

**Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and
Coexistence of Foreign Nationals
(FY2021 revised)**

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Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and
Coexistence of Foreign Nationals

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I. Basic Concept

In recent years, the number of foreign nationals visiting Japan is increasing. The number of foreign tourists visiting Japan, which was 8.36 million in 2012, exceeded 30 million for the first time in 2018. However, the international flow of people has been temporarily suspended in order to prevent the domestic spread of novel coronavirus infection (COVID-19), which has spread worldwide since last year, and as a result, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2020 decreased by 87.4% from the previous year.

In contrast, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan as of the end of 2020 was 2.89 million, a slight decrease from 2019 when the number reached a record high, and the number of foreign nationals working in Japan as of October 2020 reached a record high at 1.72 million.

As an increase in the number of foreign nationals visiting Japan is expected after the end of the COVID-19 in the future, the government needs to make unified efforts to continue to develop an environment to accept foreign nationals.

The Japanese government decided the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Comprehensive Measures”) in December 2018 from the perspective of more strongly and comprehensively promoting the measures for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals. Since then, the Comprehensive Measures have been revised twice. In July 2020 when the latest revision was made, the government revised the Comprehensive Measures from the perspective of appropriate handling of the COVID-19, smooth and appropriate acceptance of foreign nationals and further enhancement of the environment for their acceptance, under which the government has worked together to promote the relevant measures.

The government recently formulated the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals (FY2021 revised)” from the standpoint of further enhancing the acceptance environment for the foreign nationals already accepted, also based on the issues identified due to e.g., the spread of COVID-19, in implementing the existing relevant 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 aimed for 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 residence status, 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 a society of harmonious coexistence, but also the foreign nationals on the received side should also endeavor to understand the principle of harmonious coexistence, and strive to understand Japanese culture and customs.

With the likelihood of an increase in the number of foreign residents in Japan, the government, under the comprehensive coordination of the Ministry of Justice, will continue to steadily advance the necessary measures to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals with a sense of urgency.

Naturally, the situation 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 continue to be made to regularly follow up on the Comprehensive Measures, add necessary measures for further enhancement as needed, and to make efforts to realize a society of harmonious coexistence.

In January 2021, the “Advisory Panel of Experts for the Realization of Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” was established under the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” to discuss the ideal form of a society of harmonious coexistence and the medium to long-term issues to be addressed to achieve it. In the

future the government needs to make efforts to realize a society of harmonious coexistence based on the opinions presented by the panel, etc.

II. Measures

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

(1) Building 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 kinds 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 planning, drafting, and implementing harmonious coexistence measures, to collect objective data on the issues faced by the foreign nationals, and to conduct a review based on such data.

In addition, it is necessary to promote the measures to realize a society of harmonious coexistence more than ever from the perspective of accepting foreign nationals as members of society without isolating any of the foreign nationals legally residing in Japan.

【Specific policies】

- Based on the discussion at the “Advisory Panel of Experts for Realization of Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” and so on, work schedules will be formulated to present the ideal form of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals in Japan and the medium to long-term issues and measures to be addressed to achieve it, etc. to further accelerate efforts to achieve a society of harmonious coexistence. [Ministry of Justice and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 1>

- The opinions that contribute to the planning and drafting of harmonious coexistence measures will be collected from a broad range of stakeholders, including the local governments, companies, and foreign national support groups at the “Meeting to Listen to ‘Voices of Our people’” established in the Immigration Services Agency, hearings to the relevant parties held by the said Agency, the “Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration Meetings” held by each of the regional immigration services offices, and other forums.
Moreover, opinions will be collected from foreign individuals through such as the “opinion box” which accepts opinions as to harmonious coexistence measures in multiple languages established on the website of the Immigration Services Agency in February 2021.
In collecting those opinions, special consideration will be given to continuous exchange of opinions with local governments and hearing of opinions from foreign individuals and foreign national support organizations, etc. By appropriately reflecting the opinions collected through those efforts in the process of planning, drafting, and implementing harmonious coexistence measures and developing a human resources system to develop an environment to accept foreign nationals, including strengthening the support for and cooperation with local governments, etc. and sharing information on the efforts for harmonious coexistence measures nationwide, the Immigration Services Agency will strengthen its comprehensive coordination functions to develop an environment for acceptance of foreign nationals, and continue to demonstrate those functions fully.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 2>

- A basic survey of foreign nationals will be conducted while referring to the “Foreign Resident Survey” to establish the survey items to accurately grasp the situation that foreign nationals are in and the problems that foreign nationals are facing in their work life, daily life and social life, and the government will consider conducting surveys into policies for harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals in foreign countries in order to enhance such policies in Japan. Results obtained from those surveys will be shared with the relevant ministries and agencies to appropriately reflect them in planning, drafting, and implementing

the harmonious coexistence measures.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 3>

- In order to promote the policies of acceptance of foreign nationals and multicultural coexistence measures corresponding to the increase in the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan and other factors, how research and information on those policies and measures should be efficiently concentrated and otherwise analyzed will continue to be considered.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 4>

(2) Implementation of awareness-raising and other 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 measures such 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 Forum 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 is raised, and an opportunity is provided to gain knowledge about the policies for the acceptance of foreign nationals.
[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 5>
- In the government-wide campaign “Foreign Workers Issues Awareness Month” (held every June), the relevant ministries and agencies conduct awareness-raising activities concerning foreign workers issues through close cooperation.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, National Police Agency, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 6>
- Human rights awareness-raising activities will be implemented by the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice in order to realize an inclusive society where all people, including foreign nationals, support mutually and value each other’s human rights.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 7>
- With regard to human rights counseling, investigation and remedy procedures of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice providing multilingual services in 11 languages including Japanese, these services will be advertised in multiple languages 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 any human rights violation.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 8>

2. Support for smooth communication and information collection

(1) Provision of administrative and living information in multiple languages and plain Japanese, and development of counseling systems

【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. Given this, it is necessary to promote provision and dissemination of information in multiple languages and plain Japanese, and 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 has been provided for the local governments (including the case where multiple local governments engage in a wide-area cooperation) to develop and operate one-stop consulting counters 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.

Continued financial support will be given so that local governments can establish and improve consultation services in multilingual services (in more than 11 languages), such as by assigning interpreters to one-stop consulting counters or introducing multilingual translation applications, and the measures to promote the establishment of one-stop consulting counters, including the review of the coverage of the subsidies, based on requests from local governments, will be considered.

In addition, training and the like will be held on consultation work for the officers of the local governments in order to intend further reinforcement of their knowledge so that the local governments and relevant administrative agencies will be able to smoothly carry out their work at the one-stop consulting counters. And further, officers of the regional immigration services offices will be dispatched based on the requests from the local governments and consultations pertaining to the procedures for entry, departure and residence will be provided in a unified manner.

Additionally, a human resources system will be developed to improve an environment to accept foreign nationals, including strengthening the support for and the cooperation with local governments, etc. and sharing information on the efforts for harmonious coexistence measure nationwide, and the support activities for the local governments and information collection in the region will be enhanced and strengthened by setting up opportunities for local government officials and consultants of the one-stop consulting counters.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 9>

- Based on the “Basic Policy on Work Relating to the Preparation of an Environment of Acceptance of Foreign Nationals” (Cabinet decision made on July 24, 2018) that requests the relevant ministries and agencies to strengthen coordination, and cooperate with local government to develop an environment of acceptance of foreign nationals, the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) has been opened as a center for supporting foreign residents in July 2020. It consists of the relevant departments of each organization, to enable effective and efficient support through the collective implementation of measures to support promotion of the employment of foreign nationals including in the regional areas through promotion of the acceptance of international students and their employment, promotion of the employment and the retention of highly-skilled foreign professionals, protection of human rights of foreign nationals and their families and advice on legal problems, visas, labor standards and industrial safety and health. The ministries will continue to give responses to inquiries from the one-stop consulting counters established by the local governments and provide training programs for local government officials at FRESC. Furthermore, they will consider to provide interpreter services to the administrative counters of local governments

based on the results of trial implementation of interpreter support services.

In addition to responses to requests for consultation from foreign nationals, the relevant organizations including the tenant organizations will collaborate and cooperate with each other to hold business seminars for employment and retention of foreign nationals at FRESC. Furthermore, information on the experience gained through the efforts of FRESC and case examples that are considered beneficial, etc. will be shared with local organizations.

FRESC will also collaborate with the Japan Foundation, which conducts mutual exchange projects, and the Japan National Tourism Organization.

[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 10>

- While taking into consideration the realities of the residency of foreign nationals, the consultation offices of the administrative agencies of the national government and the consultation offices operated by the local governments and other bodies will cooperate with one another, and the respective consultation offices will further promote and reinforce their coordination 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. 11>

- A cross-governmental guidebook entitled "Guidebook on Living and Working" describing the basic information (residence procedures, labor-related laws and regulations, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) necessary for secure and safe living and work was prepared and its electronic versions (in 14 languages and plain Japanese) have been posted on the portal site, the contents of which will continue to be enhanced in cooperation among relevant ministries and agencies, as necessary.

[Ministry of Justice (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, National Police Agency, and other relevant ministries and agencies)] <Policy No. 12>

- In order to promote the spread of plain Japanese towards realizing a society of harmonious coexistence, expert meetings will be held to promote effective utilization of plain Japanese for foreign residents in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies based on the "Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support" formulated in August 2020.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 13>

- In anticipation of the "EXPO 2025, Osaka, Kansai", continued efforts will be made with respect to multilingual automatic speech translation technology to realize AI-based simultaneous interpretation which enables stress-free, sufficient communication between Japanese people and foreigners as well as between foreigners not only in daily life, administrative procedures, sightseeing, etc., but in business discussions and international conferences. Also, in light of the revision of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act in April 2019, more languages will be supported and further improvements in translation accuracy will be made to the existing languages to support foreign residents and specified skilled workers.

[Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 14>

- From the perspective of promoting the use of multilingual automatic interpretation, multilingual services will be promoted that are capable of properly responding to foreign nationals' consultation needs by 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 consulting counters.

[All ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 15>

- The ministries will enhance the contents of administrative and living information for foreign nationals, and provide and disseminate the information in multiple languages and plain Japanese.

[All ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 16>

- In particular, with regard to fields related to the life and health of foreign nationals such as medical care, health care, 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, considering the number of foreign residents of each nationality in that region.
[Cabinet Office (Children and Childcare), Consumer Affairs Agency, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 17>
- Information on support for foreign nationals and other topics, including an ideal society of harmonious coexistence, will continue to be transmitted to foreign nationals by using visual media, etc.
In providing administrative and general living information to foreign nationals, development of an environment where each foreign national can surely receive the information service will be promoted through the use of information transmission tools such as SNS and e-mail distribution services.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 18>
- In providing administrative and general living information to foreign nationals, measures will be proceeded with the consideration of the use of SNS.
[All ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 19>
- In order to promote harmonious coexistence of the convention refugees and the resettled refugees in local communities, the Comprehensive Measures will be disseminated and shared with those foreign nationals and other relevant organizations.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 20>

(2) Enhancement of Japanese language education (realization of smooth communication)

【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. In particular, foreign nationals working in Japan will be required to acquire the Japanese language skills necessary for life, in addition to the specialized Japanese language skills that will be required for business, so that they can communicate in the Japanese language at their workplaces, and it is important for the organizations that will accept those foreign nationals to strive to develop an environment for effective communication at workplaces or elsewhere.

From this perspective, it is necessary to further expand the efforts of Japanese language education for foreign nationals and to develop an environment where communication with foreign nationals can be conducted smoothly.

【Specific policies】

- In order to improve the quality level of Japanese language education both inside and outside Japan, the “framework of reference for the Japanese language education” will be developed as a common index for the content and methods of necessary Japanese language education according to the stage of Japanese language acquisition, and efforts will be made to promote its use by creating a guidebook for its use, etc. In addition, the “Can do for foreign nationals as residents” indicating the content of education in the fields of life will be developed.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 21>

- In order to provide the Japanese language education necessary for the general living of foreign nationals—including workers—living in the local communities, the use of the “framework of reference for the Japanese language education” will be promoted to improve the quality level of Japanese language education in the local communities.

In addition, it will be steadily promoted to develop comprehensive systems to enable prefectures, etc. to strengthen the environment for Japanese language education, organically cooperating with the relevant organizations, and support will be provided for them, including Japanese language education provided by municipalities in cooperation with prefectures, etc.

