

Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals

December 25, 2018

I. Basic Concept

In recent years, the number of foreign nationals visiting Japan has been increasing. The number of foreign tourists visiting Japan, which was 8.36 million in 2012, exceeded 30 million for the very first time this year, and the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan as of the end of June 2018 was 2.64 million while the number of foreign nationals working in Japan as of the end of October 2017 was 1.28 million, each recording the largest number ever.

The Japanese government has been making efforts to create communities where foreign nationals will be able to live comfortably based on the “Comprehensive Measures for ‘Foreign Nationals as Residents’” compiled in 2006, and now based on the establishment of the new statuses of residence “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” (hereinafter referred to as “new statuses of residence”) (to be implemented from April 2019), from the perspective of more strongly and comprehensively promoting the measures for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals, the government has come together to compile these “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Comprehensive Measures”).

In order to achieve the purpose of contributing to the realization of a society where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals are able to live safely and comfortably together through the proper acceptance of foreign nationals and to realize a society of harmonious coexistence, the comprehensive measures will indicate the direction to be taken in relation to the acceptance and harmonious coexistence of foreign nationals.

The position of the government is, from the perspective of accepting foreign nationals as members of society without isolating any of the foreign nationals with a status of residence, including Convention refugees and third-country resettled refugees, to fully develop the establishment of an environment where foreign nationals will be able to enjoy the same public services and live without undue anxiety just as Japanese nationals do.

It should be noted that in order to improve the environment, it is important that not only should the Japanese nationals on the receiving side strive to understand and cooperate for the realization of society of harmonious coexistence, but also the foreign nationals on the received side should also endeavor to understand the principle of harmonious coexistence, and to strive to understand Japanese culture and customs.

In the future, with the likelihood of an increase in the number of foreign residents in Japan, the government, under the general organization of the Ministry of Justice will steadily advance the necessary measures to a realize society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals with a sense of speed.

Naturally, the concerning coexistence with foreign nationals is constantly changing, and therefore,

this means that it is not enough to simply implement the measures which are included in the Comprehensive Measures. While listening to the opinions of Japanese and foreign nationals, government-wide efforts will be made to regularly follow up on the Comprehensive Measures, add necessary measures as needed, and to make efforts to realize a society of harmonious coexistence.

II. Measures

1. Listening to opinions and awareness-raising activities etc. to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals

(1) Build a framework to listen to opinions of Japanese and foreign nationals

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

In order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, it is necessary to accurately grasp what kind of measures are needed as harmonious coexistence measures, and in order to achieve this, it is necessary to listen to opinions from both Japanese and foreign nationals, to establish a framework to reflect these opinions appropriately in the planning and drafting of harmonious coexistence measures, to collect objective data on the issues faced by the foreign nationals, and to conduct a review based on such data.

[Specific policies]

- As well as the “Meeting to Listen to ‘Voices of Our people’” established in the Ministry of Justice, which will continue to listen to the opinions that contribute to the planning and drafting of harmonious coexistence measures from both Japanese and foreign nationals, opinions will also be listened from a broad range of stakeholders, including the local governments, companies, and foreign national support groups at the “Immigration Control Administration Meetings” held by each of the regional immigration bureaus, and at other forums. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 1>
- A basic survey of foreign nationals will be conducted while referring to the “Foreign Resident Survey” to accurately grasp the problems that foreign nationals are facing in their work life, daily life and social life, and to contribute to the planning and drafting of measures related to the development of an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals. [Ministry of Justice] < Policy No. 2 >

(2) Implement awareness-raising activities

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

In order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, it is necessary for the public to have a broad understanding of the necessity and significance of such harmonious coexistence. At the same time, since there are concerns about the occurrence of various problems resulting from differences in language, religion, customs, etc., it is also important to prevent such problems in advance and to respond to them when they occur.

Therefore, it is necessary to promote various awareness-raising activities and to improve the awareness of local governments, companies, and local communities about coexistence with foreign nationals, and to make efforts to publicize such measures as the provision of human rights consultations by the human rights organs of the Ministry of Justice.

[Specific policies]

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-hosts an “International Workshop on Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and Their Integration into Japan” with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other organizations. Through the introduction of advanced overseas cases by foreign experts, and panel discussions comprising the local governments and other stakeholders inside Japan, the awareness of Japanese nationals are raised, and an opportunity is provided to gain knowledge about the policies for the acceptance of foreign nationals. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 3>
- In the government-wide campaign “Foreign Labor Problems Awareness Month” (held in every June), the relevant ministries and agencies conduct awareness-raising activities concerning about foreign workers issues through close cooperation. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, National Police Agency and related ministries and agencies, etc.] <Policy No. 4>
- With regard to the efforts of the human bodies of the Ministry of Justice to promote “mental barrier-free”, further awareness-raising activities will be promoted in cooperation with the local governments, and efforts will be made to realize a society of harmonious coexistence where all people, including foreign nationals, value each other’s human rights and support mutually. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 5>
- With regard to human rights counseling and investigation and remedy procedures of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, multilingual services will be extended to 8 languages, and these services will be advertised in multiple languages on various media such as community sites that are frequently used by a large numbers of foreign nationals, and available measures will be further publicized so that foreign nationals will be able to utilize a broad range of measures comfortably in the event of a human rights infringement. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 6>

2. Support for foreign nationals as residents

(1) Create livable local communities

- (i) Provide multilingual information on administrative procedures and living, and develop a structure of counseling**

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

In order for foreign nationals to be able to reside in Japan, foreign nationals need to be able to quickly obtain information in an easy-to-understand style with regard to various procedures, laws and regulations, systems such as the residence procedures, tax procedures, labor-related laws and regulations and the social insurance system, and with regard to social

life rules such as those on garbage disposal, and it is also necessary to establish a system that enables more precise responses to requests for advice on general living from foreign nationals.

In particular, foreign workers are likely to have problems with working conditions because they have little knowledge of the labor-related laws and regulations in Japan, and therefore, it is necessary to improve the responses in multiple languages at the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work), the labor standards inspection offices, and other relevant places. In addition, in the fields of medical care, welfare, childcare, etc., it is necessary to improve multilingual support by the relevant organizations.

In addition, when promoting these efforts, it is also necessary to keep in mind that foreign nationals often use social networking services (SNS) to collect information on living in Japan.

[Specific policies]

- Support will be given so that the local governments will be able to establish a “one-stop comprehensive consultation center for multicultural coexistence” (tentative) in approximately 100 locations such as prefectures, designated cities and cities where foreign nationals gather so that when foreign nationals have questions or concerns about life-related matters such as residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, childcare, and child education, they will be able to quickly reach a place that offers appropriate information and advice. Support will be given so that financial assistance may be provided through subsidies for measures to establish and improve consultation services in multilingual services (in more than 11 languages) depending on the regional situation, such as by assigning interpreters to the center, or introducing multilingual translation applications. In addition, training will be held on consultation work for the officers of the local governments so that the local governments and related administrative agencies will be able to smoothly carry out work at a single point of contact, and further support their knowledge. In addition, officers of the Immigration Bureau will be dispatched based on requests from the local governments and consultations pertaining to the procedures for entry and departure and residence will be provided in a unified manner. [FY2018 supplementary budget (2) of 1 billion yen, FY2019 budget of 1 billion yen] [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 7>
- While taking into consideration about the facts of the residency of foreign nationals, the consultation offices of the administrative agencies of the national government and the consultation offices of the local governments will cooperate with one another, and the respective consultation offices will collaborate further so that foreign nationals will be able to promptly reach the appropriate information and consultation places when needed. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 8>

- With regard to the basic information (residence procedures, labor-related laws and regulations, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) necessary for security, safe living and work, a cross-governmental guidebook entitled “Guidebook on Living and Working” (tentative) will be prepared.

To ensure that foreign nationals will be able to easily access the necessary information, the information will be transmitted from a portal site, and the information will be provided both in Japan and abroad such as through distribution to the Japanese embassies and consulates abroad, the foreign embassies and consulates in Japan, airports, local governments, companies and schools. Multilingual information will also be promoted so as to provide the information in about 11 languages. [Ministry of Justice (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, National Police Agency and related ministries and agencies, etc.)] <Policy No. 9>

- With regard to automatic translation, which can be used as the basis of multilingual services, a private business operator has launched an “automatic speech translation platform”, which is the foundation for more convenient use of multilingual automatic speech translation technology, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will support the development of an environment in which automatic speech translation technology can be used as a service, regardless of whether this is in the public or private sectors, and will carry out publicity activities to promote its use.

Furthermore, with regard to the multilingual automatic speech translation technology, efforts have been made to improve translation accuracy especially of the languages spoken by foreign tourists who particularly visit Japan, and in addition to the previous efforts, target languages will be added from the perspective of dealing with foreign residents and translation accuracy will be improved. [FY2018 supplementary budget (2) of 800 million yen] [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 10>

- Based on the perspective of promoting the use of multilingual automatic interpretation, multilingual services will be promoted that is capable of properly responding to foreign nationals’ consultation needs while using automatic consultation applications and other means at the consultation offices of the administrative agencies that frequently interact with foreign nationals, including the “one-stop comprehensive consultations center for multicultural coexistence” (tentative). [All ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 11>
- As well as enriching the contents and improving the ease of understanding of administrative information and general living information, which are to be provided in foreign languages, information provision and dissemination in additional languages will be provided, taking into account the diversification of the nationalities, regions of origin and languages used by foreign nationals visiting Japan. [All ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 12>
- In particular, with regard to fields related to the life and health of foreign nationals such as medical care, healthcare, disaster prevention measures, services for child education, childcare and other child-support services, fields related to labor-related laws and

regulations, social insurance (medical insurance, pension, long-term care insurance, labor insurance) information and consultation services in the areas of residence procedures, and contracts for private rental housing, a multilingual services environment will be created in stages to provide information and consultations in the mother language of the foreign nationals depending on the situation of the number of foreign residents of each nationality in that region. [Cabinet Office (Children and Childcare), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and related ministries and agencies, etc.] <Policy No. 13>

- In providing administrative and general living information to foreign nationals, responses will be promoted that envisage the use of social networking services (SNS). [All ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 14>

(ii) Promote and support measures for multicultural coexistence in local communities
[Recognition of the current situation /issues]

With the declining and ageing population in Japan, the role of foreign nationals is becoming more important as valuable human resources to support the regional economy and as important members of the local community, regardless of nationality, and what is needed is to promote the creation of a community where foreign nationals can live comfortably.

