

(Provisional Translation)

Enhancement of “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals”

June 18, 2019

Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of
Foreign nationals

A new system for the acceptance of foreign nationals was implemented from April 2019. The new system will accept work-ready foreign nationals as a measure to deal with the current serious labor shortages, and the relevant ministries and agencies will continue to coordinate in their responses to ensure that the new system is implemented smoothly.

Meanwhile, with respect to the foreign nationals, the disappearance of the technical intern trainees and the inappropriate management of the enrollment of international students at universities and other educational institutions have become problematic. In order to relieve the concerns of the Japanese, it is necessary not only to ensure reliable operation of the technical intern training program, but also to prevent inappropriate cases through the newly-established Immigration Services Agency taking the lead in ensuring thorough residence management, and also to deal strictly with illegal work and illegal foreign residents.

Furthermore, when accepting foreign nationals, in order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence where both Japanese and foreign nationals respect one another and where foreign nationals feel that they “want to try working” and “want to try living” in Japan and in the regional areas, it is necessary to promote the policies included in the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” adopted at the Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals steadily at the end of 2018 and further enhance these measures.

Taking the above into account, the government will unite to firmly promote policies in line with the direction of the following enhancements.

1. Promote appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals

(1) Measures to prevent the concentration of specified skilled workers in metropolitan areas and other specific areas

- Implement cross-sectoral measures

In order to prevent specified skilled workers from working intensively in specific areas such as metropolitan areas, the following cross-sectoral measures will be taken.

- Provision of support to the regions through the subsidies for preparations for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals

- Publicizing of the advantages of working in the regional areas (average living expenses, etc.)

- Establishment of a “regional council”, etc. in each prefecture [New]

- Implementation of systematic training for counselors with the cooperation of the ministries and agencies with jurisdiction over the system, etc.

- Ascertaining and analysis of information such as the situation of labor shortages and the

situation of the acceptance of specified skilled workers

- Consideration of the possibility of preferential treatment in the procedures for changes of the status of residence or other procedures [New]

And, consideration will be given to a model approach so that foreign nationals who wish to work with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” are able to smoothly and appropriately find a job and settle down working for a small or medium-sized business, which has little experience in hiring foreign nationals, through cooperation between the local governments, which are proactively working on the acceptance and settlement of foreign nationals, and the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work). [New] [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Implement measures according to each field

Based on the characteristics of each field, the following measures will be taken in each field in order to prevent specified skilled workers from working intensively in specific areas such as metropolitan areas.

- Granting of subsidies for the necessary expenses to the prefectures which implement job-matching between foreign nationals, who wish to enter Japan, and nursing care facilities in Japan (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, the amount of the fees to be collected from the accepting organizations in the over-concentrated areas will be raised. (Field of ‘building cleaning management’) [New]
- Establishment of a corporation for the implementation of operations related to the acceptance of specified skilled workers (corporation to implement the operations of acceptance of specified skilled workers) and have it prepare a code of conduct that prohibits acts such as malicious poaching and have it take on the function of job-matching such as through the aggregation of information on job-hunting throughout the country. (Field of ‘construction’) [New]

Consideration will also be given to taking similar measures in other fields, taking into consideration the situation specific to each field. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc.]

- Promote cross-sectoral measures by the ministries and agencies with jurisdiction over the field

In order to prevent specified skilled workers from working intensively in a specific area such as a metropolitan area, necessary consideration will be given, in cooperation with the ministries and agencies with jurisdiction over the system, to the following measures that should be taken in consideration of the situation specific to each field.

- Construction of a mechanism to match companies with foreign nationals in order to promote employment in the regions implementing technical intern training
- Provision of support for the efforts of cooperation between small and medium-sized businesses in the region
- Introduction of excellent cases such as of recruitment pertaining to acceptance, preparation 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.

- Holding of regional seminars for companies and foreign nationals
- Implementation of a skills evaluation exam in the regional areas
- Forming of agreements by the councils per field in order to prevent poaching

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, etc.]

○ Promote the use of the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization

Regarding support through the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization for the measures being taken by the local governments relating to the acceptance and settlement of foreign nationals, the key points of leading businesses will be organized based on surveys of the areas in which foreign nationals have settled and the opinions of experts, and use of the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization will be promoted through dissemination of information to the local governments and “horizontal deployment”. [Cabinet Office (Regional Revitalization), Ministry of Justice, and Cabinet Secretariat (Secretariat of the Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan)] [Related Policy No. 15]

○ Other efforts

With regard to the following efforts, although they are not necessarily specifically 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 fund for the efforts of the housing support corporations in rural areas which introduce housing and local governments which provide rent subsidies and others
- 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 ‘nursing care’

[Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Fair Trade Commission]

(2) Accept specified skilled workers smoothly

○ Prompt examinations by the Immigration Services Agency

In order to cope with the worsening labor shortages such as experienced by small and 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] [Related Policy No. 115]

○ Ensure application procedures that are easy to understand for the accepting organizations, etc.