Furthermore, the local governments will be urged to formulate their own basic policies based on the Act on Promotion of Japanese Language Education, and support will be provided for NPOs, etc. that are making advanced efforts in Japanese language education in the local communities.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 22>

- In order to encourage reducing the areas where Japanese language classes are missing, advisors will be sent to establish classrooms in such areas, and support for opening and stable management of Japanese language classes will be provided. Moreover, meetings of the study councils for opening Japanese language classes will be held in the prefectures with municipalities where no Japanese language classes are established, despite having many foreign residents. In addition, ICT teaching materials (the Japanese language education website “Connect and Enhance Your Life in Japanese”) enabling self-study of the Japanese language by life scenes have currently been developed and provided in 10 languages and will be increased to 14 languages, and life scenes in view of the “framework of reference for the Japanese language education”, etc. will be added to enable foreign nationals to steadily acquire the Japanese language skills necessary for them to live in Japan, even in the areas with difficulties in establishing Japanese language classes.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 23>

- 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. 24>

- With regard to the Japanese language teaching contents provided by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) enabling foreign nationals visiting Japan to learn Japanese that they can use in their daily life, workplaces and elsewhere, 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, relevant ministries and agencies, etc.) will carry out publicity to foreign nationals visiting Japan, etc. to expand the use of the contents where necessary.

[Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 25>

- Evening classes at public junior high schools are public schools that substantially guarantee people passing the school age who did not complete compulsory education an opportunity to receive compulsory education. As of April 2021, there are 36 schools in 30 cities in 12 prefectures throughout Japan. 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 can acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for social and economic independence.

For this reason, in order to establish at least one evening school in each prefecture or

designated city under the Act on Securing Education Opportunities Equivalent to General Education in the Compulsory Education Stage (Act for Securing Education Opportunities) and the Third Basic Plan for the Promotion of Education, support will be provided to investigations into the need for preparation of establishment of new schools and smooth management of such schools so established, and such initiatives will be promoted by holding training sessions for local governments and enhancement of public relations activities. Efforts will be promoted aimed at enhancing educational activities through improvement of the competencies of Japanese language teaching by teachers, collaboration with regional Japanese language classes, and the use of external human resources such as Japanese language teachers and Japanese language teaching assistants.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 26>

- With the increasing number of Japanese language learners both inside and outside Japan, an urgent task is to develop teachers and other staff for Japanese language education, and therefore, it is necessary to secure professional Japanese language education human resources with expertise and improve the quality of the Japanese language education as a whole. For this reason, efforts will be made to further enhance and disseminate the development and training programs for community Japanese language education coordinators and Japanese language teachers to workers and other people based on the “Revised Report on the Development and Training of Japanese Language Practitioners” (the Council for Cultural Affairs Subdivision on the Japanese Language, March 2019), and ICT materials that can commonly be used will be developed and disseminated for smooth implementation of “essential educational contents” presented in the Report that are required for the development of Japanese language teachers.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 27>

- In order to improve the quality of Japanese language education, necessary measures will be taken based on the Act on Promotion of the Japanese Language Education, etc. by considering the legislation of new qualifications to prove the qualities and abilities of Japanese language teachers and mechanisms to maintain and improve the level of Japanese language education at Japanese language education institutions, and by considering support and the like for Japanese language education at Japanese language education institutions.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 28>

- Fundamental efforts for Japanese language education will be further promoted, such as holding meetings to promote Japanese language education comprehensively with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies, and organizations, and operating a portal site on Japanese language education (Nihongo Education contents Web sharing System: NEWS).

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 29>

- In order to make it possible to define and evaluate Japanese communication skills in working situations of foreign workers, a tool exclusively designed for foreign workers working in Japan will be created after identifying companies’ needs and will be provided as a “model” to companies.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 30>

- E-learning materials will be developed and provided for technical intern trainees to learn vocabulary and expressions in use in actual fields when they learn Japanese in classes before and after entering Japan, as well as during the training period.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 31>

- For effective communication between Japanese employees and foreign national employees in workplaces, in order to provide opportunities for bi-directional education, educational video training materials and guidebooks on ways of learning will be publicized to companies, etc. and the local governments and support organizations in the regions providing business consultation services to companies, etc. will be urged to utilize them.
[Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 32>

3. Support according to life stages and life situations

(1) Promotion and support of measures for multicultural coexistence in local communities

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

With the declining and aging 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】

- To link the success of foreign human resources in a region to sustainable development of that region, efforts will be made to collect and horizontally deploy reference cases of support for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals, and to continue to actively support the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization for these voluntary, proactive and leading efforts by the local governments.
[Cabinet Office (Regional Revitalization) and Cabinet Secretariat (Secretariat of the Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan)] <Policy No. 33>
- 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 addition, the current status and issues of activities of foreign national supporters, etc. will be identified, and 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 other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 34>
- The measures to promote fostering of human resources who will coordinate comprehensive support for foreign residents will be considered through reference to the results of the "FY2020 Basic Survey on Foreign Residents".
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 35>
- Proper matching support will be provided through publicity or other means to foreign nationals by the Japanese embassies and consulates or other entities for smooth matching of foreign human resources residing overseas who wish to play an active role in Japan with the local governments and other organizations based on their needs. In addition, with regard to the local governments, the use of comprehensive permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence will be disseminated so that foreign nationals can engage in the wide range of activities effectively and flexibly.
[Cabinet Secretariat (Secretariat of the Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Justice]

<Policy No. 36>

- Considering the “Plan for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence in Local Communities” formulated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications was revised in 2020, taking into account the Comprehensive Measures, formulation of plans for promotion of multicultural coexistence in the local governments will be further promoted and steady implementation of the measures will be promoted. In addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications has been further facilitating efforts to promote multicultural coexistence in local communities by expanding the good examples of practices and consultations obtained through the “multicultural coexistence advisors system” and the “multicultural coexistence regional councils” to the local governments through websites and regional council meetings, etc. 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. 37>
- Based on the increase in the number of foreign residents and those who move in or move out of 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. 38>
- Collaboration with JICA will be proceeded to hire human resources with rich international experience, including those who were previously experienced JICA’s Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, so that the local governments can smoothly execute multicultural coexistence-related activities. Efforts of the local governments and NPOs, etc. to build a society of harmonious coexistence will be encouraged through Coordinators for International Cooperation allocated by JICA across Japan and cooperation with the JICA domestic offices.
Opportunities to attend training at local governments or other organizations in Japan will be provided for pro-Japan foreign human resources from developing countries (including people of Japanese descent) through JICA’s training program, and mutual learning between Japan and developing countries for promotion of multicultural coexistence will be encouraged by utilizing the networks with the relevant agencies of developing countries built by JICA through its ODA programs and strengthening networks between those agencies, and the relevant agencies and supporters of foreign nationals in Japan.
[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 39>

(2) Improvement of the environment on life services

(i) Development of 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 is accessible for foreign patients in any residential areas will be promoted through the use of telephone interpreters and multilingual translation

systems, the development of a manual for the acceptance of foreign patients in medical institutions, and the establishment of regional countermeasure council 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. 40>

- An environment for the acceptance of foreign patients will be developed by supporting for the placement of medical interpreters and medical coordinators as well as multilingualization at hub medical institutions accepting foreign patients in the region.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 41>
- Use of telephone interpretation and foreign language services in all medical institutions will be promoted with appropriate charges paid by foreign patients and other beneficiaries for the provision of multilingual services in medical institutions. As there are medical institutions that do not know that they are permitted to charge patients for interpreting and translation expenses, publicity will be continually conducted to inform them that they are also able to charge for these expenses.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 42>
- The published “medical interpreting training curricula and texts” will be revised as necessary to promote medical interpreting training and improve the quality of medical interpreting, while referring to the results of the “research on practical application of medical interpreting certification”.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 43>
- With regard to information on medical institutions, etc. and pharmacies published by the prefectures, a uniform search site across the country will be established based on the results of the research and survey projects conducted up to FY2020, and the provision of information, including the provision of responses in foreign languages and responses through smartphone searches, will be improved.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 44>
- The occurrence of unpaid medical charges will be reduced by checking foreign tourists who have a record of unpaid medical charges under strict immigration control.
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 specified skilled workers, 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.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 45>
- With regard to foreign nationals, the routine vaccination rates implemented based on the Immunization Act will be improved, and foreign nationals will be included in additional measures for rubella. Efforts for measures against infectious diseases will be made by disseminating to foreign nationals staying in Japan for a medium or long period of time in multiple languages (13 languages) the fact that it is desirable to check their vaccination history of measles and rubella before they enter Japan, and to appropriately conduct pre-entry screening, starting with tuberculosis.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 46>
- The taking out of overseas travel insurance policies will be promoted on the basis that

foreign tourists to Japan will bear appropriate expenses so that they will be able to receive medical treatment without concern and return safely, even in emergencies such as an unexpected illness or injury.

[Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Financial Services Agency, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 47>

- Multilingual services for the “user support projects” implemented by the municipal authorities will be continually 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, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 48>

(ii) Enhancement of traffic safety measures, responses to accidents and incidents, consumer problems, legal problems, human rights issues, and requests for advice from needy persons

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

To prevent circumstances where the increasing number of foreign residents causes 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 foreign nationals may find themselves involved 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 also necessary to appropriately handle consumer problems, legal problems, and human rights issues, etc.

【Specific policies】

- In order to prevent foreigner-related traffic accidents, the police, cooperating with local governments and relevant agencies, will provide knowledge of Japanese traffic rules by providing traffic safety education and conducting publicity/enlightenment activities on traffic safety.
Public relations awareness activities, such as expansion of the National Police Agency website regarding driving license examination procedures for foreign nationals, will be conducted.
In addition, all of the prefectural police will be requested, according to the actual situation of the region, to respond in plain Japanese, and promote further multilingualization with regard to checking driving knowledge at the time of exchanging a foreign driving license for a Japanese driving license, and to multilingualize written tests when acquiring a new driving license.
In parallel, the National Police Agency will create examples of foreign language questions.
In order to prevent illegal acquisition of Japanese driving licenses using forged driving licenses, the collection of information relating to foreign driving license systems will be strengthened.
[National Police Agency] <Policy No. 49>
- 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 utilized in order to facilitate smooth communication with foreign nationals at the site of incidents and accidents. In addition, efforts will continue to be made to place staff members capable of responding in foreign languages and implement education such as language training, etc., and responses concerning various procedures, including those for accepting reports of lost property and receiving found articles, in foreign languages will continue to be promoted. Furthermore,

when a foreign national becomes a party to criminal proceedings, securing appropriate interpreters will be promoted continuously.

[National Police Agency, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 50>

- Crime prevention measures will be enhanced through means such as the implementation of routine visits to homes and workplaces accompanied by 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 with cooperation with the relevant administrative organizations.
[National Police Agency] <Policy No. 51>
- The agency will strengthen its information dissemination capabilities by continuing to revise the contents posted on its websites, including enhancing information provided in foreign languages, so that foreign nationals can easily access information on the Japanese police systems and activities, etc.
[National Police Agency] <Policy No. 52>
- 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 “grants to strengthen local consumer administration” 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. 53>
- 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 (10 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 multinationalization of foreign residents; 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. 54>
- With regard to human rights counseling, investigation and remedy procedures of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice providing multilingual services in 11 languages including Japanese, these services will be advertised in multiple languages 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 any human rights infringement.
<Reposted> [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 8>
- 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. 55>

(iii) Development of 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】

- In order for foreign nationals to be able to look for and live in housing without any problems, support will be provided to activities of the housing support councils across the country for foreign residents, and proactive measures will be promoted, in cooperation with real estate-related groups, 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, the “Guidelines for Facilitation of Private Housing Rentals for Foreign Nationals” responding in 14 languages, which contains practical service manuals for landlords and rental agencies as well as standard apartment contracts in foreign languages and other information, the “Apartment Search Guidebook” for foreign nationals, which contains how to find an apartment in Japan, documents required at the time of signing a contract, and other housing formalities, etc. and the “Guide for foreigners looking to rent”, which compiles basic information helpful to foreign nationals who are looking for an apartment in plain Japanese, etc. will continue to be widely disseminated and publicized by publishing them on the websites and through training sessions, etc. for the relevant business operators, together with the importance of a society of harmonious coexistence. At the same time, the rental liability guarantor registration and other relevant systems will be disseminated 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, the guidebooks prepared by the real estate-related groups, which contain the Specified Skilled Worker System and the program pertaining to technical intern trainees, as well as the practical affairs of housing and acceptance of foreign nationals who will enter the country, based on these new statuses of residence or program, will be widely disseminated and publicized among the registered support organizations, the real estate owners and other people, and continued efforts will be made to offer free consultation concerning acceptance of housing for foreign nationals to respond to concerns of landlords. 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 is 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. 56>

- With regard to public housing, requests have been made to the local governments to treat foreign nationals as qualified to apply for housing 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. 57>

(iv) Improve user-friendly financial and telecommunication services

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

It is necessary to take measures to help foreign nationals smoothly open a bank account

at a financial institution in order for them to pay rent and utility bills, and to receive wages. 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】

- Leaflets for foreign nationals in 14 languages, including plain Japanese, about how to open a bank account and to send money, and booklet for the accepting organizations will be distributed to the local governments, universities, accepting companies, and the relevant ministries and agencies. At the same time, in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies, dissemination to the accepting companies will be conducted with the aim to improve the convenience for foreign nationals when using financial services such as opening accounts, and to prevent them from being involved in crimes such as money laundering and account trading.

In addition, financial institutions will be urged to continue to promote efforts to improve the convenience for foreign nationals when using financial services such as opening accounts.