From such a perspective, it is necessary to further promote the measures for multicultural coexistence by the local governments, and to provide appropriate support to organizations and individuals who are involved in offering support to foreign nationals in the various regions so that foreign nationals will be able to start living and working in Japan without feelings of anxiety.

[Specific policies]

- In light of the establishment of the new statuses of residence, in order to ensure that foreign nationals are not excessively concentrated in the metropolitan areas and other specific areas, there is a need to respond appropriately to labor shortages in the region, and to connect to sustainable development in the region. For this reason, efforts will be made to proactively support Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization for voluntary, proactive and leading efforts by the local governments in order to realize the activities and harmonious coexistence of foreign nationals in the region such as businesses which promote exchanges between local residents and foreign nationals, and the establishment of receiving organizations which will provide support for the acceptance of foreign nationals and the realization of a society of harmonious coexistence based on the new statuses of residence. [Cabinet Office (Regional Revitalization), Ministry of Justice, and Cabinet Secretariat (Secretariat of the Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan)] <Policy No. 15>
- Since it will be necessary to provide training personnel and organizations involved in

supporting the foreign nationals in the region (foreign national supporters), training will be provided on the implementation of living guidance for foreign nationals, the provision of information on various administrative procedures, securing of housing, support for the Japanese language necessary for general living, and appropriate responses to foreign nationals' consultations for advice or complaints, and information will be continually provided so that appropriate support can be offered. In particular, the opinions of the relevant ministries and agencies, local governments and foreign national support groups will be heard so that more appropriate living guidance may be implemented for foreign nationals who have just started their stay in Japan by those who are legally required to support the foreign nationals under the laws and regulations, and the guidance will be based on these opinions. In addition, a network of foreign national supporters will be established so that foreign national supporters will be able to cooperate with each other to provide efficient and effective support for foreign nationals. [Ministry of Justice and related ministries and agencies, etc.] <Policy No. 16>

- In order to respond to the needs of the local governments that would like to accept foreign nationals, as a “Support System for Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan through Foreign Human Resources” support will be given to local governments that wish to accept pro-Japan foreign nationals residing overseas with a certain level of expertise and skills to ensure smooth matching up. In addition, with regard to the local governments, comprehensive permission for engaging in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted will be granted so that foreign nationals can be employed under stable conditions and so that they will be able to engage in the activities flexibly and efficiently, and these activities of the foreign nationals will be promoted in the fields of such as multicultural coexistence, education and disaster responses. [Cabinet Secretariat (Secretariat of the Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan), Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 17>
- As well as disseminating the “Plan for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence in local communities” and “Examples of Multicultural Coexistence”, an adviser system will be created for local governments and meetings will be held for local governments to share information, and multicultural harmonious coexistence measures will be further promoted in the region, such as promotion of the establishment of a conference for the realization of a society of harmonious coexistence in each prefecture. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 18>
- Based on the increase in the number of foreign residents and those who move in or move out in Japan, the Basic Resident Registration system will be properly operated so that the municipal authorities will be able to keep track of accurate information on foreign residents and to provide the various administrative services appropriately. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 19>

(2) Improve the environment on life services

(i) Develop an environment to provide medical care, health and welfare services

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

Based on the increase in the number of foreign nationals visiting medical institutions, it is necessary to improve the environment in which foreign nationals are able to receive medical services with peace of mind, such as making the use of medical institutions easier for foreign nationals. On the other hand, since there are a number of cases in which the medical institutions bear the burden of medical expenses because foreign nationals do not have the ability to pay for the medical expenses, in addition to promoting private insurance for business offices where foreign nationals work, and travel insurance for foreign tourists visiting Japan, it is also necessary to take measures against infectious diseases such as vaccinations and confirmation of health conditions prior to entry.

At the same time, it is also necessary to promote the improvement of the environment for welfare services such as consultations when foreign nationals are having trouble financially sustaining a living.

[Specific policies]

- The development of a system that allows foreign patients to receive medical care with peace of mind in all of the areas of residence will be promoted through the use of telephone interpreters and a multilingual translation systems, the development of a manual for the acceptance of foreign patients, and the establishment of a council for measures to share and resolve region-specific situations through the cooperation of the various stakeholders in the prefectures. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 20>
- A system for the acceptance of foreign nationals will be developed by supporting the allocation of medical interpreters and medical coordinators at local core medical institutions and providing hospital information maps in multiple languages. In addition, the criteria will be reviewed to clarify the medical institutions that are able to accept foreign patients in each prefecture. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 21>
- Use of telephone interpretation and foreign language services in all medical institutions will be promoted while also balancing the perspective of the appropriate costs to be paid by foreign patients for the provision of multilingual services in medical institutions. As there are many medical institutions that do not know that they are permitted to charge patients for interpreting and translation expenses, publicity will be conducted to inform them that they are also able to charge for these expenses. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 22>
- Medical interpreting training curricula and texts will be prepared, medical interpreting training provided, and the quality of medical interpreting improved through “research on practical application of medical interpreting certification”. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 23>
- With regard to information on pharmacies published by the prefectures, the Ministry of

Health, Labour and Welfare will establish a uniform search site across the country, and improve the provision of information, including the provision of responses in foreign languages and responses through smartphone searches. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 24>

- Smooth payment of medical expenses through cashless settlement and other convenient methods will be promoted in light of the occurrence of non-payment related to high medical expenses. In particular, when organizations accept foreign nationals with a new statuses of residence, the offices employing specified skilled workers (i) will be encouraged to enroll in private insurance to cover medical interpreting costs through dissemination of the guidelines and other materials prepared by the Ministry of Justice. [FY2019 budget of a total of 1.7 billion yen for combined policy numbers 20, 21 and 22] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 25>
- With regard to foreign nationals, as well as improving the routine immunization coverage implemented based on the Immunization Act, they are involved in the three-year rubella supplementary immunization program among men aged between 39 to 56. In addition, measures against infectious diseases will be promoted, by conducting TB screening for foreign nationals staying in Japan for a long period of time before entering Japan, and publicizing in multiple languages (8 languages) that it is desirable to confirm their vaccination history of measles and rubella. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 26>
- Enrollment in travel insurance will be promoted on the basis that foreign tourists to Japan will pay appropriate costs so that they will be able to receive medical care without anxiety and return safely in the event of an unexpected illness or injury. [Japan Tourism Agency, Financial Services Agency, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 27>
- Multilingual services for the “user support projects” implemented by the municipal authorities will be implemented so that foreign national families raising children and pregnant women will be able to smoothly use the relevant organizations such as childcare facilities, health, medical care and welfare facilities, and efforts will be promoted such as the acceptance of requests for consultations from foreign national families raising children and the provision of information on childcare support. In addition, further efforts will be made for the smooth acceptance of foreign national infants in the childcare facilities. [Cabinet Office (Children and Childcare), Ministry of Health, and Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 28>

(ii) Enhance information dissemination and support at the time of a disaster

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

With the increase in the number of foreign residents, it is becoming increasingly more important to provide information to the foreign nationals on the disaster itself at the time of

the occurrence of a disaster, and to provide support for the assisted living of disaster victims, and information on weather conditions.

In addition, when a large-scale disaster occurs, it is necessary to establish a smooth information communication system among the embassies in Tokyo, relevant ministries, local governments, and other organizations since there may be some difficulty in confirming the safety of foreign residents.

[Specific policies]

○ In order to facilitate access to the disaster prevention and weather information needed by foreign nationals, the “multilingual dictionary” on disaster prevention and weather information (11 languages) will be enhanced, and in FY2019, a multilingual Japan Meteorological Agency website (11 languages), and a multilingual push-enabled information alert application “Safety tips” (11 languages) will be introduced in order to transmit emergency information such as Earthquake Early Warnings and civil protection information of “J-Alert”, and multilingual disaster prevention and weather information using the private business operator’s websites and applications provided by private operators will also be promoted.

In addition, with regard to the Japan Meteorological Agency website, “Real-time Risk Map” that indicate the dangerousness of the location with maps, colors and numbers will be proactively expanded to applications so that foreign nationals will be able to intuitively recognize the danger signs in a situation, and the alarm sound of “J-Alert” etc. will be examined so that foreign nationals who do not understand Japanese will be able to identify the situation.

Furthermore, the “Guidelines on Evacuation Recommendations, etc.” will be revised so that the evacuation instructions and evacuation recommendations issued by the local governments can be transmitted in multiple languages with a set format using push-enabled information alert applications such as “Safety tips”.