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 ensured and the application procedures will be improved 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]

- Enhance methods for disseminating information on the specified skilled worker skill test and Japanese language test

Up-to-date information on the specified skilled worker skill test and the Japanese language test will be posted on the Ministry of Justice website, and the method of publicity will be improved so that both foreign nationals and accepting organizations are able to access necessary test information such as through the promotion of multilingual links. [Ministry of Justice]

- Clarify the correlation, etc. of each scheme pertaining to the acceptance of foreign nationals in the field of ‘nursing care’ [New]

Previously foreign nationals were accepted in the field of ‘nursing care’ through various schemes such as the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), technical intern training, and the status of residence of “Nursing Care”, and will now be newly accepted as well under the system of specified skilled workers, and since the correlation between the schemes has become complex, the requirements, correlations and career paths, etc. of each scheme pertaining to the acceptance of foreign nationals in the field of ‘nursing care’ will be clarified. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Clarify career paths in specified industrial fields other than ‘construction’, ‘shipbuilding and ship machinery’ and ‘nursing care’ [New]

Of the 14 fields recognized for the acceptance of new foreign nationals, at this point in time only foreign nationals in the 2 fields of ‘construction’ and ‘shipbuilding and ship machinery’ are allowed to transfer to the status of residence (Specified Skilled Worker (ii)) to engage in work requiring refined skills, and in addition, in the future plans are in place for foreign nationals in the field of ‘nursing care’ to be able to transfer to the status of residence of “Nursing Care” by acquiring the qualification of a certified care worker, but with regard to specified industrial fields other than ‘construction’, ‘shipbuilding and ship machinery’ and ‘nursing care’, consideration will be given to ways to clarify career paths 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, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries]

- Consider addition of specified industrial fields

Additional fields for acceptance are to be permitted only in fields where even though efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure workers from inside the country, the acceptance of foreign nationals is required for the continuance and development of the particular field, but if a government agency that has jurisdiction over the field gives objective indicators such as the jobs-to-applicants ratio, and the results of employment trend surveys and other official statistics and surveys to affiliated companies through industry groups, discussions will be held with the relevant government agencies while bearing in mind the situation of operation of the system, etc., and full consideration will be given to whether to permit additional fields of acceptance. [Ministry of Justice]

(3) Exclude malicious intermediary agencies (brokers), etc.

- Promotion of the creation of a bilateral intergovernmental document for a memorandum of cooperation on a basic framework for proper operation of the system pertaining to foreign human resources with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”

Out of the 9 countries indicated in the “Comprehensive Measures”, with regard to the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Mongolia, a bilateral intergovernmental document for memorandum of cooperation has been created respectively (*) for the purpose of excluding malicious intermediary agencies (brokers), and with regard to Vietnam, China, Indonesia and Thailand, such bilateral intergovernmental documents will be created at the earliest possible date. In future, the contents of intergovernmental document will be revised where necessary based on the operational status of the system, etc. and the same intergovernmental documents will be created with countries besides the above 9 countries. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 100]

* Situation of memorandums of cooperation pertaining to specified skilled workers (as of May 20, 2019)

Signed: Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal and Mongolia

Reached consensus on content: Vietnam, China, Indonesia and Thailand

2. Prepare an environment of acceptance in order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence

(1) Support local governments

- Establish a Center for Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (provisional name) [New]

Regarding the “Basic Policy on Work Relating to the Preparation of an Environment of Acceptance of Foreign Nationals” (cabinet decision of July 24, 2018), in response to the policy stating that the relevant ministries and agencies should strengthen coordination and cooperation with the local governments and effectively and efficiently prepare an environment of acceptance of foreign nationals, a center for harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals (Center for Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (provisional name)) will be established, which will bring together the relevant departments of each organization, so as 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 acceptance of highly-skilled foreign professionals, protection of the human rights of foreign nationals and their families and advice on legal problems, visas, labor standards and occupational health and safety. At the same time, the Center for Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals will 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]

- Strengthen support for measures for harmonious coexistence by the local governments

The target local governments entitled to receive subsidies for running one-stop consulting counters are to be reviewed based on requests from local governments and installation situation of one-stop consulting counters.

