

The Opinion (Outline)

**—The Ideal Form of a Harmonious
Coexistence Society and its Medium- to
Long-term Issues—**

November 2021

**Advisory Panel of Experts for the Realization of Society
of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals**

Ideal Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (Three Visions)

The three visions of an ideal society of harmonious coexistence are based on the principles of SDGs, which set international goals for achieving a sustainable, diverse, and inclusive society that leaves no one behind.

Safe and Comfortable Society

A society where foreign nationals are included as members of Japanese future society, and where all people can live safely and comfortably.

Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (Three Visions)

Diverse and Vibrant Society

A diverse and vibrant society in which all people, including foreign nationals, from various backgrounds can participate and demonstrate their abilities to their fullest.

Society that Respects Individual Dignity and Human Rights

A society in which all people, including foreign nationals, respect each other's individual dignity and human rights and can live without discrimination or prejudice.

Four Key Points to Realizing the Three Visions of the Ideal Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

In order to achieve the three visions of the ideal society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, we have identified the following four key points to be addressed over the medium to long term, and summarized the direction of action for each of them.

* In providing support, measures should be formulated with careful consideration for individuals who have roots in foreign countries.

1. Initiatives such as Japanese language education for smooth communication and participation in society

2. Disseminating information to foreign nationals/Strengthening consultation systems for foreign nationals

3. Support for each life stage and life cycle

4. Initiatives to establish the foundation of a society of harmonious coexistence



We have high expectations that the government will accurately grasp the current situation, indicate the ideal society of harmonious coexistence and the measures to be taken to achieve it, and compile them into a medium- to long-term action plan incorporated with Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Changes in the Situation of Foreign Residents in Japan (1)

Current state of foreign residents

Number of foreign residents

Approximately 2.89 million people (as of the end of 2020)
[record high at the end of 2019]

Japan's total population

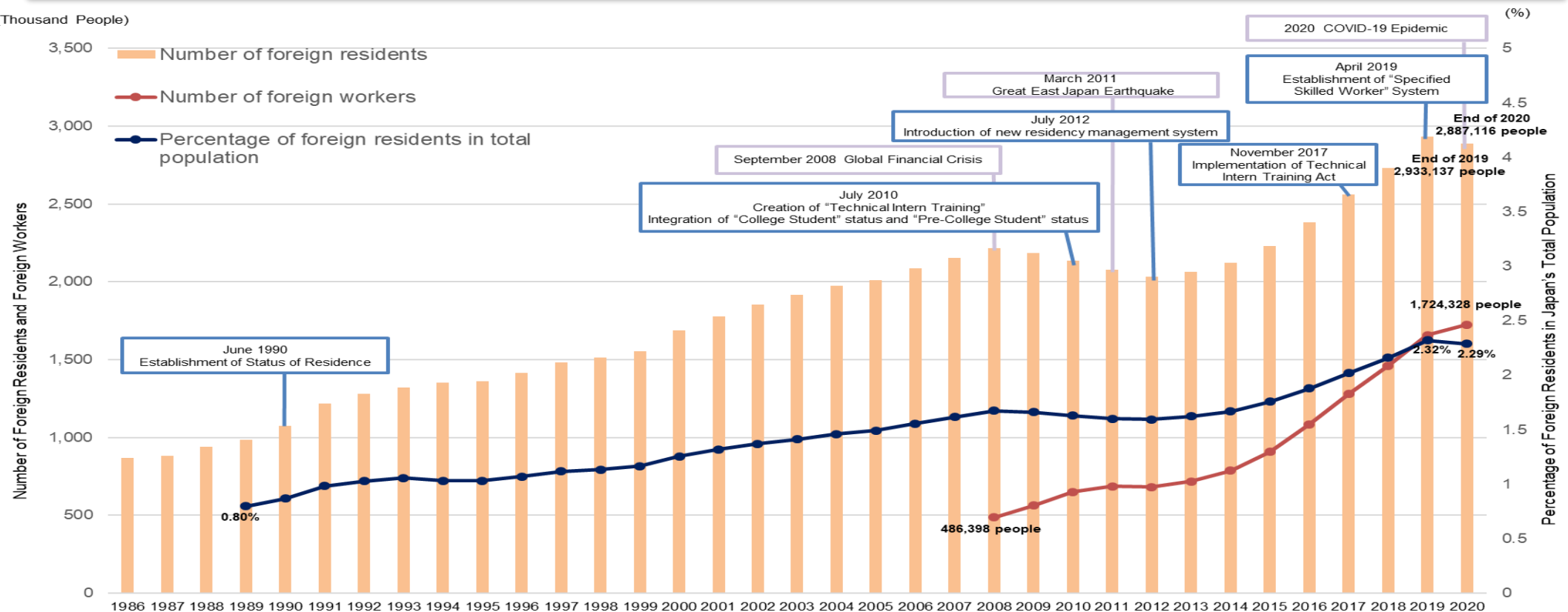
Approximately 126.23 million people (as of October 1, 2020)