With regard to these services, information will be disseminated and promoted through the regional immigration offices, the various counters of the local governments, the accepting organizations of foreign nationals based on the new status of residence and the registered support organizations. [Cabinet Office (in Charge of Disaster Prevention), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] <Policy No. 29>

- Training will be implemented from FY2018 enabling “information coordinators for foreign disaster victims”, who will organize the information relating to disasters and living support provided by the administrative agencies at the time of a disaster, and match such information with the needs of foreign victims who are in the shelters, to be assigned to the prefectures and designated cities in FY2020. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 30>
- In order to strengthen cooperation with the diplomatic missions in Japan in the event of a

disaster, Disaster Management Seminar will be held on disaster prevention measures for the diplomatic missions in Japan. In addition, requests for the diplomatic missions will be made to disseminate the websites of the relevant ministries and agencies, which provide information at the time of a disaster to their nationals in Japan. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 31>

- A system for simultaneous interpretation through a telephone interpreting center will be developed so that prompt and appropriate responses may be made in the emergency number 119 calls from foreign nationals and to respond to the services at emergency sites where foreign nationals are present, and a multilingual speech translation application to support communication with foreign injured people at the emergency sites will also be introduced into the firefighting headquarters. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 32>

(iii) Enhance traffic safety measures, and responses to accidents and incidents, consumer problems, legal problems, human rights issues, and requests for advice by the needy

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

As the increasing number of foreign residents could cause more foreigner-related traffic accidents, traffic safety rules are required to be well and widely known to these people.

In addition, there is concern that as the number of foreign residents increases, foreign nationals may find themselves caught up in a crime or that foreign national communities may suffer abuse from criminal organizations, and therefore, it is necessary to foster awareness of crime prevention through crime prevention measures for foreign nationals.

Furthermore, it is necessary to appropriately handle consumer problems, legal problems and human rights issues to the increase in the number of foreign residents and foreign tourists visiting Japan.

[Specific policies]

- In order to prevent foreigner-related traffic accidents, the police, cooperating with local governments and related agencies, promote traffic safety of foreign nationals by conducting publicity/enlightenment activities. In addition, in response to the actual situation of each prefecture such as the resident situation of foreign nationals and requests from foreign nationals, measures will be promoted so that the driver's license academic test and cognitive assessment for drivers aged 75 and over may be taken in multiple languages. [National Police Agency] <Policy No. 33>
- The use of a three-way call system maintained by all prefectural police to respond promptly and accurately to emergency "Dial 110" calls from foreign nationals will be promoted, and devices equipped with multilingual translation functions will be introduced in order to facilitate smooth communication with foreign nationals at the site of incidents and accidents. In addition, when a foreign national becomes a party to criminal

proceedings, to secure appropriate interpreters will be promoted continuously. [FY2019 budget of 500 million yen] [National Police Agency, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 34>

- Crime prevention measures will be improved through such means as the implementation of routine visits to homes and workplaces accompanied by private sector interpreters, courses on Dial 110 calls and classes on crime prevention for foreign nationals, and joint patrols together with voluntary crime prevention groups. Efforts will be made to prevent foreign nationals from becoming victims of crime and to prevent the penetration of criminal organizations into the foreign national communities. [National Police Agency] <Policy No. 35>
- With regard to consumer problems, multilingual services will be enhanced according to the particular circumstances of the region for the consumer life consultations conducted by Consumer Affairs Centers and others via the consumer hotline 188 through the provision of support in the form of the “regional consumer administrative reinforcement grants” so that foreign nationals will be able to safely and reliably use and enter into contracts, and moreover, multilingual services will also be promoted through the telephone consultation center, the “Consumer Hotline for Tourists” established by the National Consumer Affairs Center of Japan with the services expanded to cover 8 languages. [Consumer Affairs Agency] <Policy No. 36>
- For foreign nationals' legal troubles, specific measures include working to better serve foreign users of Japan Legal Support Center's (Houterasu's) multilingual information services (8 languages), which involve using three-way calls mediated by a telephone interpreter to provide information about things such as Japan's legal system and consultation services, and making these services even more convenient, in ways such as by ensuring that there are a sufficient number of phone lines to meet increased use; as well as appropriately implementing and actively promoting, ensuring that people know about Houterasu's multilingual legal support including civil legal aid. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 37>
- With regard to human rights counseling and investigation and remedy procedures of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, multilingual services will be extended to 8 languages, and these services will be advertised in multiple languages on various media such as community sites that are frequently used by a large numbers of foreign nationals, and available measures will be further publicized so that foreign nationals will be able to utilize a broad range of measures comfortably in the event of a human rights infringement. <Reposted> [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 38>
- In order to respond to the need for support to prevent isolation from the local community due to economic difficulties caused by unemployment or differences in language and customs, precise support will be provided according to the foreign national's situation, such as assigning interpreters to the consultation offices for foreign nationals who are facing difficulty in living due to economic difficulties or working with groups that support

foreign nationals in accordance with the circumstances of the region. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 39>

(iv) Prepare an environment and support for securing housing

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

Securing housing is extremely important in order for foreign nationals to be able to live in Japan, and it is necessary for the accepting organizations to reliably and responsibly take measures to secure housing not only by securing the housing itself but also by acting as a guarantor, and to make efforts to enable foreign nationals to smoothly move into a residence so that foreign nationals will not be refused public housing or private rental housing simply by reason of them being a foreign national. Furthermore, in terms of public housing, it is necessary to promote moving in just as with Japanese nationals, and to realize a society of harmonious coexistence.

[Specific policies]

- The companies that accept foreign nationals and technical intern trainees based on the new statuses of residence will themselves make efforts to secure appropriate housing or alternatively prepare an environment to reliably and responsibly ensure that housing can be found such as supporting the foreign nationals to be able to move into the accommodation by acting as guarantor.

In addition, with regard to the real estate-related groups, a new guidebook will be prepared geared towards the renters on the new statuses of residence, the program pertaining to technical intern trainees, and the practical affairs of housing and acceptance of foreign nationals who will enter the country, based on these new statuses of residence or program, and this guidebook will be widely disseminated and publicized among the registered support organizations, the real estate owners, and others. [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] <Policy No. 40>

- Requests will be made to the housing support councils across the country, which provide support to persons requiring housing support so that foreign nationals will be able to look for and live in housing without any problems, and support activities for foreign residents will also be encouraged, and with regard to real estate-related groups, measures will be proactively promoted to realize a society of harmonious coexistence, such as providing multilingual information and securing property introductions in order to secure housing for foreign nationals.

For this purpose, as well as posting the “Guidelines for Facilitation of Private Housing Rentals for Foreign Nationals”, which contains a practical service manuals for landlords and rental agencies in preparation for when they are asked by a foreign national to find housing as well as useful multilingual services of regular rental housing contract-standard type on the applicable websites in collaboration with the real estate-related groups, the guidelines will be disseminated and publicized at the time of training sessions for related

businesses, and emphasis will be laid on the importance of a society of harmonious coexistence. In addition, with regard to the guidelines, the multilingual services (8 languages) of regular rental housing contract-standard type are being enhanced, and they will be further handed out in collaboration with the real estate-related groups. At the same time, requests will be made to the rental liability guarantee organizations so that foreign nationals will be able to use the rental liability guarantee services in the same way as Japanese nationals, and will be able to enter into contracts without unfair discrimination.

In addition, with regard to the real estate-related groups, in order to address the concerns of the tenants, the services of free consultation desks relating to the living and acceptance of foreign nationals will be enhanced. Pursuant to the Act on Promoting Supply of Rental Housing to Persons Requiring Housing Support (Housing Safety Net Act), housing support will be promoted through the registration of rental housing that are intended for the promotion of smooth move-in for persons requiring housing support including foreign nationals, and information on housing will be provided.

In particular, residence support for foreign nationals will be further promoted through the proactive provision of information relating to the housing support councils that provide services for foreign nationals, the housing support corporations, registered rental liability guarantee firms and registered housing to the organizations and consultation offices that support the employment and general living of foreign nationals. [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] <Policy No. 41>

- With regard to public housing, requests will be made to the local governments to allow foreign nationals with a status of residence to be able to move in as is the case with Japanese nationals, and such efforts by the local governments will be further promoted.

With regard to the rental housing of the Urban Renaissance Agency, the efforts to ensure a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals (distribution of foreign language leaflets for residents, assignment of interpreters at the Administration service offices, and holding of exchange events among the residents), which are being implemented in areas where there are large numbers of foreign nationals, will be promoted. [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] <Policy No. 42>

(v) Improve user-friendly financial and telecommunication services

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

Foreign nationals who live in Japan will need to use a savings or deposit of financial institutions in various everyday situations such as when paying the rent and utilities or receiving wages, and therefore, it is necessary to ensure measures to be able to smoothly open a saving or deposit account of financial institution.

In addition, since foreign nationals need to use communication services including mobile phones in order to live in Japan, it is necessary to take measures to ensure that foreign nationals are able to smoothly enter into a contract for everyday communication services such as mobile phones, and to be able to use them.

[Specific policies]

- Requests will be made to all of the financial institutions so that foreign nationals with the new statuses of residence and technical intern trainees will be able to smoothly open a saving or deposit account. In addition, efforts will be made toward improvement of convenience for foreign nationals in relation to the bank transactions, such as enhancing multilingual services and clarifying the procedures such as identity verification through presentation of a residence card at the time of opening a saving or deposit account. [Financial Services Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries] <Policy No. 43>
- The contents of these efforts will be proactively disseminated through such means as the distribution of pamphlets at the financial institutions, as well as guidelines and regulations will be prepared. [Financial Services Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries] <Policy No. 44>
- The accepting organization will provide necessary support so that foreign nationals with the new statuses of residence and technical intern trainees will be able to smoothly open a saving or deposit account at a financial institution. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 45>
- From the perspective of improving the environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals, efforts will be made to reform the system at the earliest possible date through discussions among the relevant parties, and systemization once a conclusion has been reached so that as a means of payment of wages, if the foreign workers consents, it will be possible to pay the wages into a saving or deposit account opened with a fund transfer business operator while also ensuring that foreign workers are being given adequate protection such as reliable preservation and liquidity in the funds. [Cabinet Office (Regional Revitalization), and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 46>
- From the perspective of facilitation of contracts and use of mobile phones by foreign residents, requests will be made through the industry groups to the mobile phone operators to further promote measures for multilingual services so that foreign nationals who cannot speak Japanese will not be uniformly hindered from entering into a contract, and efforts will be made to ensure that the mobile phone operators are aware that identity verification using a residence card is permitted. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 47>

(3) Realize smooth communication

(i) Enhance Japanese language education

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

In the course of foreign nationals living in Japan, problems may occur in various situations if the Japanese language skills of the foreign national are inadequate and smooth communication cannot be achieved. In order to ensure foreign nationals are accepted as members of Japanese society and to prevent foreign nationals from being excluded, it is

extremely important to ensure that foreign nationals are able to learn Japanese as a second language in order to realize smoother communication, and based on such perspective, it is necessary to further expand the efforts of Japanese language education for foreign nationals and to create an environment where communication with foreign nationals can be conducted smoothly.