Furthermore, financial institutions will continue to be urged to accurately identify the periods of stay of foreign nationals to appropriately manage their accounts, and otherwise make efforts that would contribute to countermeasures against special fraud and money laundering, including improvement of internal rules and other guidelines.

[Financial Services Agency] <Policy No. 58>

- The accepting organization will provide necessary support so that specified skilled workers and technical intern trainees will be able to smoothly open a savings or deposit account at a financial institution.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 59>

- With respect to the payment of wages to the accounts of funds transfer service providers, a scheme of systems that will ensure payment of sufficient amounts to workers in case of the bankruptcy of such funds transfer service provider will be constructed to protect workers through secure payment of wages. The systems will be standardized early during FY2021 after discussion with the management and labor organizations. In that connection, risk-based monitoring of money laundering or other activities will be conducted through reference to overseas cases.

[Cabinet Office (Regional Revitalization), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Financial Services Agency] <Policy No. 60>

- From the perspective of facilitation of contracts and use of mobile phones by foreign residents, continued efforts will be made to promote provision by mobile phone operators of multilingual services and facilitate identify verification using a residence card so that foreign nationals who cannot speak Japanese will not be uniformly hindered from entering into a contract.

[Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 61>

(3) Measures for foreign children

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

Education for foreign pupils and students are the foundation for life for foreign pupils and students 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 pupils and students do not have sufficient Japanese language skills, nearly 20% of foreign pupils and students 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.

The first nationwide survey conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in FY2019 known as the “Survey on School Enrollment by Children of Foreign Nationals” revealed the reality that as many as 20,000 foreign children might not have attended school (survey as of May 1, 2019). Given this situation, it is necessary to further enhance efforts to identify and promote school enrollment of foreign children to appropriately secure opportunities of foreign pupils and students to attend school. In addition, it is necessary to make efforts to enhance systems to accept foreign nationals in schools and the detailed Japanese language teaching also to promote school enrollment.

When foreign children enter compulsory education schools without experiencing group life, they might get into trouble because they cannot understand group actions or the Japanese language, and thus be unable to have a smooth school life. Therefore, it is important to encourage foreign nationals to have their children enter kindergartens and nursery schools in order to facilitate enrollment in compulsory education schools.

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 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】

- The Maternal and Child Health Handbook, which is the starting point of maternal and child health, was translated into multiple languages so that pregnant foreign national women will be able to give birth and raise their children with peace of mind through smooth acquisition and use of maternal and child health information in Japan, and various effective methods of providing support utilizing the handbooks will continue to be disseminated to the local governments.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 62>
- Efforts to publicize and disseminate the free early childhood education and care policy will continue to be promoted in order to encourage provision of opportunities for foreign children to learn the Japanese language. In addition, efforts to publicize and disseminate the tuition support systems for high schools and universities will continue to be promoted.
[Cabinet Office (Children and Childcare), Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 63>
- Based on the National Curriculum Standards for Day-Care Center (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Public Notice No. 117 of 2017), etc., efforts will continue to be made to ensure that appropriate support is provided to households with foreign nationals by day care centers, etc. for the need to give consideration to the foreign national children in the day care centers and to provide uninterrupted support so that the children can transit from day care center to elementary school. In addition, efforts will continue to be made at the after-school children’s clubs to ensure appropriate measures are taken for foreign national children based on the basic way of thinking in the “New After-school Children Plan” announced on September 14, 2018.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 64>
- Research and surveys will be implemented, measures will be compiled relating to consideration for foreign national children and their parents and guardians taken by the municipal authorities and day care centers, interviews will be conducted focusing on local governments with a high percentage of foreign nationals, the system of support for the acceptance of foreign national children by the local governments will be tracked, and case studies will be collected on the treatment of foreign national children and their parents and guardians by the day care centers, and horizontal deployment of best practices will be

continually carried out.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 65>

- In the public schools, improvement is being steadily promoted based on the provisions of the Law Concerning Class-size and the Standard of the Number of School Personnel of Public Compulsory Education Schools so that in FY2026, the basic constant number of teachers will be one teacher per 18 children. In addition, based on the situation of support by the relevant departments and other organizations in the regions, support will be enhanced for the establishment of a support system for foreign pupils and students 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 provision of ICT-based support including multilingual translation systems and remote education for detailed teaching. For this, consideration will be given to the importance of native languages and culture, and collaboration between each local government and a wide range of parties including NPOs and companies.

Further, the “survey on the status of acceptance of pupils and students in need of Japanese language teaching” will be conducted biennially to clarify the actual conditions and issues concerning the status of acceptance as well as to collect and disseminate case examples of advanced efforts, and the functions of “CASTA-NET”, the website for information retrieval operated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the purpose of disseminating Japanese language guidance materials, will be strengthened. Moreover, efforts to make digital textbooks for learners with reading and furigana-adding functions, which is considered to contribute to education for foreign pupils and students, etc., more usable to foreign pupils and students, who are in need of them, will continue to be considered.

In addition, practical studies on instructions in areas with high and low concentration of foreigners, respectively, will be conducted, and model cases of offering classes in which Japanese and foreign children learn together with mutual respect and of building teaching systems in areas with a low concentration of foreign nationals will be disseminated across the country. Materials which organize matters to keep in mind when teaching foreign children in early childhood will be disseminated.

In addition, in response to the recommendation made in the report of the Central Council for Education “Toward the Establishment of 'Japanese-Style School Education in the Reiwa Era'” in January 2021 regarding an ideal form of education for the increasing foreign pupils and students, etc., the above measures will be enhanced.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 66>

- Through the spread of “model programs” that compile details of training to be provided by the boards of education and universities, etc., a training structure will be developed to implement systematic Japanese language teaching such as initial-stage Japanese language teaching, mid-stage and late-stage teaching, and integrated teaching of the Japanese language and subjects using the JSL curriculum, and systematic teaching of the Japanese language through the utilization of results of assessments using the Japanese language proficiency measurement methodologies for foreign pupils and students, and fostering core teachers in charge of Japanese language teaching and other measures will be promoted. In addition, the competencies and skills of teachers responsible for education of foreign pupils and students, etc. will be improved through the distribution of “movie contents for training” prepared to enable teachers in charge of teaching foreign pupils and students, etc. to effectively acquire necessary knowledge and skills via “CASTA-NET”, the website for information retrieval operated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and other media, and the wide dissemination of the contents to facilitate those use. Moreover, 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 pupils and students” conducted by the National Institute for School Teachers and Staff Development, and video lectures for in-school training provided by the National Institute will be disseminated. In addition, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will make efforts to send “educational advisors for foreign pupils and

students”, etc. to enhance training conducted by each local government. Furthermore, survey and studies into development of training programs for institutions such as kindergartens will be conducted, as they must take into account the characteristics of early childhood.

At the same time, with regard to securing as well as improving the competencies of Japanese language teachers, who teach foreign pupils and students, and Japanese language teaching assistants, consideration will be given to effective measures from the perspective of securing human resources or providing nationwide training opportunities.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 67>

- Based on the actual conditions on the status of entering higher schools, the rate of leaving school, and the other career status of foreign students, comprehensive support such as enhancement of Japanese language teaching and career education, and provision of life consultation will be promoted through cooperation between the boards of education and schools, and the relevant organizations, so that lower secondary schools and upper secondary schools will be able to provide opportunities to choose a career that looks to the future.

The status of implementation will be identified and information on case examples of advanced efforts will be provided the boards of education, with the aim of ensuring that all prefectures will give special considerations (e.g., adding furigana, bringing in a dictionary, and setting of special admission capacity) to returnees and foreign students in the public senior high school entrance exams.

Furthermore, consideration for the introduction of systems to provide individual teaching of Japanese language in senior high schools by including it in the education curriculum will be promoted, and creation of teaching materials for establishing teaching systems and creating curriculum for teaching of Japanese language in schools as well as consideration of the method of identifying Japanese language proficiency, etc. will also be promoted. Practical studies into ideal forms of multicultural coexistence and fostering of global human resources will be conducted in areas with high and low concentration of foreign nationals.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 68>

- Efforts will be promoted to encourage school enrollment through thorough guidance on school enrollment by the local governments, the preparation and distribution of multilingualized school enrollment guidebooks, so that opportunities for foreign pupils and students to attend school are properly guaranteed. In addition, with regard to the matters to be taken by local governments, based on the “Guidelines for the Promotion of School Enrollment of Foreign Children and the Identification of Their School Enrollment Status” formulated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in July 2020, identification of the actual conditions of school enrollment of foreign children including school enrollment status and smooth acceptance of foreign children in schools will be encouraged, including integrated management and identification of the school enrollment status of foreign children in compiling registers of school-age children based on the Basic Resident Registers. Furthermore, the “Survey on School Enrollment Status of Foreign Children” will continue to be conducted to identify the existence of measures of the local governments, organize the issues concerning the status of school enrollment, and compile and disseminate case examples of advanced efforts, thereby promoting integrated efforts by the relevant departments of the local governments and the relevant organizations and providing information also to the embassies and consulate generals of the respective countries in Japan. With regard to the compilation of registers of school-age children, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is preparing a standard specification for the school-age children registration system based on the Digital Government Implementation Plan, and efforts will be made to achieve collaboration between the school-age children registration system and the Basic Resident Registration system and integrated management and identification of the school enrollment status of foreign children by the end of FY2025 by including the matters concerning school enrollment of foreign children in the specification.

In addition, efforts for the promotion of school enrollment will be supported by disseminating movie contents and guidebooks for kindergarten enrollment that are useful for school enrollment guidance and early adaptation instructions and available in multiple

languages and plain Japanese, fortifying the functions and promoting the use of “CASTA-NET”, the website for information retrieval in which multilingual school guidance documents are included. Moreover, depending on the local circumstances, as various organizations such as schools for foreign students and NPOs have been the places for foreign children to learn, support will be enhanced so that the status of school enrollment can be grasped smoothly and the school enrollment can be promoted in cooperation with the local governments.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will cooperate with the Immigration Services Agency to provide information on school enrollment at one-stop consulting counters or elsewhere established by the local governments, and efforts will be promoted to urge foreign parents and guardians to have their children attend school, including an attempt to check the school enrollment status of children in the examination of the status of residence.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice]
<Policy No. 69>

- Treatment of the status of residence will be disseminated so that foreign nationals who wish to work after graduating senior high school in Japan will be able to smoothly settle in Japanese society.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice]
<Policy No. 70>

- Continuous guidance will be provided to prevent delinquency of foreign national juveniles who receive guidance, with their guardians' consent as with the case of Japanese juveniles, and efforts will be made with the cooperation of university student volunteers to engage in conducting learning support activities and activities to create places where the foreign national juveniles can feel like belonging so as to promote their sound development.

[National Police Agency] <Policy No. 71>

- While taking note of the language, the education system in their home country, cultural background and family environment, information will be disseminated to the local governments so that appropriate decisions can be made on the school choice of foreign national children with disabilities, and the use of multilingual translation systems to respond to requests for advice on school choice will be promoted.

In schools for special needs education, etc., efforts will be made to support the assignment of Japanese language teaching assistants and mother tongue supporters, etc., and in addition, in-service training opportunities will be improved so that teachers in charge of special needs education and Japanese language teaching will also be able to learn about Japanese language teaching and special needs education.

At the same time, the status of enrollment of pupils and students in need of Japanese language teaching in special needs classes will be newly identified, and research on special needs education for children in connection with foreign countries will be conducted.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 72>

(4) Supporting 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 that develop a deep understanding of Japan through exchange with Japanese students and local residents through study in Japan. In order to avoid having international students who cannot find a job and return to their home country disappointed as much as possible, the target employment rate of international students should have been increased from 30% to 50% in the “Japan Revitalization Strategy” in June 2016. However, the actual employment rate stands at 37%, and fundamental measures need to be taken.

Therefore, the statuses of residence of international students have been reviewed to make it easier for them to find employment in Japan. It is necessary to promote dissemination of this system, 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 Long-Term Care and foreign nationals working in the field of Long-Term Care are expected to increase in the future, it is necessary to provide more appropriate support for these foreign nationals.