Percentage in Japan's total population

2.29% (as of 2020) [record high in 2019]

Number of foreign workers

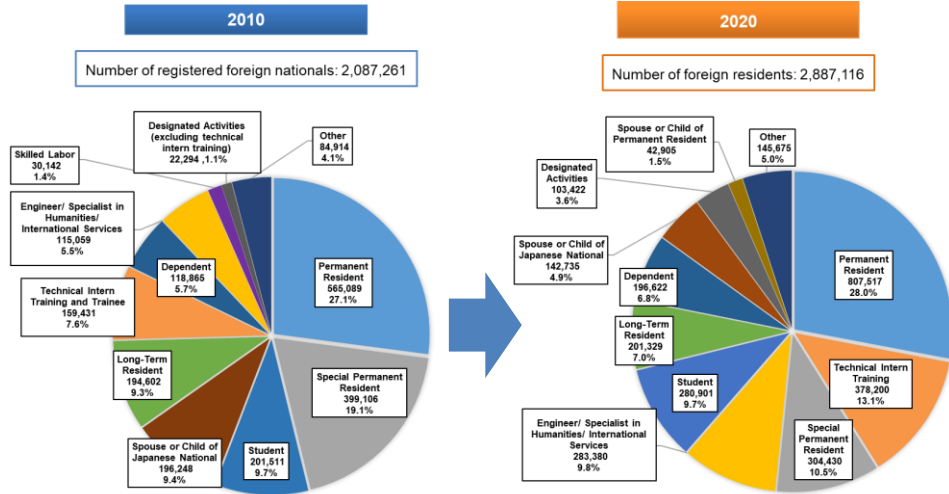
Approximately 1.72 million people (as of the end of October 2020)
[record high at the end of October 2020]



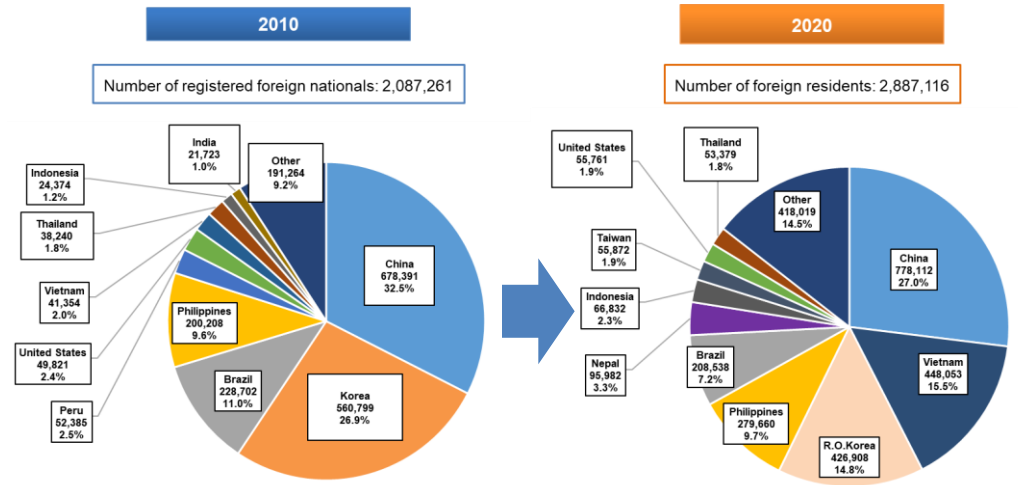
Changes in the Situation of Foreign Residents in Japan (2)