In addition, consideration will be given to how to respond to consultations from Japanese nationals that contribute to the realization of a multicultural society at one-stop consulting

counters.

At the same time, the regional immigration services bureaus will send their officers as advisors to the one-stop consulting counters for multicultural coexistence, as appropriate, or will provide support for the training of staff of the local governments engaging in the provision of consultation services.

In addition, the support activities for local governments and information collection in the region, etc. will be enhanced and strengthened through the establishment of development of the system for Accepting Environmental Coordinator, who are assigned throughout the country. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 7]

- Promote use of the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization

Regarding support through the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization for the measures being taken by the local governments for the acceptance and settlement of foreign nationals, the key points of leading businesses will be organized based on surveys of the areas in which foreign nationals have settled and the opinions of experts, and use of the Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization will be promoted through dissemination of information to the local governments and “horizontal deployment”. <Reposted> [Cabinet Office (Regional Revitalization), Ministry of Justice, and Cabinet Secretariat (Secretariat of the Headquarters for Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy in Japan)] [Related Policy No. 15]

- Further efforts to promote multicultural coexistence in local communities

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. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] [Related Policy No. 18]

(2) Promote multilingual information on administrative procedures and living

- Promote the multilingualization of the Guidebook on Living and Working and utilization of “easy Japanese”

Following the publishing of the electronic version (Japanese and English) of the Guidebook on Living and Working on the portal site in April 2019, the number of target languages will be increased from 11 to 14.

Furthermore, the Japanese version will be converted to “easy Japanese”. [New]

The contents will be expanded where necessary, cooperating with relevant organizations. And booklet version will be prepared and distributed in turn. [Ministry of Justice (relevant ministries and agencies)] [Related Policy No. 9]

(Note) The 14 languages are Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Thai, Nepali, Khmer, Burmese and Mongolian.

- Promote multilingual responses for support at the time of a disaster

Preparation of a multilingual dictionary for disaster prevention and weather information (11 languages) and multilingualization of the Japan Meteorological Agency website (11 languages), and further expansion of the languages to 14 languages. In addition, a 14 language multilingual dictionary will be shown in the “Safety tips”. [Cabinet Office (in Charge of Disaster Prevention),

Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] [Related Policy No. 29]

(3) Improve the environment on life services

○ Prepare a medical system

Promote the preparation of a reliable medical system, which is accessible for foreign patients, through the placement of medical interpreters and medical coordinators at hub medical institutions that accept foreign patients in the region, promotion of the use of telephone interpreters and multilingual translation systems, and the development of manuals for the acceptance of foreign patients. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 20, 21, 22 and 23]

○ Suppress the occurrence of unpaid medical fee at medical institutions

Suppression of the occurrence of unpaid medical fee by checking foreign nationals who have a record of unpaid medical expenses under a strict system, such as denying their repeated entry to Japan. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 25]

○ Countermeasures to infectious disease

In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in Japan, appropriate screening for tuberculosis will be for the time being conducted prior to entry into Japan. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] [Related Policy No. 26]

○ Prevention of traffic accidents through public relations awareness activities and multilingualization efforts related to driving licenses

As well as provision of information using leaflets, etc. with the cooperation of the relevant organizations, public relations awareness activities, such as expansion of the National Police Agency website regarding traffic rules in Japan and 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 easily comprehensible 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. [New]

And, the National Police Agency will consider creating 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] [Related Policy No. 33]

○ Multilingualize and publicize the “Move-in pledges check sheet” indicated in the “Post-Move-in Residency Rules” and multilingual services of the regular rental housing contract-standard type

With regard to the Move-in pledges check sheet and multilingual services of the regular rental housing contract-standard type in the “Guidelines for Facilitation of Private Housing Rentals for Foreign Nationals” and the “Apartment search Guidebook”, which contain notes on contracts when foreign nationals move into private housing and necessary information on moving in up until moving out, multilingual support will be increased from the current 8 languages to at least 11 languages with the cooperation of the real-estate related organizations, and consideration will be

given to increasing the items in the Move-in pledges check sheet for Moving in and responses in easy Japanese and promoting the spread of such information through publication on websites and training sessions for related business operators. In addition, the Move-in pledges check sheet for Moving in will be effectively used at the time of receiving public financial support. Based on the strengthening of these efforts, requests will be made to the landlord or landlady to flexibly rent housing to foreign nationals. [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] [Related Policy No. 41]

- Collaborative publicizing of activities relating to guarantee methods when moving into rented housing

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism website gives information to the effect that the guarantors' legal liability can be used in the system of comprehensive renters' insurance for foreign students studying in Japan implemented by the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services and publicizes the available systems.