[Specific policies]

- In order to provide the Japanese language education necessary for the general living of foreign nationals, including workers, living in the area, the proposed “Standard Curriculum for Japanese Language Education for no Japanese Residents” which specifies the educational contents and methods, and the “Collection of Teaching Materials” based on the standard curriculum will be further publicized and used, and thereby the level of Japanese language education in the region will be raised.

In addition, support will be provided for the efforts of the local governments to create a comprehensive system and for the NPOs which implement advanced approaches bearing in mind the possibility of using public facilities such as public halls to hold exchanges with local residents with the aim of providing foreign nationals with increased opportunities to study a certain level of Japanese language based on the “Standard Curriculum for Japanese Language Education for no Japanese Residents”, and in order to resolve issues of lacking Japanese language classes in such communities, support will be given to the local governments in the form of sending advisors to establish classrooms in the areas where there are no classes. [FY2019 budget of 600 million yen] [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 48>

- Japanese language learning materials using ICT will be developed and provided in multiple languages (8 languages) to enable foreign nationals living in areas where it is difficult to set up Japanese language classes to engage in self-study. [FY2019 budget of 100 million yen] [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 49>
- With regard to the Open University of Japan, online delivery and archive broadcasting of basic Japanese language courses for foreign nationals will be available, through which opportunities will be provided to study Japanese. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 50>
- With regard to the Japanese language teaching contents provided by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) enabling foreign nationals visiting Japan to learn Japanese, the target languages will be expanded, effective use of past content will be promoted, and the website will be enhanced. In addition, the relevant organizations (overseas Japanese embassies and consulates, local governments, educational institutions, etc.) will carry out publicity to expand the use of the contents where necessary. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and related ministries and agencies, etc.] <Policy No. 51>

- Evening classes at public Junior high schools are public schools that substantially guarantee people who did not complete compulsory education or graduates who have applied for admission with an opportunity to receive compulsory education. As of November 2018, there are 31 schools in 25 cities in 8 prefectures throughout Japan, and two schools in total will be newly established with one in Saitama prefecture and another in Chiba prefecture in April 2019. About 80% of the students are foreign nationals, and these are educational institutions where those who have not adequately received compulsory education in their own country or in Japan will be able to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for social and economic independence.

For this reason, the establishment of at least one evening school in each prefecture has been promoted based on the Act on Securing Education Opportunities Equivalent to Regular Education in the Compulsory Education Stage and the Third Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education. In addition, policies will also be promoted to guarantee educational opportunities such as improving educational activities at evening classes, which include Japanese language education. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 52>

- In order to clarify the content and methods of necessary Japanese language education according to the stage of Japanese language acquisition and to enable foreign nationals to receive appropriate Japanese language education and to be evaluated, criteria to judge Japanese language ability based on “the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)” will be reviewed and established. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 53>
- With the increasing number of Japanese language learners both inside and outside Japan, an urgent task is to develop teachers who will be able to teach Japanese language education, and therefore, efforts will be made to improve and enhance the training programs for teachers of Japanese language education as well as the overall quality of Japanese language education by developing new qualifications to prove the skills of the Japanese language teachers. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 54>
- Basic efforts for Japanese language education will be further promoted, such as holding meetings to promote comprehensive Japanese language education with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, and organizations, and operating a portal site (NEWS) on Japanese language education. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 55>

(ii) Improve and properly manage the quality of Japanese language education institutions

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

With the rising interest in Japanese society and culture, there has been a rapid increase in the number of international students coming to Japan, especially to Japanese language

education institutions, but with regard to the Japanese language education institutions, since there is no mechanism in place for the Minister of Justice to continuously check and evaluate conformity with the Public Notice Criteria on Japanese Language Education Institutions (hereinafter referred to as “Public Notice Criteria) after the institutions have first conformed to the Public Notice Criteria and have been designated as Japanese language education institutions that may accept international students as specified in the Public Notice on Studying in Japan, and there are such problems as the existence of unscrupulous intermediary agencies that unfairly charge exorbitant fees for studying at a Japanese language education institution in Japan, it is necessary to deal properly with these issues and to secure an appropriate learning environment.

[Specific policies]

- With regard to the criteria on deletion in the Public Notice on Studying in Japan, which is a public notice through which the Minister of Justice designates the Japanese language education institutions that are able to accept international students, stricter criteria will be set for the attendance rate for all students, and the percentage of overstay, etc., out of all of the students, which were criteria on deletion that also existed in the previous Public Notice Criteria, and strict numerical standards will be introduced such as pass rates for examinations related to the Japanese language ability of international students as new deletion criteria. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 56>
- Under the present circumstances, after being specified in the Public Notice on Studying in Japan, since Japanese language education institutions are only required to inspect and report on compliance with the Public Notice Criteria only when requested by the regional immigration bureau, the Ministry of Justice will promptly revise the Public Notice Criteria, and require regular inspections of compliance with the Public Notice Criteria based on the plan of the Japanese language education institution submitted at the time of the public notice being given, and will require the Japanese language education institutions to submit reports to the regional immigration bureaus. If the Ministry of Justice determines that it is not appropriate to continue to give public notice, the Ministry of Justice will provide necessary guidance and, if there is still no improvement, delete it from the public notice. The Ministry of Justice will provide instructions to the Japanese language education institutions in consultation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, as necessary. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 57>
- In order to ensure the quality of education and to thoroughly manage the enrollment of international students, the Public Notice Criteria will be revised in March 2019, and the Japanese language education institutions will be required to report the results of tests examinations pertaining to the Japanese language ability of international students to the regional immigration bureaus and to make them publicly available. At the same time,

examination by the regional immigration bureaus will be made stricter through revising the documents to be submitted at the time of the application for the certificate of eligibility pertaining to the status of residence of “Student”, and the selection criteria for the regional immigration bureaus to determine the appropriateness of the Japanese language education institutions will be revised. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 58>

- When applying the criteria for deletion of a Japanese language education institution from the Public Notice Criteria, the attendance rate will be examined based on the records using ICT and other criteria, and a proper judgment will be made on its appropriateness. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 59>
- Measures will be strengthened so that if an international student is arrested and the Japanese language education institution that he or she attended is identified, the National Police Agency will provide the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with information on the Japanese language institution, or. The Ministry of Justice will use this information in its investigation of the institution, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will use it in the visa examinations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will provide information on Japanese language education institutions pertaining to international students who do not meet the requirements, which will have been found through the visa examination, to the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Justice will use the information in investigations into the Japanese language education institution. [National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 60>

(4) Improve education for foreign children and pupils

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

Education for foreign children and pupils are the foundation for life for foreign children and pupils in Japan, and therefore, such children must be given the opportunity to acquire the necessary academic skills and other abilities, and to be able to achieve self-actualization in their school life with confidence and pride through carefully ascertaining the Japanese language skills of each individual.

However, the situation in the public schools is that although foreign children and pupils does not have sufficient Japanese language skills, more than 20% of foreign children and pupils are not being given special consideration when they are being taught, and therefore, it is essential to hire the appropriate number of teachers according to the number of children, and to improve the competence of the teachers.

In addition, another issue with regard to foreign senior high school students is the fact that they are dropping out of school because they do not have a clear vision of the future due to not fitting into school life or a decline in their motivation to learn, or due to there not being an adequate system in place where students are able to consult someone when they have a problem.

[Specific policies]

- In the public schools, improvement is being steadily promoted based on the provisions of the Act Relating to the Standards for Class Organization of Public Compulsory Education Schools and the Standard Number of Teachers (Compulsory Standards Act) so that in FY2026, the basic constant number of teachers will be one teacher per 18 children. In addition, support will be provided for the establishment of a support system for foreign children and pupils to be organized by the local governments such as the construction of a teaching system using Japanese language teaching assistants or mother tongue supporters, or the implementation of lessons where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals are able to learn and understand from each other. For this, cooperation will be implemented by each local government with a wide range of cooperating parties, including NPOs and companies. [FY2019 budget of 300 million yen] [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 61>
- With regard to the local governments, support will be provided for the preparation of ICT such as a multilingual translation system designed to ensure smooth communication between teachers and foreign children and pupils or their parents, and to be able to carry out detailed school attendance counseling and enhanced Japanese language instruction. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 62>
- The competency of the teachers who are in charge of education for foreign children and pupils will be improved through the development and spread of “model programs” that organize the training content that ought to be implemented by the boards of education, universities and other educational institutions. In addition, in order to contribute to the promotion of teacher training conducted by each local government, teacher trainers will be fostered through “training for Japanese language instructors of foreign children and pupils” conducted by the National Institute for School Teachers and Staff Development, and based on such training, instructors will be dispatched to the training provided by each local government, and video lectures for in-school training will also be provided by the National Institute. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 63>
- Support will be provided for the efforts of senior high schools and others, which provide comprehensive support such as careers education for foreign senior high school students and others in collaboration with the relevant regional organizations such as companies, NPOs, volunteers and other related groups in the region. [FY2019 budget of 100 million yen] [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 64>
- Efforts will be promoted to encourage school attendance through thorough guidance on school attendance by the local governments, the preparation and distribution of school attendance guidebooks, and measures to ascertain the situation of school attendance by foreign children and pupils, including the enrollment situation outside of school so that opportunities for foreign children and pupils to attend school are properly guaranteed.
Furthermore, taking into consideration the recent increase in foreign nationals, the

“Guidelines on the Acceptance of Foreign Children and Pupils” will be revised in FY2018 to enable the schools and the boards of education to appropriately establish a system of acceptance and to appropriately communicate with foreign children and pupils and their parents. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 65>

- With regard to the efforts of NPOs and foreign national schools to promote enrollment outside of school, while striving to grasp the current situation, efforts will be promoted through the local governments so that the quality of the environment for the activities and contents can be assured.