【Specific policies】

- Information will continue to be disseminated on the Public Notice on “Designated Activities” (No. 46) aimed at employment support for international students who have graduated from or completed a course from a Japanese university or graduate school.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 73>
- Efforts will be made to promote year-round recruitment of international students who graduate from the universities, etc. in autumn by companies and other organizations to encourage them to work in Japan after graduation. Also, dissemination activities to companies and other organizations on the status of residence of “Designated Activities” that allow international students who have been offered a job to stay in Japan until they are employed will continue to be taken.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 74>
- The Program for Training Foreign Nationals in Japanese Food Culture is a system to promote overseas dissemination of Japanese cuisine and food culture in which international students who have graduated from professional training colleges for cuisine and confectionery can continue to learn skills while working in restaurants, etc. in Japan. This program will be properly operated and disseminated, for example, by posting the relevant information on the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries’ website.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries] <Policy No. 75>
- The “Projects for Encouraging Foreign Entrepreneurs to Start Businesses” and the status of residence of “Designated Activities” (established in November 2020) concerning entrepreneurial activities by foreign nationals who graduated from universities, etc. in Japan will be publicized and disseminated.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 76>
- In order to support the employment of international students by small or medium-sized business or other businesses which satisfy certain conditions, the various documents that are required when international students apply for permission for a change of the status of residence were simplified as with large businesses, targeting the companies and other organizations which are certified under the Youth Yell Certification System of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and information on documents to be submitted in the procedures for application for residence will continue to be provided.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 77>
- A mechanism (accreditation system for educational programs to promote employment of international students) will be started in which universities, in cooperation with companies and other organizations, will formulate an education program through which international students can acquire skills necessary to be employed in Japan while at university, and have it accredited by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. In that connection, the ministry will also accredit education programs to follow up with international students even after receiving an informal job offer from companies or graduating from university, as well as while at university, thereby deploying mechanisms leading to employment of international students by Japanese companies or other organization across the country. While the accredited universities are required to set achievement targets for the rate of employment of international students, the ministry will support their priority allocation of scholarships or other initiatives. As a general rule, the relevant administrative agencies will also participate in the programs of universities that have adopted the Top Global University Project.
[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 78>
- From the point of view of preparing for prolonged impact of COVID-19 and new risks,

efforts will be made to develop contents and establish a learning support system for international students in specialized training colleges to mainly study online in their home countries, and a model to evaluate learning in home countries and provide support for remaining learning after coming to Japan and employment as a comprehensive package will be built in cooperation with local educational institutions.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 79>

- With regard to the Japanese language teaching contents provided by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) enabling foreign nationals visiting Japan to learn Japanese that they can use in their daily life, workplaces and elsewhere, 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, relevant ministries and agencies, etc.) will carry out publicity to foreign nationals visiting Japan, etc. to expand the use of the contents where necessary.
<Reposted> [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 25>
- The special site established in the Japan Student Services Organization in order to consolidate and effectively disseminate information such as the employment rates of international students, etc. will promote the publication of information on universities, etc., and preferred allocations of scholarships to educational institutions will be made according to their efforts of providing employment support and actual status of employment.
[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 80>
- 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 continue to collaborate to hold workshops (opinion exchanges) so that support can be effectively given in the consultation on careers at universities, 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 based on employment.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 81>
- 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 there is diversity in the level of Japanese language skills required at the time of recruitment. Based on these actual situations, dissemination and use of the “Handbook for the Employment of International Students and Empowerment After Hiring” jointly formulated by the relevant ministries and agencies, industries, job support companies, universities, and other entities and providing the checklists and other best practices for recruitment process and flexible fostering and other treatment of human resources after hiring based on the diversity of international students will be promoted in combination of various systems and measures of the relevant ministries and agencies and will be further deployed horizontally to the local governments and support organizations in the regions providing business consultation services to companies, etc. In addition, in order to encourage information transmission by companies and universities under the measures for international students based on the above-mentioned Handbook, thorough dissemination of information to economic organizations, universities and others will be conducted by the relevant ministries and agencies.
[Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and other relevant ministries and agencies)] <Policy No. 82>
- In order to promote employment and empowerment of highly-skilled foreign professionals in Japan, the Platform for Promotion of Active Participation by Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals (hereinafter referred to as the “Open for Professionals” Platform) established in the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) will offer useful information for both Japanese companies and highly-skilled foreign professionals in cooperation with the relevant

ministries and agencies. In particular, the supporting measures of the relevant ministries and agencies will be organized according to several stages, from employment of international students to empowerment after hiring them, in an easy-to-understand manner to make them available for Japanese companies.

In addition, in order to provide effective support to small and medium-sized businesses in the provincial area, JETRO will provide them an accompanying support and improve supporting measures for empowerment of highly-skilled foreign professionals who already work in Japanese Companies, through holding seminars utilizing educational materials and teaching curriculum created for small and medium-sized businesses and supporting organizations.

[Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and other relevant ministries and agencies)] <Policy No. 83>

- Detailed consultation and support by persons in charge will be provided at the Employment Service Center for Foreigners and the International Students Corner of Hello Work as regional bases, and efforts will be made, in collaboration with local companies, local governments, and JETRO and other relevant organizations, to expand internships, dig up job offers for international students, and hold employment guidance and other seminars and joint company briefing sessions, with the aim of promoting further opportunities to match international students with companies.

Those bases will provide necessary cooperation with the one-stop consulting counters established by the local governments.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 84>

- 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 showcase the attractiveness of studying in Japan, including future career paths such as employment in Japan after graduation.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 85>

- In the Innovative Asia project aimed for promotion of circulation of Asia's competent human resources in the scientific field, cooperation with the relevant organizations will be reinforced, the "Open for Professionals" Platform will be utilized, and information will be provided to those interested in internship matching or employment in Japanese companies at job fairs and other relevant events in Japan and overseas.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 86>

- Programs will be provided to educate instructors of training sessions of long-term care facilities to improve skills of foreign care workers and training sessions for foreign nationals, 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 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 continuing their studies due to economic reasons.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 87>

- To promote internships to give international students opportunities to contact companies, efforts will be made to disseminate the details of activities and the procedures for the status of residence to universities and companies, etc., and the procedures necessary for international students to work in Japan after graduation will also continue to be widely disseminated to universities and companies, etc.

[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 88>

- Acceptance of internships for international students in Japan and from overseas in companies will be promoted through briefing sessions and seminars at the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC). However, it will be implemented with consideration given to the effects of the COVID-19.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] <Policy No. 89>
- The internship guidelines for the status of residence of “Designated Activities” (No. 9) established in FY2020 will be disseminated and further appropriate use of the system will be promoted.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 90>
- The ministry will disseminate information relating to employment of international students in Japan through the Japanese Embassies and Consulates, considering the efforts based on the Comprehensive Measures.
[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 91>
- Training sessions for international students, etc. aimed at improving communication abilities for job retention and gaining an understanding of employment and other practices, etc. will be implemented by utilizing model curriculum for job retention created in FY2020. In addition, effective communication methods at workplaces for employers, those in charge of personnel affairs and labor management, and other supervisors will be disseminated through seminars, etc. for employers by utilizing the “Collection of Points and Example Sentences That Can Be Used in Labor Management at Workplaces With Foreign Employees” and the “Handbook for the Employment of International Students and Empowerment after Hiring”, etc.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 92>
- Career consultants who are familiar with international students and corporate practices (such as diversity management) will be fostered through classes and other sessions for career consultants.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 93>
- Cases of companies which success empowerment and job retention of foreign nationals by proactively carrying out career consulting for their employees including the former international students, etc. will be compiled and disseminated.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 94>
- Cooperation between universities and prefectural labor bureaus (Hello Work) will be reinforced through conclusion of a cooperation agreement to consistently provide international students with job hunting support from job hunting seminars at an early stage to internship, separate consultation during the job hunting period, and interview meetings for employment. In addition, the good practices, know-how, etc. gained there will be shared with universities and relevant organizations, etc. across the country.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 95>

(5) Ensuring an appropriate work environment

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

【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 relevant organizations such as the labor standards inspection offices to strive to ensure appropriate working conditions and employment management, and to ensure industrial 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 make sure employers are aware of compliance with labor-related laws and regulations. In addition, Hello Work will also work to disseminate and publicize information on the foreign nationals' employment status notification system and foreign national employment management guidelines to employers, focus on holding employment management seminars, and expand provisions of advice and guidance for improvement of employment management in order to assist employers in retaining foreign employees in the workplace.
In addition, the necessary system will be prepared in order to ensure the proper working conditions and employment management of foreign workers.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 96>

- With regard to the Technical Intern Training Program, there are still many cases of unfair acts. For this reason, the Immigration Services Agency and the Organization for Technical Intern Training will maintain strengthened cooperation to exchange information on the status of immigration and residence of technical intern trainees and the current situation of implementing organizations, etc., and identify the current status of technical intern trainees who belong to implementing companies and organizations more surely and in a timely manner, through which the system will be reinforced in which the regional immigration bureaus and the Organization for Technical Intern Training will conduct prompt and effective onsite inspections.
In addition, the operational system of the Organization for Technical Intern Training will be structured to enable smooth and appropriate cooperation to exchange information with the Immigration Services Agency of Japan based on the conditions of implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program after the enforcement of the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees, thereby ensuring more proper implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program and protecting technical intern trainees.
Furthermore, the survey on supervising organizations and implementing organizations conducted by the regional immigration bureaus in cooperation with the Organization for Technical Intern Training as required will be strengthened, and efforts will be made for more appropriate implementation of the system by taking prompt and strict administrative dispositions, etc.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 97>

- In light of the fact that there are a number of foreign workers who have little knowledge of the safety and health 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 for the foreign workers and audiovisual safety and health education materials corresponding to the fields in which specified skilled workers are accepted (14 fields) for business owners who employ foreign workers will be developed, and the relevant ministries and agencies and industry groups will be informed how to utilize those audiovisual materials, and measures to prevent industrial 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. While those audiovisual materials were prepared in 11 languages including Japanese in FY2019, audiovisual materials available in 14 languages will be expanded in FY2021 and educational materials for hazard recognition will be created using VR technology and other technologies.
At the same time, tools for measures to prevent industrial accidents by foreign workers will be enhanced and reinforced by enhancement of supplemental materials on dangerous and harmful operations.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 98>

- The languages used by the “Foreign Workers Consultation Corner” established in the prefectural labor bureaus and the labor standards inspection offices, the “Telephone consultation Service for Foreign Workers” for those who are unable to visit the consultation

corner and the “Labour standards Advice Hotline” open for labor-related consultations when the labor standards inspection offices are closed are now available in 14 languages (including Japanese), and will continue to keep those consultation services reliably available.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 99>

- The following measures will be taken to promote communication between an employer and foreign workers, and to assist in the efforts of employers to establish foreign workers.
 - To disseminate the “Collection of Points and Example Sentences That Can Be Used in Labor Management at Workplaces With Foreign Employees” prepared in FY2020, the “Multilingual Glossary Helpful for Employment Management” in which frequently used words and sample sentences in documents such as labor contracts are provided in plain Japanese and translated into foreign languages, and the plain Japanese version of the model working rules to employers, foreign nationals, and the relevant organizations such as Hello Work, in order to prevent troubles concerning working conditions, etc. between employers and foreign workers and promote the creation of workplaces in which both Japanese and foreign workers can work comfortably.
 - To publicize the subsidies for the efforts of employers to improve employment management that will reflect the circumstances specific to foreign nationals to facilitate its use, in order to enable foreign nationals to fully understand their working conditions, continue to work with ease and satisfaction under proper treatment conditions, and demonstrate their abilities.
 - To disseminate the model training curriculum for the job retention of foreign workers created based on expertise of the training projects to support employment and retention of foreign workers by companies employing foreign nationals.
 - To reinforce dispatch of information on labor conditions and other support measures in “plain Japanese” as the language that both employers and foreign workers can understand, as well as in multiple languages (web pages, SNS, brochures, etc.). Leaflets and other brochures summarizing information on employment insurance and other procedures necessary when leaving the company will be disseminated in multiple languages including plain Japanese to provide detailed support for outplacement when foreign workers are forced to leave the company, among other reasons, due to the impact of the COVID-19.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 100>

- Consideration will be given to multilingualization of consultations and advice relating to problems such as harassment and termination of employment, etc. in the workplace by using the “Multilingual Contact Center” (telephone interpreters) established in all of the Employment Environment and Equal Employment Departments (Offices) of the prefectural labor bureaus and Consultation Counters on General Labor Matters.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 101>

- The trends in industrial accidents of foreign workers and their causes will be analyzed using the information taken from the “Workers’ Death, Injury and Disease Reports” reported by the business owners to the director of the competent labor standards inspection office and this information will be used in future measures to prevent industrial accidents.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 102>

(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 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.

As the impact of the COVID-19 is expected to extend to employment of many foreign workers, it is necessary to reinforce the consultation systems especially at Hello Work offices

so that detailed employment support may also be provided to foreign workers.

【Specific policies】

- Careful consultation will continue to be provided to foreign job seekers by the placement of interpreters and utilization of the Multilingual Contact Center capable of responding in 14 languages and multilingual speech translation devices, etc.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 103>
- Stable employment and job retention will be promoted at the employment service for foreign workers or elsewhere, through assignment of specialized counselors for occupational consultation, provision of information on job offers for which settled foreign nationals easily apply, and collaboration with the one-stop consulting counters established by the local governments.
In addition, the training projects for foreign residents to improve communication skills and gain an understanding of business etiquette in the Japanese workplace (training projects to support employment and retention of foreign nationals) will continue to be steadily implemented, and model curriculum and model textbooks will be created according to the learning achievement goals of the projects.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 104>
- For settled foreign nationals, 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. In addition, the best examples of vocational training courses for settled foreign nationals will be collected and otherwise disseminated, through which support will be given to the local governments wishing to carry out vocational training that takes into account the lack of Japanese language skills.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 105>
- 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. 106>

(6) Promotion of 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 guidance rendered on places of business, such as calling on business owners, on-site administrative guidance, and the conducting of on-site inspections. At the same time, with regard to the 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. 107>
- 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. 108>

- 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 services offices, or at the time of acceptance of offers for posting job offerings at Hello Work through cooperation among the relevant administrative organizations.

