



## Aoba Foodbank Press -No.8-

### Taking action “Living Lab” in Yokohama



Foodbank at Kamoshida Danchi, 15<sup>th</sup> November.



Foodbank at Kamoshida area GarePlaza, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Have you ever heard of a “Living Lab”? A “Living Lab” is a group of people who work together to create services and develop products by sharing innovative ideas on a certain topic and bringing together citizens, businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies. Anyone can freely call themselves a “Living Lab” and no special qualifications are required.

However, this is not a one-person activity, but a collaborative effort, so teamwork is important. For example, in order to solve the problem of vacant houses, citizens, students, professors, companies, government offices, etc. come up with ideas to solve the problem and also create some kind of economic activity.

Since its establishment in 1987, the International Cultural Exchange Research Association has been engaged in activities equivalent to these Living Lab activities. We have been promoting communication between international students studying in Yokohama and Japanese people in the community through “food” and have been working to solve problems while respecting cultural backgrounds in order to deepen understanding of each other’s lives. An extension of these activities is our recent focus on “food bank activities,” which aims to deepen international exchange through food distribution.

Our steady activities, such as inviting international students to the local summer festival and the ward festival held in November, have been well received by the local residents. Our motto is “continuity is power” and we are moving forward with the cooperation of other organizations.

With only November and December left in 2021, we will continue to promote exchanges between Japanese people and those who live in Japan with foreign roots through “food”.