In addition, the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services disseminates information to the relevant parties about the system of comprehensive renters' insurance for foreign students studying in Japan and the system of rental liability guarantee firm registration. [Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism] [Related Policy No. 41]

- Implement publicity about the appropriate support provided by the accepting organizations to secure housing for specified skilled workers

When accepting specified skilled workers, accepting organizations must provide support such as acting as a guarantor so that specified skilled workers are not treated unfairly when renting housing, and must establish an environment where appropriate support can be provided to secure housing for specified skilled workers through disseminating and publicizing specific methods of providing support in an easy-to-understand manner. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 41]

- Prepare an environment enabling foreign nationals to open an account at a financial institution [New]

Efforts are being promoted, such as: the enhancement of multilingual support in 14 languages including easy Japanese; and clarification of the procedures so that foreign nationals will be able to open an account at a financial institution in a problem-free manner. In addition, from the viewpoint of measures against special fraud and money laundering etc., measures are taken including: promoting financial institutions to appropriately manage bank accounts by keeping track of the period of stay through use of information on the residence cards and other methods; disseminating information that a foreign national will be subject to denial of landing or deportation if involved in the selling of his or her account creating leaflets for foreign nationals and for accepting organizations in order to prompt foreign nationals to close their bank account before leaving Japan; disseminating through case examples of measures for financial institutions; and establishing a template for terms and conditions of ordinary accounts by Japanese Bankers Association (JBA) in order to clarify the restrictions on usage of accounts and cancellation requirements. At the same time, information will be disseminated to make it known that foreign nationals should not use unlicensed or unregistered financial institutions. [Financial Services Agency] [Related Policy No. 43 and 44]

(4) Enhance Japanese language education

- Promote the development of a comprehensive system of Japanese language education in the regional areas

Based on the establishment of a new status of residence, the local governments will cooperate in an organic manner with the relevant organizations, etc. and promote Japanese language education in the regional areas such as by creating a comprehensive framework of the national and local governments in order to strengthen the Japanese language education environment.

In addition, for foreign nationals living in regions where it is difficult to set up Japanese language classes, the use of ICT teaching materials enabling self-study and self-learning of the Japanese language according to life situations will be expanded from 8 languages to 14 languages, and these materials will be promptly provided in turn in the languages in which they have already been developed. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] [Related Policy No. 48 and 49]

- Development and training for Japanese language education practitioners in order to improve the overall quality of Japanese language education

Based on the “Revised Report on the Development and Training of Japanese Language Practitioners” (Japanese Language Subcommittee of the Cultural Council of March 2019), the training curriculum for Japanese language teachers to teach workers will be further expanded. At the same time, measures will be taken based on an examination of new qualifications to certify the competencies of Japanese language teachers. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] [Related Policy No. 54]

(5) Measures for foreign national children

- Multilingualize the Maternal and Child Health Handbook [New]

The Maternal and Child Health Handbook, which is the starting point of maternal and child health, will be translated into multiple languages, and utilized so that pregnant foreign national women will be able to safely give birth and raise their children through smooth acquisition and use of maternal and child health information in Japan and surveys and research will be conducted on various effective methods of providing support using the handbooks. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Respond to the children in nursery schools, and cooperate with the schools and households

Information will be given in the Nursery School Childcare Guidelines (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare Public Notice No. 117 of 2017) to remind the local governments about the need to give consideration to the foreign national children in the nursery schools and to provide uninterrupted support so that the children can transition from nursery school to elementary school, and requests will be made to the nursery schools to provide appropriate support to households with foreign nationals.

In addition, with regard to the basic way of thinking in the “New Afterschool Comprehensive Children’s Plan” announced on September 14, 2018 and cooperation between the schools and households, information will be disseminated to the local governments once again and requests made to the afterschool children’s clubs to ensure appropriate measures be taken for foreign national children. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Understand and share case studies of efforts to deal with foreign national children and their parents by the nursery schools, etc. [New]

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 nursery schools, 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 nursery schools, and horizontal deployment of best practices carried out. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Understand the situation of school attendance and promote school attendance

As well as ensuring information on school attendance guidance is passed out to the compulsory education schools in multiple languages, efforts will be made to understand the situation of the school enrollment of foreign national children of school age through national surveys, the issues related to comprehension of the enrollment status will be organized and best practices collected. [New]

In addition, depending on the local circumstances, as various organizations such as schools for foreigners and NPOs have been the places for foreign national children to learn, support will be enhanced so that the situation of school enrollment can be grasped smoothly and the school enrollment can be promoted in cooperation with the local governments.