In addition, in order to ensure smooth transition at the time of transfer to a public school, support will be given for the preparation of a support system for foreign children and pupils by the local governments such as constructing a teaching system using Japanese language teaching assistants or mother tongue supporters so that detailed support depending on individual ability can be conducted by such means as taking the foreign children and pupils out of class and teaching them in a specially designed class. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 66>

- Ongoing guidance will be provided to prevent delinquency by foreign national juveniles who receive guidance, and efforts will be made with the cooperation of university student volunteers to engage in conducting learning support activities and activities create places where the foreign national juveniles can feel like they belong so as to promote their sound development. [National Police Agency] <Policy No. 67>

(5) Support employment for international students, etc.

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

International students not only acquire advanced specialties and Japanese language skills through education at a Japanese educational institution, but they are also valuable human resources who develop a deep understanding of Japan through exchanges with Japanese students and local residents during their period of study in Japan. In order to avoid as much as possible having international students who cannot find a job and return to their home country with feelings of disappointment “Japan Revitalization Strategy” was set out in June 2016. Although it has been aimed to increase the employment rate of international students from 30% to 50%, the actual employment rate has only reached 36%, and the drastic measures are needed.

Therefore, it is necessary to review the statuses of residence to facilitate the employment of international students, and to take wide-ranging measures, including the handling of international students by each university, the job hunting activities of each company, and subsequent development of the international students.

In addition, since international students in the field of nursing care and foreign nationals working in the field of nursing care are expected to increase in the future, it is necessary to provide more appropriate support for these foreign nationals.

[Specific policies]

- In order to expand the range of industries in which international students graduating from universities in FY2018 can find employment, the public notice pertaining to statuses of residence will be revised by about March 2019. In addition, in order to expand the scope of business in which international students graduating from vocational schools in the field of “Cool Japan” in FY2018 can find employment, necessary measures will be taken during the same fiscal year based on discussions with the relevant ministries and agencies. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 68>
- With the aim of promoting the entrepreneurship of foreign entrepreneurs including international students, during FY2018, measures will be taken in terms of the status of residence procedures such as granting a period of stay of up to one year to prepare for the entrepreneurship, and necessary measures will also be taken to certify local governments supporting the entrepreneurial activities. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 69>
- In order to support the employment of international students by small or medium-sized business or other businesses which satisfy certain conditions, consideration will be given to permit the same kind of simplification, as with large businesses, of the various documents that are required when international students apply for permission for a change of the status of residence, and necessary measures will be taken during FY2018. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 70>
- A national framework will be developed so that universities cooperating with companies, will be able to formulate an educational program accredited by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology enabling international students while at university to acquire “business Japanese”, which is a necessary skill for finding a job in Japan, as an “accredited program for promotion of international student job hunting (provisional name)”, and which will lead to international students finding employment at a company in Japan. While asking the accredited universities to set achievement targets for the rate of employment of international students, consideration will be given to such support as priority allocation of scholarships. As a general rule, the relevant administrative agencies will also participate in the programs of universities that have adopted the Top Global University Project.

In addition, support is currently being given to the efforts of the specialized training colleges that build comprehensive acceptance models, such as identifying outstanding international students, teaching Japanese language, and matching these students with companies in Japan, and the results of the educational programs created through these efforts will be published, and information shared widely.

Through these efforts, the establishment of a system to connect international students to employment in companies in Japan will be promoted with the cooperation of the universities, specialized training colleges, companies, and local governments. [FY2019

budget of 600 million yen] [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 71>

- Requests will be made to the graduate schools, universities, specialized training colleges and other schools to disclose and publish the number of international students and the employment rate of international students, in order to promote career support and other employment support for international students, and priority allocation of scholarships will be given to educational institutions according to their measures for employment support and the situation of employment. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 72>
- In order to promote the employment of international students in Japan, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and universities will hold regular workshops (opinion exchanges) so that support can be effectively given in the consultation on careers at university etc., to international students who wish to change their status of residence in view of the simplification of procedures to change the status of residence of “Student” to the status of residence permitting work. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 73>
- Some companies require advanced Japanese language skills (for example, the Japanese Language Proficiency Test N1 level or higher) when recruiting international students, but the level of Japanese language skills required for work varies depending on the company, and based on the fact that there is diversity in the level of Japanese language skills required at the time of employment, diversification will be promoted in the recruitment process and post-employment treatment according to such diversity. Therefore, the relevant ministries, industries, job support companies, universities and others will cooperate to form and horizontally develop best practices such as diverse human resource development and treatment after employment. In addition, in order to encourage information transmission by companies and universities that are working on measures for advanced international students, thorough dissemination of information will be conducted by the relevant ministries and agencies. [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and related ministries and agencies, etc.)] <Policy No. 74>
- A “Platform for Promotion of Active Participation by Highly-skilled Foreign Professionals” will be launched at the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to provide an information transmission and one-stop service for easy-to-understand information on policies for companies and highly-skilled foreign professionals and international students in order to promote the employment of foreign nationals with advanced knowledge and skills, including international students, with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies.

The platform will post information held by the relevant ministries and agencies relating to the immigration control systems, employment, information on universities where

international students wishing to work in Japan are enrolled, and information on small and medium sized enterprises that are interested in hiring highly-skilled foreign professionals including international students, as well as detailed information on the various employment promotion measures in the latest updated form such as information on internships, seminars, and matching events between international students and companies conducted by the relevant ministries and agencies.

In addition, mentoring or collaborative support for small and medium-sized enterprises interested in hiring highly-skilled foreign professional, including international students, covering recruitment to steady employment will be provided. The employment of highly-skilled foreign professionals, including international students, by small and medium-sized enterprises will be promoted through creating success stories of small and medium-sized enterprises that have managed, through the mentoring or collaborative support, to connect the activities of highly-skilled foreign professional to new business opportunities, such as the acquisition of new customers overseas, and introducing them along with other successful cases. [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 75>

- International student corners set up at the Employment Service Center for Foreigners and the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) sites will be positioned as centers for employment support for international students, and detailed consultation and support will be provided by a dedicated staff member system, and in addition, support will be provided through the holding of internships, seminars and explanatory meetings and support which matches international students with companies, and moreover, a support system, which includes the expansion of the Employment Service Center for Foreigners, will be strengthened in order to promote further matching. [FY2019 budget of 800 million yen] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 76>
- In order to promote the provision of information for international students who wish to enter university and to promote the acceptance of international students in accordance with the needs of domestic companies, consolidated information will be publicized with the cooperation of the relevant overseas bases to appeal attractiveness of study in Japan, including future career paths such as employment in Japan after graduation. [FY2019 budget of 500 million yen] [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 77>
- Innovative Asia Project, which aims to promote the circulation of competent human resources will help international students to find employment after their graduation through collaboration with related organizations such as utilizing “Open for Professionals” platform and tracking the students’ internships and by making improvements of the measures where needed. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 78>

- As a premise for international students to be able to find employment in Japan, ensuring the quality of the institutions of higher education and proper management of international students is required so that international students will be able to concentrate on their studies and acquire advanced expertise, skills and Japanese language competence, and properly complete the course. Therefore, while sharing information with the related organizations, each university, college of technology, and specialized training college will be asked to accurately gauge the appropriate acceptance of international students, academic grades and status of activities other than those authorized under the status of residence, and to ensure reliable enrollment management such as proper teaching. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 79>
- Support will be given to prepare an environment for acceptance such as learning support for Japanese language and specialized knowledge for foreign care workers provided by the long-term care facilities, and the program of student loans for students enrolled in certified care worker training facilities, including international students, who will be exempt from repayment when engaged in long-term care services, will be further promoted.
 In addition, support will be further promoted considering the status of recommendations in the field of future long-term care in benefit-type scholarship programs for students who are international students enrolled in a Japanese university and show excellence in terms of academics and character, but who have difficulty in continuing their studies due to economic reasons. [FY2018 supplementary budget (2) of 500 million yen, FY2019 budget of 900 million yen] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No.80>
- Efforts for further use and promotion of the internships will be made through such as further publicity with regard to the scope of eligible international students and the contents of their activities based on the perspective that internships which are permitted through the status of residence for designated activities, contribute to the international students improving their skills as well as to international cultural exchange. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No.81>

(6) Ensure an appropriate work environment

(i) Ensure proper working conditions and employment management, guarantee industrial health and safety

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

It is extremely important to secure appropriate working conditions for foreign workers just as with Japanese workers, but foreign workers are not likely to have sufficient knowledge of Japanese labor laws, and this is one reason why problems relating to working conditions are likely to occur.

This being the case, it is necessary for related organizations such as the labor standards inspection offices to strive to ensure appropriate working conditions and employment management, and to ensure occupational safety and health, such as further promoting

guidance and consultation support for business owners who employ foreign nationals.

