

Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals (Outline)

(Provisional Translation)

December 25, 2018
Ministerial Conference on
Acceptance and Coexistence of
Foreign nationals

Total amount of
21.1 billion yen (Note)

In recent years, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan has increased (2.64 million), and the number of foreign workers in Japan has also rapidly increased (1.28 million). A new status of residence is established (to be enforced from April 2019)⇒ As well as **efforts towards promotion on appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals, development of an environment to achieve a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals** will be further promoted. Measures will be enhanced in the future as well.

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

Continuously listen to opinions from both Japanese and foreign nationals at the Meeting to Listen to “Voices of Our people”

(2) Implement awareness-raising activities

Further promote “mental barrier-free” efforts to realize a “cohesive society” where all people support mutually and value each other’s human rights

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

- Establish a support system for local governments pertaining to one-stop services providing multilingual information and advice on administrative procedures and living(Develop a “one-stop comprehensive consultation center for multicultural coexistence” (tentative) (about 100 locations nationwide, supported in 11 languages)) [2 billion yen]

- Prepare and disseminate a new “Guidebook on Living and Working in Japan” (tentative) (supported in 11 languages) for safe and secure living and working in Japan

- Construct a platform for a multilingual system [800 million yen] and promote use of the multilingual interpretation system

(ii) Promote and support measures for multicultural coexistence in local communities

- Support pioneering measures of the local governments by using subsidies for promoting local revitalization in order to promote the activities of foreign nationals in the regions and to realize harmonious societies of coexistence through measures such as setting up an organization that provides support for the acceptance and co-existence of foreign nationals

- Train personnel and organizations involved in providing for foreign nationals and build networks

(2) Improve the environment on life services

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

- Improve the system to allow foreign patients to receive medical care in all of the areas of residence with peace of mind through promoting use of telephone interpreters and multilingual translation systems, developing manuals, and establishing regional countermeasures council, etc., [1.7 billion yen]

- Assign medical interpreters to local core medical institutions, support multilingualization of hospital information maps

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

- Promote dissemination of disaster and weather information in 11 languages through Japan Meteorological Agency(JMA) website and the push-enabled information alert application, such as “Safety tips”, which disseminates public protection information of National Early Warning System(J-ALERT), improve information transmission making it easier for foreign nationals to understand (map information, warning sounds, etc.)

- Multilingualize responses to the emergency number “119” through three-way simultaneous interpretation, use a multilingual speech translation application for ambulance service, train Information Coordinators for foreign disaster victims

(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

- Implement public relations and awareness-raising activities on traffic safety, multilingualize the driver’s license written tests

- Multilingualize responses to “Dial 110” calls , and responses at the sites of accidents and incidents

- Multilingualize support at Consumer Affairs Centers (tel. number: 188), JLSC (Japan Legal Support Center), human rights bodies (supported in 8 languages), and consultation services by the needy

(iv) Prepare an environment and support for securing housing

- Disseminate practical service manuals for landlords and rental agencies, rented housing standard contracts in foreign languages, etc. (supported in 8 languages)

- Promote registration, provision of housing information, and housing support on rental housing that are intended for the promotion of smooth move-in for persons requiring housing support, including foreign nationals

(v) Improve user-friendly financial and telecommunication services

- Improve the environment, promote multilingual services, improve the guidelines related to opening of a savings or deposit account by foreign nationals at financial institutions

- Promote multilingual services at the time of entering into contract for mobile phones, widespread knowledge to the effect that a person’s identity can be verified through presentation of a residence card

(3) Realize smooth communication

(i) Enhance Japanese language education

- Develop Japanese language education based on a standard Japanese language curriculum for daily lives on a nationwide scale (support for a comprehensive structure of Japanese language education, support for resolving issues of lacking Japanese language classes in such communities, etc.) [600 million yen]

- Handleneeds of various learning forms (development and provision of multilingual ICT learning teaching materials, use and multilingual provision of the teaching materials of the Open University of Japan, and NHK’s Japanese language teaching contents, promotion of the establishment of evening-classes at public junior high schools at least one school in each prefecture, etc.)

- Create standards for Japanese language education (Japanese CEFR : Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

- Develop new qualifications to prove the skills of Japanese language teachers

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

- Make stricter of public notice criteria to improve the quality of Japanese language education institutions (stricter criteria for improving the attendance rate and eliminating percentage of overstaying foreign nationals, introduction of numerical standards based on pass rate on Japanese language exam, etc.)

