

The Tokyo One-Stop Business Establishment Center is a one-stop consultation service center that helps its users complete the necessary procedures for establishing a company. In April 2018, the TOSBEC Shibuya Satellite Center moved to a new location, making it even easier to use the service. More women are using the service lately, and today we talked with one such female entrepreneur, Ms. Eri Kinami.

## user relay interview.....



Eri Kinami, CEO, Table d'Hote Co., Ltd.

### The urge to do work which is unique to me – that led me to consider starting my own business.

When I was working as a freelance writer for many years, I always felt that I could be replaced at any time. "I need to do work that's more unique to me, but does that mean I have to create jobs on my own?"—such a sense of urgency made me think about starting my own business.

I got a tip for starting a business from what I had been thinking about vaguely as a career consultant. Many people who work as a qualified counselor continue to study hard to improve their own skills to live up to the official qualification as an expert. However, opportunities for self-improvement such as training sessions are offered only in big cities like Tokyo, so counselors living in rural areas often have difficulty participating in those events. That's how I started wondering if there was any way for them to improve their skills easily while living in rural areas.

**Profile:** Has 25 years of experience as a freelance writer. Obtained a qualification as a career consultant 12 years ago to develop her skills after working for a job information magazine. Went on to be qualified as a certified skilled professional of career consulting and a psychiatric social worker, and has since expanded the scope of her business. Established Table d'Hote Co., Ltd. in June 2018.

Finding out about the Tokyo One-Stop Business Establishment Center, which provides a comprehensive, one-stop consultation service to help you carry out all the cumbersome paperwork required to establish a company, especially gave me a strong supportive push forward.

### The Tokyo One-Stop Business Establishment Center pushed my back hard.

Then I hit upon an idea to plan and produce educational videos for counselors to improve their skills and abilities. Of course, major training/development firms are already conducting a similar business, but I am the very person who constantly wonders what she needs to do to grow as a career consultant. Moreover, I have long experience working as a writer/editor, and I thought by leveraging such unique experience I could create something different than the big companies offer.

On the other hand, I knew there was little hope for me to gain enough social credibility if I remained working as a sole proprietor. So I decided to establish a company and started to search online for information about what I had to do for that. I was surprised to find out that I could set up a company myself without having an expert perform the procedures for me.

### Free consultations in a relaxed atmosphere made me a frequent visitor to the Center.

Experience is everything, so I decided to do the procedures on my own, went online to do some research and made a rough draft of the articles of incorporation. Then I visited the One-Stop Center with the draft. I felt awkward even in coming into the building where the Center was located, but it turned out that the consultants were all friendly and very easy to talk to. Their advice was so sound and specific that they were almost like a savior for someone like me who knew nothing about starting a business. The relaxed atmosphere made me want to visit the Center repeatedly, and I ended up becoming a familiar face to the point that the staff would speak to me, "Oh, it's you again, Ms. Kinami." (laughs) If you are getting cold feet about starting a company because you know nothing about it, I recommend you visit the One-Stop Center first.



### Quick advice

Performing all the procedures by yourself can be daunting if you are not familiar with how to fill out application forms for instance. That made the One-Stop Center all the more valuable for me because I was able to consult them as often as I wanted for free. Establishing a company wasn't an easy process, but I learned a lot because of the experience.

Join "Tokyo Business Startup Seminar"! **Participation FREE!**

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