[Specific policies]

- The labor standards inspection offices will strengthen the system, publicize towards employers to be aware of compliance with labor-related laws and regulations, and strictly enforce stringent measures when violations of the laws and regulations are identified. In addition, the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) will also work to disseminate and publicize information on the foreign nationals' employment status notification system and employment management guidelines, and provide advice and guidance to the employers on appropriate employment in order to ensure proper employment management. In addition, the necessary system will be prepared in order to ensure the proper working conditions and employment management of foreign workers. [FY2019 budget of 900 million yen] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 82>
- In particular, the management and supervision system of the Technical Intern Training Program will be strengthened, and the structure of the Organization for Technical Intern Training will be reinforced in order to secure more appropriate working conditions and employment management for technical interns trainee. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 83>
- In light of the fact that there are a number of foreign workers who have little knowledge of the health and safety measures in Japan, or that there are many foreign workers who are not familiar with the Japanese language, safety and health materials in foreign languages will be developed for the foreign workers and materials for business owners who employ foreign workers, the related ministries and industry groups will be informed how to use them, and measures to prevent occupational accidents by foreign workers will be enhanced and reinforced, such as providing guidance and support to employers to provide safety and health education that foreign workers will be able to understand using audiovisual materials. In addition, foreign workers will also be provided with prompt and fair insurance benefits in the event of an industrial accident. [FY2019 budget of 600 million yen] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 84>
- Regarding consultations from foreign workers, a “Foreign Workers Consultation Corner” has been established at the prefectural labor bureaus and the labor standards inspection offices, and based on the increasing needs of foreign workers, more of these will be added mainly at the labor bureaus and labor standards inspection offices with jurisdiction over the local governments where there a lot of foreign nationals. In addition, the corresponding languages will be increased from the current 6 languages to 8 languages. The same will apply to the “Telephone consultation Service for Foreign Workers”.

In addition, the “Advice Hotline on Labor Conditions” (5:00 pm to 10:00 pm on weekdays and from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on Saturday and Sunday) which provides services for consultations after the end of the working hours of the labor standards inspection

offices, will be able to respond to consultations from foreign workers in multilingual responses (8 languages). [FY2019 budget of 600 million yen] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 85>

(ii) Support stable local employment

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

Along with the increase in the number of foreign residents and their different nationalities and different languages, there is a need for the consultation services of the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) to be offered in multiple languages, for job hunting activities to be made as smooth as possible for those foreign nationals, and for their employment to be stabilized.

In addition, as mentioned above, it is necessary to further support employment for international students wishing to find a job in Japan, and in light of the purpose of the system, when accepting foreign nationals based on the new statuses of residence, it is necessary to consider the shortage of human resources, but to also take into account the circumstances in the area where the foreign nationals are located and to avoid overconcentration in the metropolitan areas and other specific areas.

[Specific policies]

- A multilingual consultation system (11 languages) will be established at the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) across the country through the operation of a multilingual contact center that conducts telephone interpreting, and interpreters will be efficiently assigned especially in areas where there is a large concentration of foreign nationals. With regard to telephone interpreting services, the interpreting capabilities at the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) counter will be made more convenient such as through adding more languages based on the actual circumstances of the foreign workers residing in Japan and the status of use of the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work). [FY2019 budget of 400 million yen] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 86>
- If a foreign national wishes to change jobs in a nearby area so that he or she will be assured stable employment in areas where there are foreign nationals with a new status of residence, support will be provided for job changes in line with the wishes of the person to the greatest extent possible such as by providing information on local companies and putting up job postings where foreign nationals can easily apply in multilingual responses (11 languages) at the regional the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work). [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 87>
- The support structure, including the expansion of the Employment Service Center for Foreigners, will be strengthened, and further matching promoted between foreign residents and small or medium-sized businesses or other businesses in the region. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No.

88>

- Efforts will be made to expand the areas where training programs are conducted so that long-term residents will be able to acquire basic knowledge of Japanese language and labor-related laws and employment practices, and vocational training will be implemented taking into account the Japanese language skills of the long-term residents, and depending on the situation of the prefecture, the assignment of vocational training coordinators for long-term residents will be promoted. [FY2019 budget of 900 million yen] [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 89>
- Efforts will be made to promote workers career development through publicity of the system of human resources development support subsidies, and support will be provided for business owners who work on vocational training for workers, including foreign nationals. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 90>

(7) Promote enrollment in social insurance, etc.

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

Social insurance is an important safety net for foreign nationals to live, but some business offices that employ foreign nationals are not following the procedures to enroll in social insurance for foreign nationals, and therefore the relevant organizations will need to cooperate and promote enrollment.

On the other hand, it has also been pointed out that there are a number of cases where foreign residents have been improperly using Health Care insurance, and therefore, it is necessary to advance efforts to ensure its proper use.

[Specific policies]

- With regard to the procedure for enrolling in social insurance, efforts will focus on encouraging the businesses that employ foreign nationals and the foreign nationals who are being employed to enroll in social insurance such as implementing planned administrative guidances rendered on places of business, such as calling on business owners, onsite administrative guidances, and the conducting of onsite inspections. At the same time, with regard to National Health Insurance program, the municipal authorities will take measures to promote enrollment using the information on pension insured persons at the time of the foreign national leaving work or on other occasions. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 91>
- Support will be provided for the efforts of the local governments to promote enrollment in the National Health Insurance program of foreign nationals, such as financial support through the system of specially adjusted grants, for the expenses required for publicizing the National Health Insurance program for foreign nationals. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 92>
- Efforts will be made to promote enrollment in social insurance by the business offices employing the foreign nationals and the foreign nationals themselves at the time of

changing their status of residence or extending their period of stay at the regional immigration offices, or at the time of acceptance of offers for posting job offerings at the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) through cooperation among the relevant administrative organizations.

Therefore, with regard to foreign nationals with a new status of residence, the status of fulfillment of obligations under the social insurance system will be confirmed in the examinations relating to the acceptance of specified skilled workers, and acceptance will not be permitted to accepting organizations that have, to a certain extent, been delinquent in paying the required social insurance premiums. In addition, the Ministry of Justice will work on promoting enrollment in social insurance by providing the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, etc. with information on the identification matters of foreign nationals who have been given landing permission or permission to change their status of residence, as well as information on the organization of affiliation, and on accompanying family members, and by the relevant organizations conducting the prescribed confirmation and application of enrollment using the information and, where necessary, providing such as guidance on enrollment. In addition, with regard to National Health Insurance programnational and national pensions, such measures will be taken as denying permission for applications for extension of period of stay and applications for permission to change the status of residence to those who have, to a certain extent, been delinquent in paying the insurance premiums. Regarding the provision of information from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and efforts pertaining to such as applications for extension of period of stay, with regard to the new status of residence abovementioned consideration will be given to take the same kind of measures with regard to foreign nationals with other statuses of residence. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 93>

- In order to ensure appropriate use of Health Care insurance, the requirement of residence in Japan will be introduced as a general rule when recognizing dependents of health insurance and Category-3 insured persons. However, there will be certain exceptions, such as cases where international students and families accompanying temporary overseas assignment, temporarily live abroad and where it cannot be said that they do not have a home base in Japan. Those who come to Japan and reside in the country with so-called medical stay visas will not be covered by health insurance as with national health insurance. In addition, until the revised system comes to be implemented, follow-up of efforts to standardize the methods to be used to recognize dependents, which have been in place since March 2018, through recognition using public documents, as well as strict recognition will be continued to be conducted.

In addition, concerning National Health Insurance program, a system whereby the municipal authorities notified the Ministry of Justice if there was the possibility that the foreign national was not engaging in the activities authorized under the status of residence was established on trial basis, but since this was a mechanism where notification was only

required at the time of an application for a certificate of the limited amount necessary for payment-in-kind of high-cost medical care expenses, the cases subject to notification were expanded, and now applications for overseas medical expenses and applications for lump-sum allowance for childbirth are also eligible in order to ensure strengthened cooperation. In addition, information on the acquisition or loss of qualification of an insured person has been added as information for which a report may be requested by the municipal authorities from the relevant parties, and has been clarified as a subject of examination by the municipal authorities.

Furthermore, from the viewpoint of preventing the fraudulent receipt of lump-sum allowance for childbirth disguised as the fact of childbirth in a foreign country, in keeping with the countermeasures against overseas medical expenses that have been implemented thus far, the documents required for lump-sum allowance for childbirth will be standardized and stricter examinations will be conducted. In addition, the dissemination and implementation of countermeasures against the fraudulent receipt of overseas medical expenses will be continued.

In addition, with regard to so-called impersonation in which an insurance card is misappropriated, necessary action will be taken such as requesting the presentation of identification documents together with the insurance card when the medical institutions deem it to be necessary. At such time, the foreign national shall not be denied insurance benefits simply due to the identification document not being presented. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 94>

- In the examinations relating to the acceptance of specified skilled workers conducted by the regional immigration offices, the status of fulfillment of the tax payment obligations by the accepting organization will be confirmed, and permission will be denied for the acceptance of specified skilled workers by the accepting organization if there are, to a certain extent, some delinquent tax payments, and after the acceptance of specified skilled workers, the status of delinquent tax payments such as the payment of withholding income taxes of the accepting organization will be confirmed at the time of the foreign national submitting an application for change of the status of residence or an application for extension of the period of stay, and if there are some delinquent tax payments, appropriate directions will be issued to the accepting organization.

In addition, in cases where specified skilled workers have a certain amount of delinquency in payments of income tax and residents tax to be paid due to grounds attributable to him/her, the application for permission to change the status of residence from such person will be denied and necessary information collaboration will be conducted such as notifying the relevant agencies, and moreover, consideration will be given to take similar measures in the future even for foreign nationals with other statuses of residence. [Ministry of Justice (National Tax Agency, and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)] <Policy No. 95>

- The accepting organizations will provide support to the specified skilled workers (i) to

enable them to pay their taxes smoothly, and in particular, will take support measures enabling them to pay the residents tax to be paid in the following year on behalf of the foreign nationals by the end of the expiration of the period of stay, and moreover, the Immigration Services Agency (to be established in April 2019) will inform the accepting organizations of these measures so that the accepting organizations will be able to accurately implement support pertaining to tax payments, while accepting organizations which do not properly implement such support will be given appropriate guidance. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 96>

- From the perspective that it is necessary to promote special collection, the system that has payers of wages collect and pay personal residents tax, as a measure to counter delinquent payment of the tax, business operators will be informed, through the cooperation with local governments, to properly implement special collection.