Changes in the number and proportion of foreign residents

Status of Residence



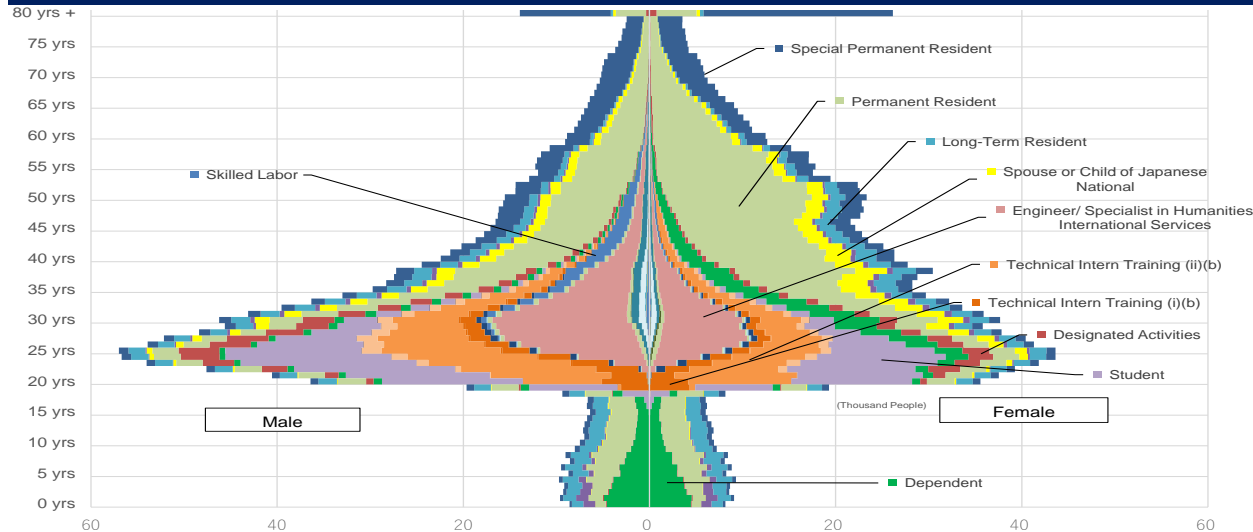
Nationality/Region



- Although the "Permanent Resident" status continues to account for more than 25% of the total number of foreign residents, there was a significant increase in the number of "Technical Intern Training" and "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" status holders.

- The number of foreign residents from "R.O.Korea" and "Korea" and "Brazil" decreased. Instead, the number of foreign residents from "Vietnam" has increased significantly.

Number of foreign residents by gender, age, and status of residence



- Among foreign residents in their 20s, the percentages of those who hold the statuses of "Student," "Technical Intern Training" or "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" are high.
- More than 60% of women in their mid-40s to mid-60s hold the status of "Permanent Resident."

Initiatives Such as Japanese Language Education for Smooth Communication and Participation in Society (Key Point 1)

Current situation/issues

Provide opportunities for Japanese language education

- Approximately 580,000 foreign residents live in municipalities where Japanese language classes are not offered (as of November 2020).
→ **Inadequate opportunities for Japanese language education**
- Availability and contents of daily life orientation vary. (The availability and content of policies vary depending on the local government where they reside.)
→ **It may cause a disparity of understanding of Japanese customs and social systems.**

Structured Japanese language learning at each life stage

- There are no standards for the level of Japanese language that foreign nationals need to acquire at each life stage.
→ **It is difficult for foreign nationals to learn Japanese language in a structured manner based on their own needs and level.**

Improvement of the quality of Japanese language education

- The quality and ability of Japanese language teachers vary.
- It is difficult to build a long-term career since Japanese language teachers are not necessarily well compensated.
→ **Quality and quantity improvement of Japanese language teachers is an issue.**

Direction of main initiatives

Establish an environment that enables foreign nationals to acquire the Japanese language skills necessary for daily life and knowledge of Japanese customs and social systems

<Establishment of an environment that enables foreign nationals to acquire the Japanese language skills necessary for daily life>

- Providing opportunities for Japanese language education aimed at acquiring the level of Japanese language necessary for daily life, and providing daily life orientation in order to facilitate a smooth transition into society.
- Guidance and dissemination of information on the Japanese language education at every opportunity such as the procedure for the status of residence.
- The ministries and agencies such as the Immigration Services Agency of Japan will work together to consider the creation of curricula and teaching materials and the implementation of online courses.