Therefore, the status of fulfillment of obligations under the social insurance system will be appropriately 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 the National Health Insurance program and national pensions, 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 specified skilled workers above-mentioned, continued 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. 109>

- Returning to the basic concept of the health insurance system that the insurance payment is provided when a resident in Japan visits a domestic medical insurance institution, and in order to ensure that payment of health benefits for a visit to an overseas medical institution is an exception from the system and secure proper approval process, an insured dependent of health insurance or Category 3 insured person has been required under the “Act on the Partial Revision of the Health Insurance Act, etc. for Appropriate and Effective Operation of the Health Insurance System” (Act No. 9 of 2019) to basically reside in Japan, regardless of nationality, and continued efforts will be made to smoothly administer the system.

In addition, concerning the National Health Insurance program, continued efforts will be made so that a system whereby the municipal authorities notify the Ministry of Justice if there is the possibility that the foreign national is not engaging in the activities authorized under the status of residence is adopted. From the viewpoint of the proper management of qualification under the National Health Insurance, in accordance with the amendment of the Health Insurance Act and other acts, since information on the acquisition or loss of qualification of an insured person is to be clarified as a subject of examination by the municipal authorities, the management of qualification will be steadily optimized.

Furthermore, from the viewpoint of preventing the fraudulent receipt of lump-sum allowance for childbirth disguised as childbirth in a foreign country, in keeping with the countermeasures against overseas medical expenses that have been implemented thus far, notification has been issued that the documents required for lump-sum allowance for childbirth will be standardized and stricter examinations will be conducted, and continued efforts will be made to disseminate such notice and promote implementation of such notice, together with the countermeasures against illegal reimbursement of overseas medical expenses.

In addition, with regard to so-called “impersonation” in which an insurance card is misappropriated, notifications of the methods of personal identification have been issued to inform that presentation of identification documents together with the insurance card can be requested when the medical institutions deem it to be necessary, and that insurance benefits

should not be rejected solely by reason of non-presentation of personal information. Thus, measures will be taken to ensure that the Health Insurance program is administered appropriately. Online Confirmation System for Health Insurance Qualification for Medical institutions, etc. will be fully implemented by October this year, and personal identification with the Individual Number Cards and instant checks of the validities of insurance cards will become possible just by reading IC chips of Individual Number Cards.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 110>

- In the examinations relating to the acceptance of specified skilled workers conducted by the regional immigration services 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, to a certain extent, 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 inhabitant tax to be paid due to grounds attributable to them, such as the applications for permission to change the status of residence from such persons will be denied and necessary information collaboration will be conducted such as notifying the relevant agencies, and moreover, continued consideration will be given to take similar measures in the future even for foreign nationals with other statuses of residence.

[Ministry of Justice (Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)] <Policy No. 111>

- The accepting organizations will provide support to the specified skilled workers (i) to enable them to pay their taxes smoothly, and in particular, will provide support to enable them to pay the inhabitant 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 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. 112>

- From the perspective that it is necessary to promote special collection, the system that has payers of wages collect and pay individual inhabitant 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.

Continuous efforts will be made to inform companies and foreign nationals who are required to pay the taxes of 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 taxpayers.

[Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 113>

4. Safety net and support, etc. for foreign nationals in time of emergency

(1) Information dissemination and support in time of emergency such as a disaster, etc.

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

In time of emergency, the viewpoint that no one will be left behind, regardless of their nationalities, will become even more important. In order to achieve the idea, it is necessary to make efforts to provide support and information to those in need by establishing a system to provide them with accurate support with due consideration given to the vulnerabilities of foreign nationals. In addition, when a large-scale disaster occurs, it is necessary to establish a smooth communication system among the embassies in Tokyo, the relevant ministries and agencies, local governments, and other organizations since there may be some difficulty in confirming the safety of foreign residents.

【Specific policies】

- The utilization of a multilingual dictionary for disaster prevention and weather information created in 15 languages in the websites and applications, etc. of private business operators will be promoted, and multilingualization of disaster prevention and weather information will be promoted by disseminating “Safety tips” and the Japan Meteorological Agency website that are available in 15 languages by utilizing the websites of the relevant organizations and posters, etc.

Moreover, with regard to these services, guidance will be posted on the website of the Immigration Services Agency where multilingualization is underway so that people with no knowledge of the Japanese language can understand them, and it will be disseminated and promoted through the regional immigration services offices, etc.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the revision of the “Guidelines on Evacuation Information”, the multilingual dictionary will be revised to develop an environment in which correct information is conveyed also to foreign nationals.

[Cabinet Office for Disaster Management, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] <Policy No. 114>
- Training that has been implemented since FY2018 will continue to be implemented to enable “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 FY2021.
- In order to strengthen cooperation with the diplomatic missions in Tokyo in the event of a disaster, a Disaster Management Seminar is held on disaster prevention measures for the diplomatic missions in Tokyo. In addition, the diplomatic missions are urged to disseminate the websites of the relevant ministries and agencies, which provide information at the time of a disaster to their nationals in Japan.
- A system for simultaneous interpretation through a telephone interpreting center will be developed so that prompt and appropriate responses may be made to the emergency number 119 calls from foreign nationals and to respond to the services at emergency sites where foreign nationals are present. Multilingual speech translation applications to support communication with foreign injured people will be introduced into the firefighting headquarters so that prompt and appropriate responses may be made in the emergency sites where foreign nationals are present.
- The following measures will be taken to promote communication between an employer and foreign workers, and to assist in the efforts of employers to retain foreign workers.
 - To disseminate the “Collection of Points and Example Sentences That Can Be Used in Labor Management at Workplaces With Foreign Employees” prepared in FY2020, the “Multilingual Glossary Helpful for Employment Management” in which frequently used words and sample sentences in documents such as labor contracts are provided in plain Japanese and translated into foreign languages, and the plain Japanese version of the model working rules to employers, foreign nationals, and the relevant organizations such as Hello Work, in order to prevent troubles concerning working conditions, etc. between employers and foreign workers and promote the creation of workplaces in which both Japanese and foreign workers can work comfortably.
 - To publicize the subsidies for the efforts of employers to improve employment management that will reflect the circumstances specific to foreign nationals to facilitate its use, in order to enable foreign nationals to fully understand their working conditions, continue to work with

- ease and satisfaction under proper treatment conditions, and demonstrate their abilities.
- To disseminate the model training curriculum for the job retention of foreign workers created based on expertise of the training projects to support employment and retention of foreign workers by companies employing foreign nationals.
 - To reinforce dispatch of information on labor conditions and other support measures in “plain Japanese” as the language that both employers and foreign workers can understand, as well as in multiple languages (web pages, SNS, brochures, etc.). Leaflets and other brochures summarizing information on employment insurance and other procedures necessary when leaving the company will be disseminated in multiple languages including plain Japanese to provide detailed support for outplacement when foreign workers are forced to leave the company, among other reasons, due to the impact of the COVID-19.
- <Reposted> [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 100>

(2) Support for prevention of COVID-19 and smooth vaccination, etc.

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

In order to steadily promote COVID-19 measures, including vaccination, for foreign nationals residing in Japan, it is necessary that the relevant ministries and agencies and the local governments, etc. closely cooperate to steadily implement various measures.

In order to avoid shortage of information for foreign nationals having difficulties in living due to the impact of COVID-19, in addition to further enhancement of information provision and consultation systems to enable them to access necessary information, providing them with comprehensive support by implementing efforts such as special measures for the status of residence and matching support for re-employment is required.

【Specific policies】

- The ministries will continue to ensure communication of information on living support for foreign nationals provided by each ministry and agency, etc. and matters that require attention to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 by compiling and posting them on the Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals.
For technical intern trainees, the ministries will continue to ensure communication of information on living support, status of residence, and prevention of infection, etc. to those who are involved with the Technical Intern Training Programs such as supervising organizations and implementing organizations, through the Organization for Technical Intern Training, taking into account the conditions in which technical intern trainees are situated.
Furthermore, for international students, the latest status of the COVID-19 as well as information and materials that contribute to the prevention of infection will be thoroughly disseminated by providing them to higher education institutions and Japanese language education institutions, etc.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 118>
- In order to finely transmit various information for foreign nationals, including information on the prevention of the spread of the COVID-19, the Ministry of Justice will promote efforts to enhance and strengthen information provision by aggregating the information of NPOs/NGOs, Key Persons, and Influencers, etc. identified by the relevant ministries and agencies and sharing it with the relevant ministries and agencies.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 119>
- The ministry will request the management and labor organizations to ensure the implementation of measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 and encourage them to make efforts using practical examples, etc. in workplaces after confirming the implementation status of the “Five Points of the Measures” indicating the matters requiring particular attention in workplaces through utilizing the opportunities in which the prefectural labor bureaus and the labor standards inspection offices contact with workplaces. In addition, as it is important

that foreign workers understand the details of measures in their workplaces and that labor and management cooperate to ensure the implementation measures to prevent the infection, relevant materials will be multilingualized and disseminated.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 120>

- At Japanese language education institutions and professional training colleges, etc. with a large number of international students, health monitoring applications will be utilized and active examination of people with minor symptoms (those with minor symptoms of fever, coughing, sore throat, etc.) will be conducted using simple antigen kits. In addition, at workplaces employing foreign nationals, conducting examinations using simple antigen kits, etc. while utilizing health monitoring applications will be encouraged. When a coronavirus-positive person is found, prompt and flexible PCR testing, etc. of broad contact persons will be conducted as administrative examination while reducing the administrative burden of health centers.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Cabinet Secretariat (Office for Novel Coronavirus Disease Control), and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 121>

- In order to enable foreign nationals living in Japan to take vaccinations if they wish to do so, active dissemination activities will be conducted using websites and SNS, etc., and the Immigration Services Agency will organize information on the places of residence in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to ensure that notices on vaccination will be delivered to foreign residents wishing to take vaccinations. In addition, the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) will encourage foreign nationals to voluntarily take vaccinations by actively providing consultations in multiple languages in cooperation and collaboration with the local governments, etc. and responding to individual consultation requests from foreign nationals having difficulties in understanding the vaccination tickets and contacting the local governments, etc.

Furthermore, consultation services for vaccination of foreign nationals will continue to be secured by responding in multiple languages at the telephone consultation center of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, etc.

[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 122>

- In order to further promote the use of the Specified Skilled Worker System, job fair in Japan and overseas information sessions, etc. for foreign nationals who wish to work as specified skilled workers and companies wishing to employ specified skilled workers will be held, and employment maintenance support measures for technical intern trainees or the like who have been dismissed, etc. and are having difficulties with continuing their training due to the impact of the COVID-19 will be steadily implemented.

Given the status of implementation of those measures, in order to encourage further matching of intentions of foreign nationals in Japan and abroad who wish to work as the specified skilled workers with the needs of small or medium-sized businesses and other accepting organizations with less experience in employment of foreign nationals, the relevant ministries and agencies will cooperate with each other to consider methods of employment support based on the working situations specific to each field.

[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 123>

- In order to further promote the use of the Specified Skilled Worker System, job fair in Japan and overseas information sessions, etc. for foreign nationals who wish to work as specified skilled workers and companies wishing to employ specified skilled workers will be held, and “Employment Economic Measures to Cope with the COVID-19” for technical intern trainees or the like who have been dismissed and are having difficulties with continuing their training due to the impact of the COVID-19 will be steadily implemented.

Given the status of implementation of those measures, the ministry will consider implementing its efforts to provide foreign nationals in Japan and abroad who wish to work

as specified skilled workers and organizations who wish to accept those foreign nationals with detailed information and publicity on the Specified Skilled Worker System.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 124>

- In order to resolve problems that may arise due to the impact of the COVID-19, information on policies formulated in response to COVID-19 will be provided and events will be held in cooperation with other relevant ministries and agencies on the special website launched on the “Open for Professionals” Platform. In addition, the experts will continue to provide companies supports which actively address the issues that are different from those in ordinary times.

[Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and other relevant ministries and agencies)] <Policy No. 125>

- In order to assist places of business employing foreign nationals that are affected by the COVID-19 in maintaining their employment, and support employment of foreign workers who are forced to leave their jobs, consultation support for foreign workers will continue to be provided mainly at Hello Work offices which are located in the regions where there are many foreign workers. In addition, efforts to provide careful employment support implemented in cooperation between the relevant organizations such as NPOs, supporting needy international students, etc. and Hello Work will be promoted, and the content of employment support provided by Hello Work, including referral to part-time employers, etc., will be enhanced by conducting publicity activities to the communities and providing information through foreign national support organizations, etc.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 126>

- In order to secure stable local employment of foreign nationals, including those who had to leave their jobs due to the impact of the COVID-19, if they wish to be employed in familiar areas, support will be provided for employment in line with their wishes 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 (14 languages) at the regional Hello Work, while taking into account the status of implementation of special measures for the status of residence, etc.