With regard to local taxes, companies and foreign nationals who are required to pay the taxes will be informed about the system of lump-sum collection of unpaid taxes from the wages which are to be paid to the foreign nationals who are departing from Japan and the system of tax agents to handle all matters relating to payments by tax payers through such means as mentioning the systems in the “Guidebook on Living and Working” (tentative). [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 97>

- With regard to the application of dependents deduction pertaining to family members living outside Japan, only domestic source income (based in Japan) is used in the determination of income requirements, thus even family members earning a certain level of income outside Japan are eligible for deductions. Consideration will be given to further optimization while bearing in mind the purpose of dependents deduction, which is to adjust the decrease in tax paying capacity due to supporting a family member with low income. Enforceability and balance among systems of other countries will also be kept in mind. [Ministry of Finance] <Policy No. 98>

3. Efforts aimed at promoting appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals

(1) Eliminate malicious intermediary business operators

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

In order to ensure that deserving foreign nationals are able to safely visit, live and work in Japan, it is necessary to take measures to prevent intervention by unscrupulous intermediary agents (brokers) such as those collecting a deposit or penalties from foreign nationals intending to come to Japan.

In addition, it is necessary to promote appropriate domestic measures as there is the concern that the employment agencies will repeatedly receive rewards from employers at the job change site, by having foreign nationals repeatedly change their jobs.

[Specific policies]

- With regard to the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training”, efforts will be made

to conclude Memorandum of cooperation (MOC) by around April 2019 for the purpose of excluding the involvement of inappropriate sending organizations with China, Indonesia and Thailand, which are among the sending countries with which Japan has not concluded the MOC. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 99>

- With respect to the new statuses of residence, efforts will be made to create a bilateral intergovernmental document for a memorandum of cooperation by March 2019 with 9 countries (Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and Mongolia) implementing Japanese language proficiency tests, which are expected to send foreign nationals from the same year, relating to the construction of an information-sharing framework for the purpose of eliminating malicious intermediary organizations (brokers). Also, while the contents of the intergovernmental document will be revised where necessary based on the operational status of the system from April in the same year, negotiations will be proceeded aiming for creating the same governmental documents with those countries, which are expected to send workers, besides the countries mentioned above. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and National Police Agency]<Policy No. 100>
- With regard to the acceptance of foreign nationals based on a status of residence other than those of “Technical Intern Training” and “Specified Skilled Worker”, in the case of countries which an intergovernmental document has already been exchanged with a sending country, proactive requests will be made to the government of the sending country and regular information-sharing exchange will take place so that strict measures against malicious intermediary organizations will be taken by the other partner country, and with regard to countries with which an intergovernmental document has not been exchanged, it makes efforts to prepare such documents as necessary. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 101>
- With regard to international students, in order to eliminate domestic and foreign malicious intermediary agencies and others, the government of the other country will be informed of the foreign malicious intermediary agencies that have been identified in Japan, and measures will also be taken to establish a mechanism so that notification can be received in Japan if a foreign government comes to learn of the existence of an malicious Japanese language education institution from a student who has returned home or some other person. In addition, a section pertaining to the “name of the intermediary agency” will be newly added to the application for the certificate of eligibility, and this will be used to identify and give notification of malicious intermediary agencies. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 102>
- The Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the police, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will mutually provide information, and will also provide information to the

Organization for Technical Intern Training, where necessary, if it becomes aware of malicious intermediary organizations inside or outside Japan. Such information may be obtained through interviews with technical intern trainees or specified skilled workers, reports from related organizations, onsite inspections of implementing organizations or accepting organizations or information provided by the government of the sending country. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, National Police Agency, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 103>

- If the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the police, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Organization for Technical Intern Training has become aware of information on an malicious intermediary organization in a foreign country, as necessary, it will provide such information to the government of the relevant country, and make a request that a strict disposition be imposed on the intermediary organization, and information will be mutually provided.

If the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs obtains information on malicious intermediary organizations inside or outside Japan, they will use such information in the investigations based on the relevant laws and regulations and visa examinations in order to exclude such intermediary organizations, In addition, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will each properly carry out administrative disposition based on the laws and regulations in unscrupulous cases against the relevant supervising organization with regard to technical intern trainees and against the intermediary organizations or related persons in Japan with regard to specified skilled workers. In addition, appropriate action will be taken, such as having an investigating organizations conduct a criminal investigation, as necessary, and regularly announcing the status of these efforts in white papers of other documents. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, National Police Agency, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 104>

- The Ministry of Justice will conduct strict examinations for the certificate of eligibility prior to the entry of technical intern trainees and specified skilled workers, and if the involvement of malicious intermediary agency or others is recognized, will take such measures as not permitting entry of the technical intern trainees or specified skilled workers. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 105>
- As well as publicizing and raising awareness of guidelines based on the Employment Security Act in order to prevent inappropriate acts such as an employment placement business provider encouraging early job changes for foreign nationals who have obtained a job through its job employment, any violations of the guidelines that are recognized will be strictly dealt with. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 106>

(2) Expand supports for Japanese language educational infrastructure overseas

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

Amid an increasing demand for foreign nationals, it is necessary to improve Japanese language education in other countries in order to ensure that talented human resources with Japanese language skills are continuously being cultivated in other countries, and to promote the development of a system through the introduction of tests that are capable of appropriately measuring Japanese language skills, the development of an appropriate curriculum and teaching materials, the training of Japanese language teachers and the dispatch of experts to the local country.

In addition, it is necessary to disseminate appropriate information outside of Japan on the establishment of the new statuses of residence to expand the acceptance of foreign nationals.

[Specific policies]

- A proficiency test will be introduced where it will be possible to check the Japanese language skills necessary for living and working in Japan based on international standards to determine foreign language proficiency. In addition, utilizing the findings accumulated in the development and implementation of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test by the Japan Foundation, a CBT (Computer Based Testing) format will be introduced through which it will be possible to measure the Japanese language proficiency of foreign nationals (especially the communication skills necessary for living and working in Japan) more frequently and appropriately according to the level required for living and working, and this will be implemented in the countries where there is a high need for the acceptance of foreign nationals (9 countries in FY2019, to be held in Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, and Mongolia). [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 107>
- In order to enable to effectively teach Japanese language necessary for the acceptance of foreign nationals within the framework of the new statuses of residence, a curriculum and teaching materials, with education for adult in mind, will be developed and expanded making use of the “JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education” based on international standards of language education and evaluation, which has been prepared by the Japan Foundation. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 108>
- Since it is essential to secure and increase the number of local teachers who are able to teach Japanese in local languages, more specialists of Japanese language education will be dispatched from Japan, and while using the abovementioned curriculum and teaching materials, the development of local teachers, who will be able to teach Japanese in local languages will be promoted adjusted to the number of foreign nationals to be accepted from such country. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 109>
- Increased support (procurement of teaching materials, securing of enough teachers, etc.) will be provided for the activities of local Japanese language education institutions with

the aim of increasing the opportunities for foreign nationals to learn Japanese in each country, and Japanese support staff will be trained and sent to the educational institutions in order to support improvement of the local teachers' conversation skills, and to improve the overall quality of Japanese language education. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 110>

- In order to ensure that foreign nationals who wish to live and work in Japan will be further cultivated in the future not only in the Southeast Asian countries from which the number of people entering and residing in Japan is increasing but in other countries as well, the foundation of Japanese language education will be strengthened in a greater number of countries through the Japanese Language Education programs of the Japan Foundation. [FY2018 supplementary budget (2) of a total of 2.4 billion yen for policy numbers 107 to 110, FY2019 budget of a total of 1 billion yen for policy numbers 107 to 111] [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 111>
- Accurate and effective public relations will be made for the governments of sending countries, related organizations and those who wish to use the system preparing the contents of the websites of Japanese embassies and consulates, leaflets and videos for the 9 countries (Vietnam, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and Mongolia) where foreign nationals are to be sent in FY2019 for smooth operation of the acceptance of foreign nationals under a new status of residence. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 112>

4. Construct a new residency management system

(1) Implement smooth and expedited procedures for the status of residence

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

With the increase in mid and long-term residents in Japan, the counters of the regional immigration offices are often congested, and the waiting times for applications for residence are taking a prolonged amount of time. In addition, with the increase in the residence applications, the regional immigration offices have to deal with an increasing number of tasks such as responding to various inquiries and managing application documents, which hinder the execution of smooth and expedited procedures for the statuses of residence, and moreover, with the establishment of the new statuses of residence, the number of foreign nationals who wish to work in Japan is also expected to increase.

Owing to such circumstances, it is necessary to reduce the burden on foreign nationals to ensure that foreign nationals in Japan do not have to wait a long time to submit their residence applications at the counter of the regional immigration offices, and to streamline the application procedures in order to facilitate and accelerate the status of residence procedures.