<Establishment of an environment that enables foreign nationals to learn Japanese language in a structured manner for each life stage>

- Establishment of a system to clearly indicate the educational standards of each institution by utilizing the evaluation criteria for Japanese language proficiency in the report on the framework of reference for the Japanese language education so that foreign nationals can select a Japanese language education institution that meets their learning needs and level.

<Promotion of initiatives that contribute to improving the quality of Japanese language education and securing professionals>

- Establishment of a qualification tentatively called "Certified Teacher of Japanese" and establishment of a system to allow of long-term career development for Japanese language teachers.

Disseminating Information to Foreign Nationals/Strengthening Consultation Systems for Foreign Nationals (Key Point 2)

Current situation/issues

Information dissemination to foreign nationals

- Measures by the relevant ministries (including measures to support foreign residents and others in dealing with the effects of the spread of COVID-19) are being transmitted, but it is difficult for foreign nationals to appropriately and promptly select information that match their own situation.
- Information on required support is not delivered due to the mismatch between the means of communication of various support information and the channels through which foreign nationals obtain this information.

→ Information is not being disseminated in a way that enables foreign nationals to promptly and reliably access the support they need.

Consultation systems for foreign nationals

- It is difficult to secure interpreters due to the increase in the number of foreign nationals and the diversification of nationalities.
- The use of the subsidies for development of an environment to accept foreign nationals is not widely utilized to meet local needs.
- The problems faced by foreign nationals are diverse and complex, and close cooperation among relevant organizations is becoming increasingly necessary.
- Local government officials are having difficulty communicating with foreign nationals who do not have adequate Japanese language skills.

→ Consultation systems have not been established to ensure that foreign nationals can promptly and reliably access the support they need.

Direction of main initiatives

Establish an environment through the dissemination of information and enhancement of the consultation systems to enable foreign nationals to promptly and reliably access the support they need

<Enhancement of information dissemination from the perspective of foreign nationals>

- Devising the content of information (what to convey)
 - Creation of guidelines to establish standards for the information to be provided.
- Information conveyance (how to convey)
 - Devising information conveyance, by using visual information as well as text, to help foreign nationals understand its contents.
- Devising means of conveyance
 - Dissemination of tailor-made and push information using Mynportal.

<Strengthening the consultation system to help foreign nationals with their problems>

- Strengthening the support for one-stop consulting counters
 - Consider reviewing the requirements for granting the subsidies for development of an environment to accept foreign nationals, and promote the establishment of one-stop consulting counters.
- Promotion of cooperation among relevant organizations and establishment of a supporters' network for foreign nationals in local communities
 - Establishment of consulting services in which multiple organizations work together, similar to the FRESC.
 - Establishment of a system that enables the provision of information on government support and the prompt and accurate understanding of foreign nationals' problems through private support groups.

Support for Each Life Stage and Life Cycle (Key Point 3)

Current situation/issues

Support for each life stage

Support for participation in Japanese society for each life stage

Support for each life cycle

Support necessary for having life while transitioning from one life stage to another (support at the seams)

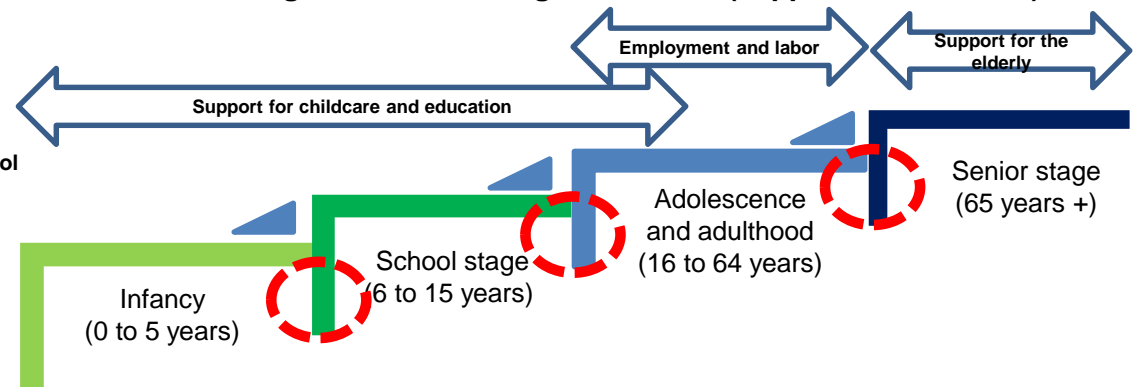
- Facing challenges when transitioning from one life stage to the next (seam), such as schooling, higher education, and employment

(Example of issues)

- While the dropout rate of all high school students is 1.3%, the dropout rate of high school students who require Japanese language support or education is 9.6%.
* Excluding high school students of special needs schools.