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 127>

- As COVID-19 measures in facilities aimed exclusively at educating foreign children (hereinafter referred to as “schools for foreign students”), information continues to be provided in plain Japanese and multiple languages through websites and e-mail newsletters. Moreover, necessary measures will be taken in FY2021 based on the discussions at the Advisory Committee on the Health and Hygiene Environment in Schools for Foreign Students in consideration of the actual conditions of health management of children attending schools for foreign students and appropriate involvement of the national and local governments in ensuring their health and hygiene.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 128>

5. Smooth and appropriate acceptance of foreign nationals

(1) Employment support for specified skilled workers and other measures

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

For the purposes of operating the Specified Skilled Worker System, it is necessary to ensure that specified skilled workers are not excessively concentrated in the metropolitan areas and other specific areas so that they may solve local labor shortages and connect to local sustainable development. Some foreign nationals in Japan and abroad who wish to work with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” have little chance to access recruitment information, while some small or medium-sized businesses have less experience in employment of foreign nationals, and are not necessarily familiar with how they can effectively provide information on job offers.

Now that two years have elapsed since the launch of the system, how companies who wish to accept foreign nationals will be matched with foreign nationals is a critical issue in

further promoting proper acceptance.

It is also necessary to support reemployment in particular industrial fields in order to maintain employment of technical intern trainees and specified skilled workers who have been dismissed, etc. and are having difficulties with continuing their training due to the impact of the COVID-19.

【Specific policies】

- In order to prevent the concentration of specified skilled workers in a specific area such as a metropolitan area, and match the intentions of foreign workers in Japan and abroad who wish to work in Japan with the need of enterprises with less experience in employing foreign workers who wish to employ foreign workers, including small or medium-sized businesses, the following measures will be taken in consideration of the situation specific of each field under the Specified Skilled Worker System.
 - Introduction of excellent cases such as recruitment pertaining to acceptance, preparation of a living environment and human resource development, and provision of a living environment and human resource development, and provision of information to promote collaboration among business operators such as joint corporate PR activities, lodging arrangements, and training, etc. (14 fields)
 - Holding of regional seminars for companies and foreign nationals (14 fields)
 - Provision of guidance through field-specific councils to ensure that strict actions will be taken, such as forming of agreements by the councils per field in order to prevent poaching (14 fields)
 - Implementation of a skills evaluation exam in the regional areas (14 fields)
 - Granting of subsidies for the necessary expenses to the prefectures which implement job-matching between foreign nationals who wish to work in Japan as specified skilled workers and companies who wish to employ specified skilled workers (may be entrusted to an appropriate organization) (Field of “nursing care”)
 - At the time of the issuance of a certificate to prove passing of a skills evaluation exam, increase of the amount of the fees to be collected from the accepting organizations in the over-concentrated areas (Field of “building cleaning management”)
 - Provision of job-matching services through the aggregation of information on job offers throughout the country, by corporations to do operations related to the acceptance of specified skilled workers, etc. In order to prevent substantial disparity in treatment between urban areas and regional areas, the corporation will positively pick out local job offers and give accepting companies advice and guidance on revisions of recruitment conditions (Field of “construction industry”)
 - Pick out of, and support for, autonomous efforts of cooperation between small or medium-sized businesses in the region (Field of “automobile repair and maintenance”)
 - Posting of information on job offers of hotels and inns who wish to employ specified skilled workers on the websites of industry bodies and exam organizations. Holding of seminars for hotels and inns, and foreign nationals, and development of an environment for accepting foreign nationals through publicity of the system (Field of “accommodation industry”)
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 129>

- “Model Project to Accept and Establish Foreign Nationals in the Region” through cooperation between the local governments, which are actively working on the acceptance and settlement of foreign nationals, and Hello Work will be implemented, and their good practices and effects will be verified.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 130>

- In taking necessary measures to prevent the concentration of specified skilled workers in a specific area such as a metropolitan area, and match the intentions of foreign nationals in Japan and abroad who wish to work in Japan with the need of companies with less experience in employing foreign nationals who wish to employ foreign nationals, including small or medium-sized businesses, the number of specified skilled workers residing in Japan and other necessary information will be provided to the relevant ministries and agencies in

charge of accepting specified skilled workers. A mechanism to provide foreign nationals with information on accepting organizations will be built, and the functions to ascertain and analyze the situation of labor shortages in the regions and the situation of the acceptance of specified skilled workers need to be reinforced.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 131>

- The advantages of working in the regional areas in cooperation with local governments will be publicized and the support to local governments through the subsidies for development of an environment to accept foreign nationals will continue to be promoted.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 132>

- To link the success of foreign human resources in a region to sustainable development of that region, efforts will be made to collect and horizontally deploy reference cases of support for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals, and to continue to actively support the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization for these voluntary, proactive and leading efforts by the local governments.

<Reposted> [Cabinet Office (Regional Revitalization), and Cabinet Secretariat (Secretariat of the Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan)] <Policy No. 33>

- With regard to the following efforts, although they are not necessarily specific for foreign nationals, it is thought that promoting these measures will contribute to the promotion of employment in the region.

- Implementation of strong financial support including regional financial funds for the efforts of the housing support corporations in rural areas which introduce housing and local governments which lower rents or otherwise provide rent subsidies

- Promotion of efforts to raise wages such as ensuring proper trade relationships between the prime contractors and subcontractors and improvement of treatment in fields where the service price is determined by the official price in such fields as the field of “Long-Term Care”
- [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Fair Trade Commission] <Policy No. 133>

- In order to further promote the use of the Specified Skilled Worker System, job fair in Japan and overseas information sessions, etc. for foreign nationals who wish to work as specified skilled workers and companies wishing to employ specified skilled workers will be held, and employment maintenance support measures for technical intern trainees or the like who have been dismissed, etc. and are having difficulties with continuing their training due to the impact of the COVID-19 will be steadily implemented.

Given the status of implementation of those measures, in order to encourage further matching of intentions of foreign nationals in Japan and abroad who wish to work as specified skilled workers with the needs of small or medium-sized businesses and other accepting organizations with less experience in employment of foreign nationals, the relevant ministries and agencies will cooperate with each other to consider methods of employment support based on the working situations specific to each field.

<Reposted> [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 123>

(2) Smooth implementation of skill exams and Japanese language tests of the Specified Skilled Worker, and dissemination and smooth utilization of the Specified Skilled Worker System, etc.

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

In order for many foreign nationals in Japan and abroad to work as specified skilled workers, exams to check their skill levels and Japanese language proficiency levels will need to be provided smoothly.

From this point of view, a variety of measures will need to be taken, including to smoothly

provide specified skilled worker exams.

It is also pointed out that the procedures for the Specified Skilled Worker System are complicated and difficult to understand because it has different sending procedures depending on the sending countries, and the accepting organization should take different procedures in certain fields. For this reason, it is necessary to provide the accepting organizations, foreign nationals who wish to work as specified skilled workers, and foreign governments with detailed information on the Specified Skilled Worker System, including the sending and application procedures.

【Specific policies】

- From the standpoint of smoothly implementing skill exams and Japanese language tests under the Specified Skilled Worker System in Japan and abroad, the following measures will be taken.
 - Implementation of skill exams and Japanese language tests in Japan and in the countries that have created a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) will be promoted. Implementation of skill exams will be promoted in collaboration with the relevant ministries and agencies in the fields, by expanding the countries and frequencies of implementing those exams abroad, and to implement exams in local cities and increase the frequencies of implementation in Japan. Implementation of the Japanese language tests will be promoted based on the situation of skill exams, needs for acceptance of human resources and other relevant factors. In implementing overseas and domestic tests, the impact of the COVID-19 will also be considered. Further, efforts to encourage those wishing to work as specified skilled workers in Japan to take skills and Japanese language tests will be promoted.
 - Given that evaluation of Japanese language tests conducted by each testing organization using a common index is now possible with the help of the report “framework of reference for the Japanese language education” (Subcommittee on Japanese Language Education of the Council for Cultural Affairs Subdivision on the Japanese Language, March 2021), utilization of new Japanese language tests will be considered by the ministries and agencies in the fields, as necessary, and the Immigration Services Agency of Japan will make appropriate consideration, including verification of the appropriateness of these tests based on the levels and measures to prevent fraud, etc. in cooperation with the ministries and agencies in the systems.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 134>
- The latest information on the Specified Skilled Worker skill exams and Japanese language tests will be provided intensively in multiple languages on the Ministry of Justice website. Methods of dissemination will be expanded, for example, through proceeding the provision of multilingual information about exams on the relevant organizations’ websites so that both foreign nationals and accepting organizations can access necessary test information.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 135>
- In order to ensure proper and smooth sending and acceptance, a system will be constructed to consult periodically or from time to time with the countries that have created a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) and others.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 136>
- Efforts will be made to actively clarify career paths at field-specific councils or elsewhere, such as, for example, indicating that foreign nationals will be guaranteed the same amount of remuneration that Japanese nationals would receive for the same kind of work, and showing that they will be able to receive greater remuneration by enhancing their skills, or indicating what kind of activities they will be able to engage in after returning home.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 137>
- With regard to supervision of proper working for specified skilled workers in the construction industry, under the policy of “facilitating proper working, etc. by foreign construction workers through the utilization of the Construction Career Up System or the like” (“Policy on Diffusion of Individual Number Cards and Promotion of Utilization of Individual

Numbers" (decision of the Digital Government Ministers' Meeting held on June 4, 2019)) the Ministry will appropriately address this supervision.
[Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] <Policy No. 138>

- As foreign nationals have been accepted in the field of "Long-Term Care" through various schemes such as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), technical intern training, and the statuses of residence of "Nursing Care" and "Specified Skilled Worker", efforts will be made to disseminate the requirements, correlations, career paths, etc. of each of those systems, and good practices will be disseminated out of the actual conditions regarding the training and career support of foreign care workers identified.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 139>
- In order to facilitate the residence applications submitted by the accepting organizations, proper identification and analysis of examples of incorrect entries and frequently asked questions will be continually ensured and the application procedures will be diligently maintained so that they are easy to understand for the accepting organizations and registered support organizations such as improving the examples and points to be noted in the application form, and publicizing them.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 140>
- To add the fields that will accept the specified skilled worker, the ministries and agencies in the fields will concretely indicate that those fields suffer from serious labor shortages and it is necessary to accept foreign nationals for the subsistence and development of those fields, and the ministries and agencies in the systems such as the Ministry of Justice will make appropriate consideration.
For the Specified Skilled Worker (ii), consideration to implement the Specified Skilled Worker (ii) skill exams will be promoted in two fields, namely Construction Industry and Shipbuilding and Ship Machinery Industry, that are currently covered. In other fields, as two years have elapsed since the enforcement of the Specified Skilled Worker System and the number of those residing in Japan reached approximately 23,000 (as of the end of March 2021, preliminary figure), the ministries and agencies in the fields will promote consideration to add fields to be covered by the Specified Skilled Worker (ii), taking into account the intentions of the actual sites and the opinions of industry organizations, etc.
In addition, consideration of the organization of work categories of the fields of Construction Industry and Manufacturing (machine parts and tooling industry, industrial machinery industry, and electric, electronic and information industry) will be promoted.
Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice will consider an ideal form of the systems concerning the status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker", including the relationship with the systems concerning the status of residence of "Technical Intern Training", based on Article 18, paragraph (2) of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act on the Partial Revision of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice (Act No. 102 of 2018), taking into account the opinions of the relevant local governments, relevant business operators, local residents, and other relevant parties, and if it is deemed necessary, the Ministry will take necessary measures based on the results. In conducting the review, the consideration will be promoted, in cooperation with the other ministries and agencies in the systems and the fields, by taking into consideration the impact of the COVID-19 on the acceptance of specified skilled workers and hearing the opinions of experts, etc.
[Ministry of Justice, National Police Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc.] <Policy No. 141>
- A system will be made available under which subsidies for necessary expenses can be granted to facilities (intending to) accept specified skilled workers, and other organizations, among other parties, for efforts necessary for specified skilled workers, etc. to facilitate communication with Japanese staff and users in care facilities, as well as for efforts of providing learning support necessary to acquire the qualification of certified care worker.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 142>
- In order to further promote the use of the Specified Skilled Worker System, job fair in Japan and overseas information sessions, etc. for foreign nationals who wish to work as specified skilled workers and companies wishing to employ specified skilled workers will be held, and employment maintenance support measures for technical intern trainees or the like who have

been dismissed, etc. and are having difficulties with continuing their training due to the impact of the COVID-19 will be steadily implemented.

Given the status of implementation of those measures, the ministry will consider implementing its efforts to provide foreign nationals in Japan and abroad who wish to work with the status of residence of the “Specified Skilled Worker” and organizations who wish to accept those foreign nationals with detailed information and publicity on the Specified Skilled Worker System.

