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

Support for foreign nationals as residents

(i) Create stable local communities
- Provide multilingual information on administrative procedures and living, and develop a structure of counseling
- Establish a support system for local government pertaining to one-stop services providing multilingual information and advice on administrative procedures and local life.
- Implement a comprehensive consultation center for multicultural coexistence (proactive) (about 100 locations nationwide, supported in 11 languages) [2 billion yen]
- Prepare and disseminate a new “Guidebook on Living and Working in Japan” (proactive) (supported in 11 languages) for safe and secure living and working in Japan.
- Construct a platform for a multilingual system [300 million yen] and promote the use of the multilingual interpretation system
- Promote and support measures for multicultural coexistence in local communities
- Support pioneering measures of the local governments by using subsidies for promoting local revitalization in order to promote the activities of foreign nationals in the region and to realize harmonious societies of coexistence through measures such as setting up an organization that provides support for the service and coexistence of foreign nationals
- Train personnel and organizations involved in providing for foreign nationals and build networks

(ii) Develop an environment to provide medical care, health and welfare services
- Improve the system for receiving foreign nationals to receive medical care in all of the areas of residence with peace of mind through promoting use of telephone interpreters and multilingual translation systems, developing manuals, and establishing regional countermeasures council, etc.
- Assign medical interpreters to local medical institutions, support multilingualization of hospital information maps
- Enhance information dissemination and support at the time of a disaster
- Promote dissemination of disaster and weather information in 11 languages through Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) website and the push-enabled information alert application, such as “SIP” and “Early Warning System (J-ALERT)," improve information transmission making it easier for foreign nationals to understand (map, information, warning sounds, etc.)
- Multilingualize responses to the emergency number “119” through three-way simultaneous interpretation, use a multilingual speech translation application for ambulance service, train Information Coordinators for foreign disaster victims
- Enhance traffic safety measures, and responses to accidents and incidents, consumer problems, legal human rights, issues and requests for advice by the needy
- Implement public relations and awareness-raising activities on traffic safety, multilingualize the driver’s license written tests
- Multilingualize support at Consumer Affairs Centers (tel. number: 188), JLSC (Japanese Legal Support Center), human rights bodies (supported in 8 languages), and consultation services by the needy
- Prepare an environment for securing housing
- Disseminate practice service manuals for landlords and rental-agencies, rented housing standard contracts in foreign languages, etc. (supported in 8 languages)
- Provide, support housing and housing support on rental housing that are intended for the promotion of smooth move-in for persons requiring housing support, including foreign nationals
- Enhance user-friendly and multilingualization and telecommunication services
- Improve the environment, promote multilingual services, improve the guidelines related to opening of a savings or deposit account by foreign nationals at financial institutions
- Promote multilingual services at the time of entering into contract for mobile phones, widespread knowledge to the effect that a person’s identity can be verified through presentation of a residence card

(iii) Realize smooth communication
- Enhance Japanese language education
- Develop Japanese language education based on a standard Japanese language curriculum for daily lives on a nationwide scale (support for a comprehensive structure of Japanese language education, support for resolving issues of lacking Japanese language classes in such communities, etc.) [1000 million yen]
- Handbooks of various training and provision of multilingualization of the teaching materials of the Open University of Japan, and NHK’s Japanese language teaching contents, promotion of the establishment of evening classes at public junior high schools at each site school in each prefecture, etc.
- Create standards for Japanese language education (Japanese CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)
- Develop new qualifications to prove the skills of Japanese language teachers
- Make stricter of public notice criteria to improve the quality of Japanese language education institutions (strict criteria for improving the attendance rate and examining percentage of passing foreign nationals, introduction of national standards based on pass rate on Japanese language exam, etc.)
- Implement mandatory periodic inspections and reports for Japanese language education institutions
- Implement mandatory publication of the results of Japanese language exams of students by Japanese language education institutions
- Share information on Japanese language education institutions among the related organizations and utilize such information in the examinations by the Ministry of Justice and visa screening by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(Provisional Translation)

(v) Establish a platform for a multilingual system [300 million yen] and promote the use of the multilingual interpretation system
- Promote and support measures for multicultural coexistence in local communities
- Support pioneering measures of the local governments by using subsidies for promoting local revitalization in order to promote the activities of foreign nationals in the region and to realize harmonious societies of coexistence through measures such as setting up an organization that provides support for the service and coexistence of foreign nationals
- Train personnel and organizations involved in providing for foreign nationals and build networks

Efforts aimed at promoting appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals

(1) Eliminate malicious intermediary business operators
- Make bilateral intergovernmental documents (9 countries) and share information based on the documents
- Eliminate malicious intermediary businesses (brokers) etc. thoroughly through provision of malicious intermediary business information and restrictions on the issuance of business licenses, etc.
- Implement measures to give clear information to the residence applications to identify malicious intermediary businesses

(2) Support and handle of missing technical intern trainees
- Implement measures to identify missing technical intern trainees in 2017
- Enhance supports for Japanese language educational infrastructure overview
- Implement tests to measure the Japanese language proficiency necessary for living and working in Japan on CBT (Computer-Based Testing) under strict supervision (9 countries)
- Enhance supports for Japanese language educational infrastructure overview through the training of local teachers, supports for local institutional activities of local institutions
- Enhance information dissemination through Embassies and Consulates, etc.

(3) Strengthen the implementation of the Japanese technical intern trainee system
- Further reduce the burden of the application procedures by utilizing the residence card number, etc., enforce a smooth processing period (2 weeks to 1 month)
- Review and promote the public utilization of the Japanese technical intern trainee system
- Improve and rapidly manage the quality of Japanese language education institutions
- Make stricter of public notice criteria to improve the quality of Japanese language education institutions (strict criteria for improving the attendance rate and examining percentage of passing foreign nationals, introduction of national standards based on pass rate on Japanese language exam, etc.)
- Implement mandatory periodic inspections and reports for Japanese language education institutions
- Implement mandatory publication of the results of Japanese language exams of students by Japanese language education institutions

Conduct a new residency management system

(1) Implement smooth and expedited procedures for the status of residence
- Short online applications for status of residence processing by the accepting companies, etc. [1.2 billion yen] (2) Further reduce the burden of the application procedures by utilizing the residence card number, etc., enforce a smooth processing period (2 weeks to 1 month)
- Strengthen the implementation of the Japanese technical intern trainee system
- Improve and rapidly manage the quality of Japanese language education institutions
- Make stricter of public notice criteria to improve the quality of Japanese language education institutions (strict criteria for improving the attendance rate and examining percentage of passing foreign nationals, introduction of national standards based on pass rate on Japanese language exam, etc.)
- Implement mandatory periodic inspections and reports for Japanese language education institutions
- Implement mandatory publication of the results of Japanese language exams of students by Japanese language education institutions

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- Implement mandatory periodic inspections and reports for Japanese language education institutions
- Implement mandatory publication of the results of Japanese language exams of students by Japanese language education institutions
- Enhance supports for Japanese language educational infrastructure overview through the training of local teachers, supports for local institutional activities of local institutions
- Enhance information dissemination through Embassies and Consulates, etc.

[3.4 billion yen]

(Note) The budget amount is the supplementary budget for FY2018 and the budget amount for FY2019. In addition, there were such related budgets as the supplementary figure of 100 billion yen on regional revitalization promotion subsidies, the supplementary figure of 1.13 billion yen as the Japan Student Services Organization’s operating expenses (related to international students finding employment, etc.), the supplementary figure of 7.1 billion yen on human resources development support subsidies (related to stable employment support in the regions), and the budget of 15.7 trillion yen for countermeasures against over-staying illegal residents.)