- More support is needed at each life stage

- The actual situation and issues surrounding foreign nationals at each life stage are not grasped.
- The implementation of support at the “seams” is becoming increasingly important.



Direction of main initiatives

Grasping the actual situation to provide detailed support for each life stage and life cycle

<Support for foreign nationals mainly during infancy, school stage, and the early stage of adolescence and adulthood (e.g., support for pregnancy, childbirth, child rearing, schooling, and higher education)>

- Establishment of an environment that facilitates child rearing, including fact-finding surveys and grasping the needs in order to support foreign national parents and children so that they are not isolated from their local communities.
- Monitoring of school attendance (integrated management and monitoring) to promote the schooling of foreign national children, and support for establishing preschools.
- Providing role models to motivate foreign national children to study, and total career development support for them (special admission capacity for high school entrance examinations, special consideration for entrance examinations).

<Support for foreign nationals, especially those in adolescence and adulthood (e.g., support for employment)>

- Promoting the use of plain Japanese as a tool for communicating with foreign nationals to create an environment with mutual understanding.
- Providing employees with opportunities for training and vocational training to achieve stable employment and career development with specified costs covered by the host company.

<Support for foreign nationals, especially those in old stage (e.g., support for long-term care)>

- Considering ideal ways of providing support that all people including foreign nationals could accept by grasping the circumstances and support needs of them.

Initiatives to Establish the Foundation of Society of Harmonious Coexistence (Key Point 4)

Current situation/issues

1. Raising awareness to realize a society of harmonious coexistence

- Discrimination and prejudice against foreign nationals exist in various aspects of society such as schools, workplaces, and communities.

2. Creating a system to acquire knowledge of social systems

- There are people who unintentionally fail to fulfill their civic duties due to inadequate understanding of Japanese culture, customs, and social systems such as taxes and social security.

3. Grasping the actual living conditions of foreign nationals

- As there are only a limited number of government statistics that use nationality as a survey item, it is difficult to fully grasp the actual living conditions of foreign nationals.

4. Collection of information and cooperation among relevant organizations for the support and residence management of foreign nationals

- Insufficient information collection via cooperation with private support groups.
- It is necessary to develop human resources for coordinating support that each relevant organization can provide.
- In order to improve convenience for foreign nationals and achieve appropriate residency management, the Immigration Services Agency of Japan needs to efficiently obtain information necessary for residency management through cooperation with the My Number System.

5. Social participation of foreign nationals

- Lack of initiatives from the perspective of encouraging foreign nationals to participate in society and demonstrate their abilities to the fullest.
- It is necessary to expand the range of opportunities for foreign nationals who are willing to participate in society.

→ Lack of infrastructure for realizing the ideal society of harmonious coexistence where all people can respect diversity and demonstrate their individual abilities to the fullest.

Direction of main initiatives

Establishing a foundation to raise awareness and build a framework for acquiring knowledge of social systems in order to realize the ideal society of harmonious coexistence

<Raising awareness to realize a society of harmonious coexistence>

- Promoting measures to deepen interest in and understanding of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals such as by establishing an awareness month for harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.
- Considering the introduction of education on harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals in early childhood education and school education.

<Creating a system to acquire knowledge of social systems>

- Providing information on civic duties such as payment of taxes and social insurance premiums at daily life orientation and keep them informed thereafter.

<Improvement of government statistics to investigate on the actual living conditions of foreign nationals>

- Grasping the actual living conditions of foreign nationals through the improvement of government statistics, planning and formulation of measures based on these actual conditions, and implementation of the progress management of measures based on KPIs.

<Enhancement of information collections and strengthening of cooperation among relevant organizations for the development of infrastructure to realize the society of harmonious coexistence>

- Considering support measures, including information provision and financial support, for private support groups and human resources for coordinating support.
- Considering a system to develop and certify human resources for coordinating comprehensive support.