<Reposted> [Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 124>

- Implementation of a new Japanese language test with a focus on measurement of communication ability in the field of long-term care will be considered as the test to check the Japanese language abilities of human resources engaged in long-term care or other operations necessary for life, work and technical internship in Japan based on the international standards for assessment of foreign language abilities.
[Cabinet Secretariat (Office of Healthcare Policy)] <Policy No. 143>
- Support for supplementing sending organizations, support for fostering human resources following the qualification certification systems in Japan, and introduction of the Specified Skilled Worker and the Technical Intern Program will be provided through Japan’s ODA programs, such as fostering of skilled human resources and business people, and volunteer projects in developing countries.
[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 144>
- Accurate and effective public relations will be made for the governments of sending countries, relevant organizations and those who wish to use the system by preparing promotion videos and leaflets in languages of the countries from which it is in high demand for accepting their nationals for smooth operation of the Specified Skilled Worker System.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 145>
- From the standpoint of effectively publicizing the Specified Skilled Worker System to foreign nationals who wish to work in Japan and companies that wish to employ foreign nationals, information sessions will be held with the relevant ministries and agencies in the fields for foreign nationals, sending organizations and others on the Specified Skilled Worker System abroad (including local cities), in cooperation with the Japanese embassies and consulates.
At the same time, such information sessions will be held at local cities in Japan with the relevant ministries and agencies in the fields separately for each foreign national, accepting company, and others.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 146>

(3) Elimination of malicious intermediary organizations, etc.

【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 malicious intermediary organizations (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 recruitment agencies will repeatedly receive rewards from employers by deliberately having foreign nationals change their jobs multiple times.

【Specific policies】

- With regard to the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training”, efforts will be made to continue discussions to make a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with China and other sending countries with the intent of eliminating involvement of inappropriate sending organizations.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 147>
- With respect to the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”, efforts will be made to steadily move on information partnership and consultations with the countries that have created the bilateral intergovernmental documents for construction of an information sharing

framework for the purpose of eliminating malicious intermediary organizations, based on the operational status of the system, and to revise the contents of the intergovernmental documents, where necessary.

In addition, negotiations will be continuously proceeded aiming for creating the same intergovernmental documents with countries that have not created such documents yet but are expected to send specified skilled workers.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and National Police Agency] <Policy No. 148>

- 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 with which an intergovernmental document has already been created, proactive requests will be made to the government of the sending country and regular information exchange will take place so that strict measures against malicious intermediary organizations will be taken by the sending country, and with regard to countries with which an intergovernmental document has not been created, the efforts will be made to create such documents where 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. 149>

- With regard to international students, in order to eliminate domestic and foreign malicious intermediary agencies and others, a foreign government will be informed of its malicious intermediary organizations that have been identified in Japan. Measures will also be taken to establish a mechanism where notifications can be received in Japan if a foreign government comes to learn of the existence of a malicious Japanese language education institution from a student who has returned home or some other person. In cases of using intermediary agencies used by large numbers of illegal foreign residents or foreign nationals who depart from their authorized activities, the submission of documents pertaining to Japanese language ability and the ability to pay expenses will be required for the examination of applications for certificate of eligibility, and stricter examinations will be considered such as requiring authentication of the graduation certificate by a public agency through the cooperation of the relevant country in order to confirm the fact of graduation from high school where necessary. In addition, the government of the foreign country will be informed of local malicious intermediary organizations that have been identified in Japan, and will be requested to control these agencies as necessary.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 150>

- 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 they become aware of malicious intermediary organizations inside or outside Japan. Such information may be obtained through interviews with the technical intern trainees or specified skilled workers, reports from relevant organizations, on-site 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. 151>

- When 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 become aware of information on malicious intermediary organizations in foreign countries, as necessary, they will provide such information to the government of the relevant country, and make a request that a strict disposition be imposed on the intermediary organizations, and the information will be mutually provided.

When the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs obtain 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 malicious

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. Moreover, appropriate action will be taken, such as having investigating organizations conduct a criminal investigation, as necessary, and regularly announcing the status of these efforts in white papers or 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. 152>

- A framework for the exchange of information with relevant countries and organizations will be constructed to reinforce cooperation, for example, by holding international conferences to share information and exchange views on the efforts for promoting appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals, as well as on the development of an appropriate environment for a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 153>
- 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 organizations or other parties is recognized, will take measures such as not permitting entry of the technical intern trainees or specified skilled workers.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 154>
- 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 Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 155>
- Given the fact that more than 50% of foreign residents came from developing countries, cooperation between the relevant agencies in developing countries and Japan's relevant ministries and agencies, local governments, and other relevant organizations will be reinforced through technical cooperation to the ministries and agencies in charge of labor policies in developing countries, and appropriate acceptance procedures will be promoted through improving supervisory capabilities of sending organizations in developing countries.
In addition, indirect support will be provided to such the local governments and relevant organizations in Japan by utilizing knowledge and networks gained through such technical cooperation, etc.
[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 156>

(4) Expansion of the Japanese language education base abroad

【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

Amid an increasing demand for foreign nationals, it is necessary to improve Japanese language education in other countries and disseminate information on the culture, society and other aspects of Japan in order to ensure that talented human resources with Japanese language skills that are able to live and work in Japan shortly after coming are continuously being cultivated in other countries, and to promote the development of a system through the implementation 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 abroad. It is also important to proceed with support for fostering human resources for acquisition of appropriate skills.

【Specific policies】

- As a test to make it possible to check the Japanese language skills necessary for living and working in Japan based on international standards to determine the foreign language proficiency, the Japan Foundation will, based on the need for acceptance of human resources, and other factors, push forward with implementation of the Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese (JFT-Basic) in the CBT (Computer Based Testing) format newly developed utilizing knowledge built up through the development and implementation of Japanese Language-Proficiency Test (JLPT).

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 157>

- In order to provide Japanese language education necessary for the acceptance of foreign nationals within the framework of the status of residence “Specified Skilled Worker,” a curriculum and teaching materials, with education for adults 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. 158>

- Since it is essential to secure and increase the number of local teachers who are able to teach Japanese in local languages, specialists of Japanese language education will be dispatched from Japan, and while using the above-mentioned curriculum and teaching materials, the development of local teachers who are able to teach Japanese efficiently and effectively will be promoted.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 159>

- Support (procurement of teaching materials, securing of enough teachers, etc.) will be provided for the activities of local Japanese language educational 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 educational institutions to promote on-site guidance and assistance in order to improve local teachers’ Japanese speaking ability as well as the quality of Japanese language education.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 160>

- 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, increasing number of whose nationals are entering and residing in Japan, but in other countries as well, the foundation for Japanese language education will be reinforced in a greater number of countries through the Japanese Language Education programs of the Japan Foundation and efforts to communicate the attractiveness of Japanese culture and society and to promote human exchanges will be encouraged.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 161>

- Utilization of the “Program for Further Acceptance of Fourth-generation Japanese” will be encouraged through the cooperation held by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for members of Japanese-affiliated societies, such as provision of the Japanese language and other business etiquette courses, preparation of curricula and tests, dispatching of instructors, so that people of Japanese descent who visit Japan can be easily accepted by Japanese society, and partnerships between people of Japanese descent who have returned to their home countries and Japan will be strengthened.

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 162>

- Support for supplementing sending organizations, support for fostering human resources following the qualification certification systems in Japan, and introduction of the Specified Skilled Worker and the Technical Intern Program will be provided through Japan’s ODA programs, such as fostering of skilled human resources and business people, and volunteer projects in developing countries.

<Reposted> [Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 144>

6. Construction of the residency management system as a foundation for a society of harmonious coexistence

(1) Implementation of smooth and expedited procedures for the status of residence 【Recognition of the current situation/issues】

With the increase in mid to long-term residents in Japan, the counters of the regional immigration services 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 services 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 statuses of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”, the number of foreign nationals who wish to work in Japan is also expected to increase.

Because of 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 counters of the regional immigration services offices, and to streamline the application procedures in order to facilitate and accelerate the status of residence procedures.

【Specific policies】

- For the fees for residence procedures and issuance of registered user cards, etc., measures to improve the convenience of foreign nationals, etc. will be considered, including enabling electronic payment in addition to revenue stamps.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 163>
- Users of the online residence application system are limited to staff members of accepting organizations appropriately employing foreign nationals, etc. and from the point of view of reducing the congestion of counters and improving the convenience of applicants, online application by foreign nationals themselves will be enabled. In addition, the operation of residence procedures for foreign residents such as application for permission for permanent residence and application for renewal of the valid period of the residence card, etc. that are not available online will be considered aiming at its introduction by FY2023.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 164>
- For mid to long-term residents who will newly land in Japan, the regional immigration services offices will give guidance on applications for the Individual Number Cards to all the accepting organizations when they receive the certificate of eligibility, and overseas Japanese embassies and consulates will inform them about the acquisition of the Individual Number Cards again by checking whether visa applicants have application form for the Individual Number Cards when they apply for a visa. Guidance is also given to those residents about their obligation to notify their places of residence at the municipal office where the place of residence is located, as well as about the information about acquisition of their Individual Number Cards, and this practice will be continued. When those residents submit a notification of moving into the municipalities where their domiciles are located for creation of their resident cards, the municipality offices will take this chance to promote acquisition of their Individual Number Cards by accepting applications for Individual Number Cards.
For mid to long-term residents who have already resided in Japan, the regional immigration services offices will inform all mid to long-term residents who visit the offices to apply for an extension of period of stay about the application for issue of Individual Number Cards, and will encourage them to acquire Individual Number Cards when they visit the municipality offices (which also receive applications for Individual Number Cards) to submit a notification of moving-in and take other procedures. In addition, based on the results of the model projects completed through cooperation between the regional immigration services offices and municipalities in FY2019, efforts to support applications for Individual Number Cards will be deployed horizontally upon the request of the municipalities.
By taking these measures, proper authorities will work to promote smooth acquisition of the Individual Number Cards by mid to long-term residents.
[Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] <Policy No. 165>
- An environment will be prepared where it will be possible to smoothly acquire the Individual Number Cards through facilitation of the acquisition of the Individual Number Cards in an

integrated manner with the procedures for preparation of a residence record at the time of the preparation of a residence record of a newborn baby. The procedures to rewrite the Individual Number Cards together with the procedures for preparation of a residence record will be implemented even at the time of a foreign national moving into a ward or other administrative area.

A conclusion of the integration of the residence cards and the Individual Number Cards will be reached within FY2021, and consideration of necessary actions, including revision of laws and system development, will be promoted so that issuance can be started smoothly within FY2025.

[Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 166>

- With regard to the various applications for residence handled by the regional immigration services offices, 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 order to cope with the worsening labor shortages such as those experienced by small or medium-sized businesses, the regional immigration services offices will enforce processing within a standard processing period for residence applications and applications for registration of registered support organizations pertaining to the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”, and carry out prompt processing so that specified skilled workers will be able to promptly start their work in the region.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 167>

- For the documents to be submitted upon application for the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”, while taking into account the implementation status of simplification of those documents carried out to date, further simplification, etc. will constantly be considered and the procedures will continue to be introduced and disseminated in an easy-to-understand manner on the Immigration Services Agency website, etc. so that specified skilled workers will be able to promptly start working in the region.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 168>

- The ministry will consider improving the convenience of foreign nationals by making it possible to issue certificates of eligibility now being issued in paper in the form of electromagnetic records, and promoting smoother procedures for landing and residence examination.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 169>

(2) Strengthening residency 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 quickly and accurately ascertain the residency and employment situation of foreign nationals and to carry out precise residency management.

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 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.

Cases of suspected forgeries of documents submitted upon the residence applications to the Immigration Services Agency have been identified, and it is necessary to securely examine the eligibility of applicants.

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

【Specific policies】

- The Immigration Services Agency will organize information on the places of residence of foreign residents by identifying foreign residents who are not actually residing at the notified

places of residence in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies and the local governments, etc. and then ensuring they appropriately notify their places of residence.
[Ministry of Justice and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 170>

- In order to correctly understand the employment situation of foreign residents by the type of industry, occupation, status of residence, and region, etc., the entries in the application forms for change of the status of residence and extension of period of stay, etc. have been reviewed, and hereafter the employment situation of foreign residents together with the information on the notifications on the employment situation of foreign nationals will be identified in a seamless manner to enhance and utilize the statistics of employment situation of foreign nationals.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 171>
- The statistics and other surveys will continue to be reviewed so that the employment type, wages and other aspects of foreign nationals who intend to work in Japan may be ascertained.
[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 172>
- In order to properly carry out the work of smooth acceptance of foreign nationals and the preparation of an environment for their acceptance, the Immigration Services Agency will prepare a suitable human resources and physical infrastructure, including improved training for the staff and necessary upgrades to the immigration control system.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 173>
- When the Japanese language skills are required for the status of residence, submission of evidence, such as the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) and other certificates, is required. In order to reinforce countermeasures against forgeries of such evidence, the Immigration Services Agency and the relevant ministries and agencies will cooperate to exchange information to judge the authenticity of that evidence for proper examination of residence permits.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 174>

(3) Accurate management of international student enrollment **【Recognition of the current situation/issues】**

While it is pointed out that there are international students who intend to work in Japan and education institutions of which enrollment management is insufficient, it is necessary to steadily materialize new response policies for ensuring enrollment management of international students formulated in June 2019, and to secure proper management of Japanese language education institutions and improve their qualities and ensure enrollment management of international students by appropriately operating the Public Notice Criteria for the Japanese language education institutions which have been amended in August 2019.