[Specific policies]

- In FY2018, it will become possible for some of the status of residence application

procedures to be completed online enabling organizations, which fulfill certain requirements such as appropriately employing foreign nationals, and submitting notifications on the status of employment of the foreign nationals, to carry out the procedures on behalf of the foreign national. In addition, while promoting e-Government, efforts are being made to promote the digitization of residence management such as giving consideration to preparing a system so that the notification relating to the termination of the employment contract to be made by the organization of affiliation of foreign nationals with a new status of residence may be sent to the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency online ensuring that the situation of residency (the situation of employment and leaving work, etc.) of foreign nationals with a new status of residence may be accurately grasped and the burden of the notification procedures may be reduced. [FY2019 budget of 1.2 billion yen] [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 113>

- Efforts will be made to further reduce the burden of the application procedures such as no longer requiring submission of the various certificates which are required in the status of residence procedures by accurately and reliably ascertaining the situation of residence of the foreign nationals (the employment situation, changes in personal status, etc.) through information collaboration between the administrative agencies by utilizing various identification numbers such as residence card numbers. [Ministry of Justice (related ministries and agencies, etc.)] <Policy No. 114>
- With regard to the various applications for residence handled by the regional immigration offices, in line with the bolstering of the residence management system through the establishment of the Immigration Services Agency and other measures, the applications for permission for change in the status of residence and applications for extension of period of stay will be processed within a standard processing period (from two weeks to one month). In particular, with regard to foreign nationals residing in Japan with a new status of residence who wish to change jobs, since the reason for the acceptance of foreign nationals is to respond to the serious shortage of human resources, including the shortage experienced by small and medium-sized companies, and moreover, the supplement of human resources in the regional areas is becoming an issue, in light of the fact that it is preferable for foreign nationals to be able to start working at the next place of work promptly in the region, the applications with regard to job changes of specified skilled workers (i) where there is an upper limit on the period of residence will be promptly processed to enable smooth job changes in cases where the foreign national wishes to change jobs. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 115>

(2) Strengthen residence management network

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

In the future, since the acceptance of foreign nationals will be expanded even further and the activities of the foreign nationals are likely to become more diverse, it is important to accurately and reliably ascertain the residency and employment situation of foreign

nationals and to carry out precise residence management.

Also, at present, even with the statistics of all of the ministries and agencies, it is not possible to accurately grasp to what extent foreign nationals are being accepted in which type of industry and occupation, and therefore, in order to accurately measure the effects of accepting foreign nationals, it is necessary to have a mechanism to enable them to ascertain these effects with statistics.

At the same time, the Ministry of Justice system needs to be prepared in order to carry out detailed and functional residence management.

[Specific policies]

- In cases where the information on foreign nationals kept by the Ministry of Justice does not match the information on Notified Foreign National Employment Status kept by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, information will be shared between the two ministries, and efforts will be promoted to have employers fulfill the obligation of notification. In addition, further appropriate management of employment and residence is planned through such means as adding the residence card number as an item of Notified Foreign National Employment Status, sharing information on Notified Foreign National Employment Status, including the residence card numbers, between the two ministries, and by checking such information against the information held by the Ministry of Justice, and efforts will be made to implement these prescribed measures during FY2019. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 116>
- A mechanism will be built to accurately grasp the employment situation of foreign nationals by industry type, occupation type, status of residence, region, etc. such as reviewing the entries in the application forms for permission for change of the status of residence and extension of the period of stay, and together with the information on the notifications on the employment situation of foreign nationals, effective use of the employment statistics of foreign nationals, with seamless grasps of employment conditions of foreign nationals, would be expected. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 117>
- The statistics will be reviewed so that the employment type, wages and other aspects of foreign nationals who intend to work in Japan may be ascertained, and this review is planned for implementation during FY2019. [FY2019 budget of 200 million yen] [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 118>
- In order to be able to achieve smooth immigration examinations and strict immigration control at a high level and to implement functional residence management, the Immigration Services Agency is to be established, and in order to be able to properly carry out the work of smooth acceptance of foreign nationals and the preparation of an environment for their acceptance, a suitable human resources and physical infrastructure, including improved training for the staff and necessary upgrades to the immigration control system, will be prepared. [FY2018 supplementary budget (2) of 1.4 billion yen, FY2019 budget of 400 million yen as the system improvement costs related budget. 5

billion yen for policy numbers 7 and 113] [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 119>

(3) Strengthen measures against illegal foreign residents

[Recognition of the current situation / issues]

There are still a large number of illegal foreign residents in Japan, many of whom are considered to be engaging in illegal work, with the methods they have been using becoming more unscrupulous and sophisticated in recent years, and there are still many cases involving actors such as malicious intermediary businesses. Furthermore, it has also been pointed out that although their main purpose of residing in Japan is to work, there are a number of people who are working while pretending that their purpose is to study in Japan. It will be necessary in the future to further reinforce crackdowns in order to eradicate illegal foreign residents and illegal work in light of the prospects for a further increase in the acceptance of foreign nationals.

In addition, with regard to the Technical Intern Training Program, there have been such problems as a poor training environment including low wages, but since a new program was put into place under the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees in November 2017 and renewed efforts are being made for optimization, it is necessary to deal strictly with any unfair acts taking place in the technical intern training program, while also watching over the operation of the program.

[Specific policies]

- In order to promote crackdowns on cases of illegal foreign residents and cases of imposter residents, the regional immigration offices will work to promote effective and efficient detection through the strong cooperative relationships with the relevant organizations such as the police, the close sharing of information and reinforced analysis of the collected information. In addition, strict responses will be implemented against malicious intermediary businesses and employers, such as proactively cracking down on intermediary organizations and employers involved in cases relating to illegal foreign residents, imposter residents, and cases of facilitating illegal work. Furthermore, publicity, awareness-raising activities and guidance will be carried out to prevent illegal work, and to promote the voluntary appearance of illegal foreign residents at the regional immigration offices. [FY2019 budget of 500 million yen] [Ministry of Justice, National Police Agency, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 120>
- With regard to foreign nationals who have been issued with a written deportation order, but have been refusing repatriation or have been granted provisional release due to various circumstances, their movements will be appropriately watched, and with regard to countries which refuse to issue a temporary passport for return or do not accept their own nationals subject to deportation, negotiations will be conducted via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requesting cooperation with issuing a temporary passport for return or an alternative identity document or with accepting their own nationals, and efforts will be

made to resolve or eliminate the obstacles to repatriation, and to execute the written deportation order as soon as possible. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 121>

- In relation to the technical intern training, the onsite inspection capacity will be strengthened through increasing the onsite inspection personnel of the Organization for Technical Intern Training, and preparing manuals for the actual onsite inspections, and in relation to the inspections of the implementing organizations or others to be conducted by the Organization for Technical Intern Training, the results of the inspections will be accurately reported to the Ministry of Justice, where necessary, and the Ministry of Justice will conduct additional surveys and joint surveys with the Organization for Technical Intern Training in an effort to protect the technical intern trainees. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 122>
- If a violation of labor-related laws and regulations such as nonpayment of wages with regard to an implementing organization is recognized by the Ministry of Justice as a result of the collection and analysis of information on the missing technical intern trainees, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Organization for Technical Intern Training will cooperate and take such measures as proceeding further investigation, giving guidance or advice conducting onsite inspections, and issuing improvement orders to the implementing organization or supervising organization, and in the malicious cases, will revoke permission or render other dispositions against the implementing organization or supervising organization. With regard to a suspected violation of labor-related laws and regulations, the Ministry of Justice will notify the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, will conduct inspections based on the Labor Standards Act and other laws, and provide necessary guidance for correction to the organization, if there is a violation such as nonpayment of wages. In addition, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Organization for Technical Intern Training will provide the relevant administrative organizations with information or implement accusations where necessary, and the relevant administrative organizations will respond appropriately based on the laws and regulations. The status of such efforts will be published regularly through white papers or other means. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and National Police Agency] <Policy No. 123>
- With regard to the results of the interviews of the technical intern trainees, who had disappeared, conducted in 2017 and 2018 by the Ministry of Justice, the “Project Team Relating to Operation of the Technical Intern Training Program” established in the Ministry of Justice will conduct a survey of all of the implementing organizations of the above-mentioned technical intern trainees and such technical intern trainees who are still in Japan and able to be surveyed, except for cases which judging from the statement in the interviews were not thought to be clearly illegal or unfair acts, and the survey results will be announced by the end of March, 2019. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 124>
- The treatment of foreign inmates will be enhanced in the correctional facilities and other

facilities by further improving the interpreting and translation system. [FY2019 budget of 400 million yen] [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 125>

- Based on the implementation status of the “Further revision of the operations of the refugee recognition system” which is being carried out from January 2018, additional countermeasures will be taken against the abuse or misuse of applications for refugee recognition status for the purpose of working and efforts will be made to promptly protect genuine refugees. [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 126>

Comprehensive measures related budgets

- **Support for foreign nationals as residents**
 - **Create Livable local communities** **3 billion yen**
(Develop a “one stop comprehensive consultation center for multicultural coexistence (tentative)”)
 - **Improve the environment on life services** **2.5 billion yen**
(Assign medical interpreters, multilingual support of hospital information map)
 - **Realize smooth communication** **0.8 billion yen**
(Enhance Japanese language education)
 - **Improve education for foreign children and pupils** **0.5 billion yen**
(Improve the support system for foreign children by the local governments)
 - **Support employment for international students** **3.2 billion yen**
(Accredit program to promote employment)
 - **Ensure an appropriate work environment** **3.4 billion yen**
(Enhance the functions of the labor standards inspection offices and the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work))
- **Efforts aimed at promoting appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals** **3.5 billion yen**
(Implement Japanese language proficiency tests, enhance supports for Japanese language infrastructure overseas)
- **Construct a new residency management system** **4.2 billion yen**
(Introduce online applications for status of residence procedures, strengthen residence management network)

Total 21.1 billion yen

(Of which supplementary budget (2) for FY2018 6.1 billion yen)

(Of which budget for FY2019 15 billion yen)

(Excluding the numbers in parentheses)

* In addition to the above, the related budgets are as follows:

- Regional revitalization promotion subsidies 100 billion yen (included)
- Japan Student Services Organization’s operating expenses
(related to employment support for international students, etc.) 13.1 billion yen (included)
- Human resource development support subsidies
(related to stable employment support in the region) 57.1 billion yen (included)
- Measures against illegal foreign residents 15.7 billion yen

etc

End