- Implement mandatory periodic inspections and reports for Japanese language education institutions

- Implement mandatory publication of the results of Japanese language exams of students by Japanese language education institutions and enhance information disclosure

- Share information on Japanese language education institutions among the related organizations and utilize such information in the examinations by the Ministry of Justice and visa screening by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(4) Improve education for foreign children and pupils

- Steadily improve the Fixed Number of Teachers Required for Japanese Language Teaching based on the provisions of Act on Standards of the number of educational personnel in Compulsory Education Schools, and support the assignment of support staff [300 million yen]

- Improve the support system for foreign children and pupils by the local governments (utilization of ICT, cooperation with diverse entities)

- Improve the competency of teachers and others (promotion of nationwide training through the development of training instructors and dispatch of instructors to training sessions organized by the local governments, and other measures)

- Support Career education for senior high school students and others in collaboration with regional companies and NPOs, and ensure learning opportunities [100 million yen]

(5) Support employment for international students, etc.

- Develop a status of residence to promote the employment of university students or specialized training college graduates in the field of “Cool Japan”

- Simplify the procedures for changing the status of residence when getting a job in a small or medium-size business or other businesses.

- Accredited by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology programs at universities to promote employment , etc. [600 million yen]

- Request publication of the employment rate of international students, prioritize allocation of scholarships to educational institutions, enhance support for study abroad / Japanese language learning to secure nursing care personnel depending on the status of employment support efforts and employment situation [1.4 billion yen]

- Promote diversified recruitment processes based on differences in the companies depending on the level of Japanese proficiency required for their business

- Form and horizontally develop best practices on diversified human resource development and conditions after employment, etc. through collaboration among industry, government and academia

(6) Ensure an appropriate work environment

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

- Strengthen the structure of the labor standards inspection offices and Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) strengthen the institutional capability of the Organization for Technical Intern Training, multilingualize responses at the “Advice Hotline on Labor Conditions” (supported in 8 languages)

- Expand advice structure and promote multilingualization at the “Foreign Workers Consultation Corner (Advisor for Foreign Workers)” and “Telephone Consultation Service for Foreign Workers”

(ii) Support stable local employment

- Promote multilingual responses at Hello Work (supported in 11 languages) and support local reemployment

- Multilingualize and provide information and advice based on the situation of foreign residents by region, implement vocational training

(7) Promote enrollment in social insurance, etc.

- Promote enrollment in social insurance through the provision of information from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, etc.

- Secure proper use of Health Care Insurance (in principle, introduce a domestic residence requirement as a rule to recognize dependents, respond to inappropriate cases, etc.)

- Improve the tax payment environment such as support for reliable performance of the tax obligation

Efforts aimed at promoting appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals

(1) Eliminate malicious intermediary business operators

- Make bilateral intergovernmental documents (9 countries) and share information based on the documents

- Eliminate malicious intermediary businesses (brokers) etc. thoroughly through strengthening of cooperation among the relevant organizations such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Embassies and Consulates), the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Organization for Technical Intern Training, and impose stricter entry examination criteria

- Improve the contents of descriptions to be given in the residence applications to identify malicious intermediary businesses

(2) Expand supports for Japanese language educational infrastructure overseas

- Implement tests to measure the Japanese language proficiency necessary for living and working in Japan on CBT(Computer Based Testing) under strict supervision (9 countries)

- Enhance supports for Japanese language educational infrastructure overseas through the Japan Foundation, etc. (training of local teachers, supports for local institutional activities of local institutions)

- Enhance information dissemination by Embassies and Consulates, etc.

Construct a new residency management system

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

- Start online applications for status of residence procedures by the accepting companies, etc. [1.2 billion yen]

- Further reduce the burden of the application procedures by utilizing the residence card number, etc., enforce a standard processing period (2 weeks to 1 month)

(2) Strengthen residence management network

- Accurately monitor status of residency and employment situation of foreign nationals by further promoting information sharing by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

- Build a mechanism to accurately grasp employment situation such as by industry type, occupation type, status of residence, etc., improve / utilize public statistics

- Strengthen immigration and residency management system in line with the establishment of the Immigration Services Agency [1.8 billion yen]

(3) Strengthen measures against illegal foreign residents

- Eliminate illegal foreign residents thoroughly by strengthening cooperation among the relevant agencies, such as the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [500 million yen]

- Collect and analyze information on the missing technical intern trainees, and based on this information, conduct thorough investigations, tighten enforcement of the law such as revocation order of accreditation, against the technical intern training implementing organization, etc., and exhaustive surveys and handling of missing technical intern trainees in 2017

(Note) The budget amount is the supplementary budget for FY2018 (2) and the budget amount for FY2019. In addition, there were such related budgets as the supplementary figure of 100 billion yen as regional revitalization promotion subsidies, the supplementary figure of 13.1 billion yen as the Japan Student Services Organization’s operating expenses (related to international students finding employment, etc.), the supplementary figure of 57.1 billion yen as human resources development support subsidies (related to stable employment support in the region), and the budget of 15.7 billion yen for countermeasures against overstaying illegal residents.