【Specific policies】

- Efforts will be made, first of all, to securely and strictly administer the documents to be submitted at the time of the application for the certificate of eligibility pertaining to the status of residence of “Student” revised in 2019, and the determination by the regional immigration bureaus of the appropriateness of the Japanese language education institutions.
[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 175>
- The amendment to the Public Notice Criteria for the Japanese language education institutions obliged the Japanese language education institutions to conduct periodical inspections of the conformity with the Public Notice Criteria and submit reports on results of inspections, and added the standards to delete the Japanese language education institutions from the public notice. The regional immigration services offices will conduct on-site inspections into the Japanese language education institutions, verify the appropriateness of reports on inspection results for conformity to the Public Notice Criteria, provide necessary

guidance and, if not improved, strictly punish the relevant institution by removing it from the public notice or otherwise, thereby securing proper management of the Japanese language education institutions. In this survey, the appropriateness will be accurately judged based on the attendance rates recorded using ICT and other points.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology]
<Policy No. 176>

- 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 education institution thereof. The Ministry of Justice will use this information in its investigation of the institution, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will refer to it in 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. 177>

- 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, 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.

After sharing information with the Immigration Services Agency, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Immigration Services Agency will collaborate to conduct investigations into actual conditions of universities and other institutions with insufficient enrollment management and provide them with guidance in order to ensure further thorough enrollment management of international students.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] <Policy No. 178>

- The enrollment management of international students will be ascertained promptly and accurately and guidance will be reinforced. In addition, as a result of the guidance, as a general rule, stricter status of residence examinations such as not permitting the acceptance of international students until improvement is recognized, will be conducted for universities and other institutions that do not appropriately manage enrollment.

At the same time, sanctions will be strengthened such as measures for reduction or non-issuance of private education subsidies for universities that do not appropriately manage enrollment and publication of the names of such university or institutions.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology]
<Policy No. 179>

- With regard to departments for international students which specialize in Japanese language education, criteria equivalent to the public notice criteria for Japanese language education institutions will be created, and a framework will be established that only permits the acceptance of international students by departments for international students, which have received confirmation of their compliance with the criteria. In addition, a system will be established so that a status of residence will not be granted to non-degree students, etc. in the case of preparatory education where they are being prepared for entry into a university undergraduate course except in those cases based on the new criteria pertaining to the departments for international students.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice]
<Policy No. 180>

- A system will be established where, in principle, as is the case with the universities, if a

professional training college is discovered to be engaging in inappropriate enrollment management through the framework of collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the regional immigration services offices and the prefectures, the specialized training college will not be permitted to accept international students.

[Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice]
<Policy No. 181>

- As well as a mechanism to create certificates especially for submission to the regional immigration services offices in relation to the Japanese language exams for enrollment in Japanese language education institutions implemented by the various private testing organizations conducting the Japanese language exams, a system will be established with the cooperation of these testing organizations so that the testing organizations will respond to any inquiries from the regional immigration services offices and strict examinations will be conducted.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 182>

(4) Further optimization of Technical Intern Training Program **【Recognition of the current situation/issues】**

With regard to the Technical Intern Training Program, given that there have been problems with a poor training environment including low wages, the 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】

- With regard to the Technical Intern Training Program, there are still many cases of unfair acts. For this reason, the Immigration Services Agency and the Organization for Technical Intern Training will maintain strengthened cooperation to exchange information on the status of immigration and residence of technical intern trainees and the current situation of implementing organizations, etc., and identify the current status of technical intern trainees who belong to implementing companies and organizations more surely and in a timely manner, through which the system will be reinforced in which the regional immigration bureaus and the Organization for Technical Intern Training will conduct prompt and effective onsite inspections.

In addition, the operational system of the Organization for Technical Intern Training will be structured to enable smooth and appropriate cooperation to exchange information with the Immigration Services Agency based on the conditions of implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program after the enforcement of the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees, thereby ensuring more proper implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program and protecting technical intern trainees.

Furthermore, the survey on supervising organizations and implementing organizations conducted by the regional immigration bureaus in cooperation with the Organization for Technical Intern Training as required will be strengthened, and efforts will be made for more appropriate implementation of the system by taking prompt and strict administrative dispositions, etc.

<Reposted> [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 97>

- In the case where a violation of labor-related laws and regulations such as nonpayment of wages with regard to an implementing organization is found, 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 giving guidance or advice, conducting on-site 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, and it will conduct instruction and inspection 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. 183>

- In the context of the current situation where still a large number of technical intern trainees are disappearing after entering Japan and in order to reduce the number of missing technical intern trainees, onsite inspection for implementing organizations, etc. will be strengthened, such as by focusing on the missing rate of technical intern trainees, to steadily implement improvement measures presented by the project team relating to operation of the technical intern training program, and various measures to reduce the number of missing technical intern trainees will be taken, including cooperating with the sending countries to terminate new acceptance from the sending organizations with a large number of missing technical intern trainees.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 184>

- With regard to implementing organizations that are at fault for disappearances, measures will be taken to prevent the disappearances of the technical intern trainees resulting from improper treatment by the implementing organizations under the ministerial order stipulating that those implementing organizations cannot accept new technical intern trainees for a certain period of time after the disappearances in question.

Occurrence of wage-related misconduct by implementing organizations will be restrained by having those organizations properly check the amounts of compensation payable to their technical intern trainees and payments of those amounts under the ministerial order stipulating that the implementing organizations will be obliged to pay compensation to their technical intern trainees by bank transfer or other manner by which the actual amounts of payment can be verified.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 185>

- The Technical Intern Training Program contains problems with breaches of the labor-related laws by some implementing organizations such as long working hours and nonpayment of wages, infringement of human rights, and disappearance, so the Organization for Technical Intern Training will thoroughly verify the training hours, whether the same amount of remuneration that Japanese nationals would receive for the same kind of work, and whether there is no infringement of human rights when the Organization authorizes a technical intern training project or conducts on-site inspections. In addition, work-style reform-related laws that have been sequentially enforced since April 2019 will also be disseminated to ensure observation. Moreover, to those efforts, in order to protect technical intern trainees, an emergency consultation center will be newly established to ensure the protection of technical intern trainees requiring support, including provision of temporary accommodation. Furthermore, the Organization for Technical Intern Training will consider measures to disseminate to all individual technical intern trainees that they can change the implementing organization if there is any unavoidable cause, how they should respond when they notice any unfair acts, and the possibilities of getting involved in crime or other incident after disappearance, as well as the Organization's consultation desk in native languages.

Significant guarantee money or other fees are claimed to be one of the causes of disappearance, and therefore active dissemination and enlightenment activities to prevent them will be conducted for technical intern trainees, including technical intern trainee candidates before coming to Japan.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 186>

- The ministries will give instructions to the supervising organizations to provide employment transfer support, etc. to the dismissed technical intern trainees and continuously identify the situations of technical intern trainees to steadily lead to appropriate employment transfer support, etc.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 187>

- In order to contribute to raising motivation of technical intern trainees to live healthy and comfortable lives and acquire skills, etc., when the implementing organizations secure living environments for technical intern trainees in consideration of their privacy and prevention of

infection, preferential treatment for the acceptance of technical intern trainees will be given to the implementing organizations.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 188>

(5) Strengthening of 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 organizations. Moreover, 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.

In addition, the deportation procedure is the so-called last bastion of the immigration control and residency management administration, the failure of which will materially affect the social order and public security of Japan. Repatriation of such illegal residents involves problems with the increase of those who refuse repatriation and prolonged accommodation, and it is a pressing issue to solve these problems. So, it is necessary to consider securing proper administration of provisional release and an ideal form of the system, including legislative measures, based on discussions by experts. It will be necessary in the future to more strongly tackle with crackdowns and repatriations 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.

【Specific policies】

- The Ministry of Justice will develop a crackdown system and implement a greater number of effective crackdowns by strengthening the cooperative relationships with the relevant organizations and promoting close and prompt information sharing. In addition, an effective and efficient crackdown will be achieved through strengthening the functions of information collection and analysis, including information pertaining to the grounds for deportation such as arrangement on illegal work sites, and the buying and selling of forged or altered residence cards on the Internet, etc. and information on the notifications on the employment situation of foreign nationals that have been made available online since March 2021.

In order to promote a crackdown on cases of illegal foreign residents and cases of impostor residents, the regional immigration services offices will work to promote an effective and efficient crackdown through the strong cooperative relationships with the relevant organizations such as the police and regional labor bureaus, as well as the close sharing of information and reinforced analysis of the collected information. In addition, strict responses will be implemented against malicious intermediary organizations and employers, such as proactively cracking down on intermediary organizations and employers involved in cases relating to illegal foreign residents, impostor 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 services offices.

[Ministry of Justice, National Police Agency, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] <Policy No. 189>

- In order to achieve stringent residency management for impostor residents such as international students of whose whereabouts have become unknown after their removal from enrollment or being expelled from school, as well as for missing technical intern trainees, efforts will be made to proactively proceed with the procedures for revocation of the statuses of residence against impostor residents by utilizing the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status of which reliability has been improved by linking it with the residence card number, and by continuing to accelerate the speed of processing notified information by encouraging accepting organizations to which mid to long-term residents belong to use the E-Notification System, etc.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 190>

- The regional immigration services offices will work closely with the relevant organizations to crack down on the use of forged or altered residence cards and to rigorously deal with any malicious use. In particular, efforts will be made to grasp the situation of distribution of fake residence cards through detection and crackdown on fake residence card manufacturing sites.

[Ministry of Justice and other relevant ministries and agencies] <Policy No. 191>

- With regard to foreign nationals who, after being issued with a written deportation order and provisionally released, do not promptly depart from Japan, in order to confirm and ascertain the compliance with the conditions of provisional release (such as residence in the specified place of residence or prohibition on work) and the necessity of continuing provisional release, the actual situation of residence and employment of those foreign nationals and whether or not there are continuing grounds for provisional release will be properly and strictly monitored. As a result of the investigation, the foreign national for whom it has been confirmed that there has been a violation of the conditions or the grounds for provisional release no longer exist, will be detained again after the revocation of the provisional release or denial of extension of the period of provisional release, if it is deemed appropriate considering the degree of the violation and other circumstances.

In addition, given that the number of those whose whereabouts have become unknown because of their abscondence while on provisional release is increasing recently, measures will be taken to effectively prevent those issued with a written deportation order on provisional release from absconding.

Moreover, necessary consideration will be made for an ideal form of the provisional release system based on the recommendations of the “Expert Committee on Detention and Deportation”.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 192>

- Repatriation of those issued with a written deportation order whose return to their home countries have been difficult due to the impact of the COVID-19 will further be enhanced. In addition, in order to further promote deportation of foreign nationals evading deportation, various methods of deportation, including individual deportation, small-scale group deportation, deportation with security personnel and group deportation using a charter flight will be more widely utilized depending on the circumstances of the case, and the efforts should be made to develop capacity for this purpose. At the same time, the utilization of the return-home support program of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will be encouraged, and the efforts to encourage voluntary departure of those who resist deportation will be enhanced. In addition, methods of effective deportation will be researched and studied, and responsive measures for those who evade deportation will be considered, including legislative measures, based on the results of discussions in the “Expert Committee on Detention and Deportation”.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 193>

- The existence of countries that are uncooperative in the deportation process, such as those that refuse to issue temporary passports for return ex officio or those do not accept their own deported nationals, causes difficulties in the execution of written deportation orders. Negotiations with those countries will be advanced by setting up a forum for high-level negotiations specializing in bilateral agreement and the deportation of foreign nationals refusing deportation to seek cooperation on picking them up.

[Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] <Policy No. 194>

- In terms of the acceptance of foreign nationals, with regard to the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”, since the Ministry of Justice Ordinance provides “possession of a passport issued by a foreign government or an authorized organization of the region which cooperates for smooth enforcement of written deportation order”, the certificate of eligibility will not be issued to nationals of countries which do not accept the deportees originating from their own country. In addition, with regard to other statuses of residence, strict examinations will be carried out at the time of the applications for the certificates of eligibility and immigration for nationals of such countries.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 195>

- In the facilities detaining foreign nationals, the treatment of foreign inmates will be enhanced by continuing to improve the system of interpretation and translation of foreign languages.

[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 196>

- Based on the situation after implementing the “Further revision of the operations of the refugee recognition system”, additional countermeasures which will be taken against the abuse or misuse of applications for refugee recognition status for such purposes as working

will be made to promptly protect genuine refugees.
[Ministry of Justice] <Policy No. 197>