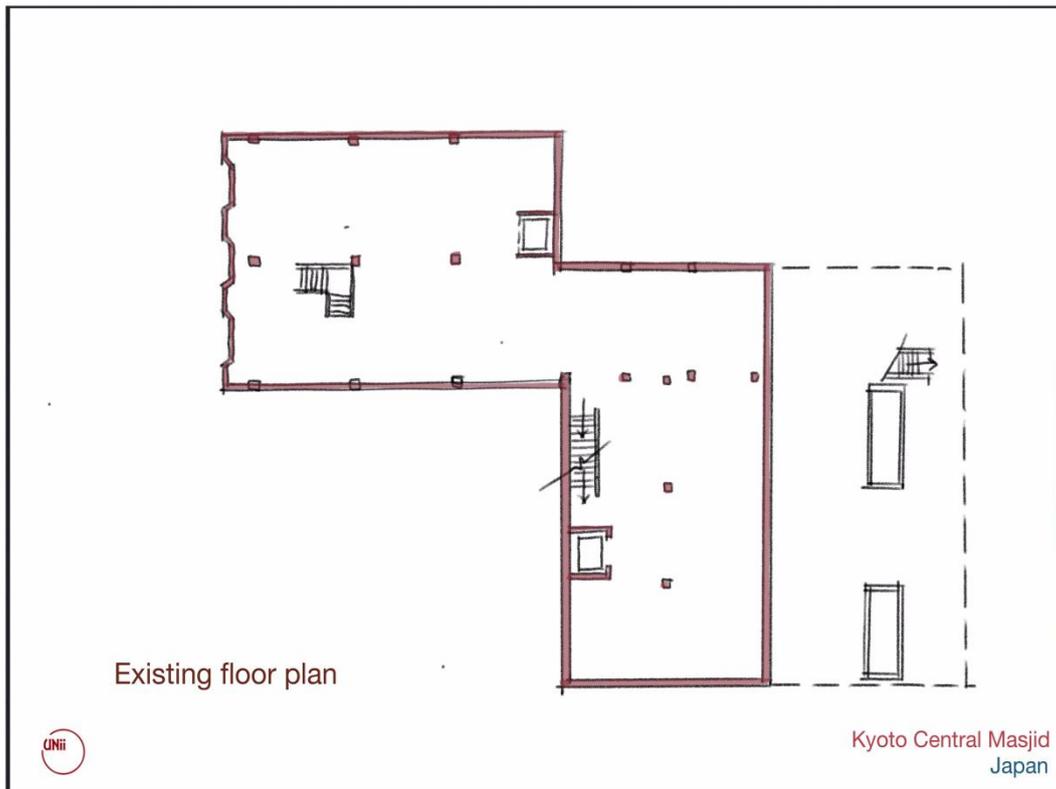
Contact by Email : contact@kyotomosque.jp

Appendix A. Work on Progress for the Building Design

1. Existing Situation



2. Purposed Floor Plan Design (Work on Progress, not yet finalized)



3. Purposed Exterior Design (Work on progress, not finalized yet)