In addition, integrated efforts will be made by the related departments of the local governments and related organizations through such means as the boards of education of the municipal authorities providing information on school enrollment through cooperation with the departments in charge of the residential basic books. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] [Related Policy No. 66]

- Improve the competencies of the teachers through securing training opportunities throughout the country

Through the promotion and development of “model programs” that contribute to teacher training and in-service training by the boards of education and universities etc., a structure will be prepared to implement systematic Japanese language teaching such as initial-stage Japanese language teaching, mid-stage and late-stage teaching, and teaching using the JSL curriculum, and core teachers who will be teaching Japanese will be trained.

In addition, with regard to securing as well as improving the competencies of Japanese language teachers, who provide Japanese language instruction to foreign children and pupils, and Japanese language teaching assistants, attention must be paid to the importance of flexibly securing effective and diverse educational practitioners inside and outside of school, and to consider effective measures. [New]

At the same time, training opportunities will be enhanced relating to the teaching of foreign children and pupils by, for example, constructing a system to dispatch instructors to training conducted by each local government. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] [Related Policy No. 63]

- Respond multilingual education

In order to realize a multicultural society of harmonious coexistence, a support system that utilizes ICT, such as utilizing a translation system that supports multilingualization to provide detailed teaching in remote areas, and enhancing distance education, will be prepared. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] [Related Policy No. 62]

- Enhance support pertaining to foreign national children with disabilities [New]

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

In schools for special needs education, etc., efforts will be made to allocate Japanese language teaching assistants and mother tongue language 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, practical research will be conducted on the provision of reasonable accommodation in schools for foreign children and pupils who may have developmental disabilities, and the results disseminated. In addition, efforts will be made to proactively disseminate easy-to-understand information about childcare and school attendance counseling services for foreign parents and guardians as well. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology]

- Enhance support for the further education and careers of lower secondary school and upper secondary school students

The actual situation of foreign children and pupils going on to upper secondary school, dropout rates, career options, etc. will be tracked. In addition, comprehensive support such as enhancement of Japanese language teaching and careers education will be promoted so that lower secondary schools and upper secondary schools will be able to provide careers guidance that looks to the future.

Encouragement will be given to the enhancement of special consideration for returnee or foreign national upper secondary school students (adding hiragana, bringing in a dictionary, setting of special admissions rates, etc.) in the public upper secondary school entrance exams in accordance with the local circumstances. [New]

Moreover, a review will be conducted together with the relevant ministries and agencies with regard to clarifying the acquisition of the status of residence necessary to go to school or for employment in order that foreign nationals who have completed their compulsory education will be able to smoothly settle in Japanese society according to their ability and motivation. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 61, 64 and 66]

- Promote the establishment of evening classes for lower secondary schools and enhance educational activities

Provision of support for measures aimed at ascertaining needs accompanying the preparations for establishment and for establishment itself so that at least one evening classes at public junior high schools can be established in all of the prefectures and also so that evening classes at public junior high schools can be established in all of the designated cities in view of the population size and urban functions, holding of training sessions for local governments and enhancement of public relations activities.

While continuing to work on improving the competencies of Japanese language teaching by

teachers, efforts will be promoted aimed at enhancing educational activities including Japanese language teaching at evening classes for lower secondary schools such as collaboration with regional Japanese language classes, and the use of external human resources such as Japanese language teachers and Japanese language teaching assistants. [New] [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] [Related Policy No. 52]

(6) Ensure an appropriate work environment, etc.

- Enhance consultation system pertaining to health, safety and working conditions for foreign workers

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 “Advice Hotline on Labor Conditions” open for labor-related consultations when the labor standards inspection offices are closed will be increased from the current 9 languages to 14 languages. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 85]

- Hold foreign worker employment management seminars to ensure appropriate working conditions and employment management

Information will be disseminated to employers by the labor standards inspection offices for compliance with labor-related laws, and the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) will work to enhance consultations and guidance aimed at improving employment management and support for foreign workers to settle into their workplaces.

In addition, priority will be given to holding “foreign worker employment management seminars”, etc. for business owners etc. in residential areas where there are large groups of foreign nationals and areas where there are large numbers of the technical intern trainees and specified skilled workers, etc. and efforts will be made by the companies in the region to secure appropriate working conditions and employment management. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 82]

- Create a multilingual dictionary useful for employment management [New]

In order to provide support to facilitate communication regarding working conditions, etc. and to prevent the occurrence of problems beforehand, a multilingual dictionary useful for employment management showing words frequently used in labor contracts, etc. in multiple languages will be created and this will be provided for use by the small and medium-sized business owners and foreign nationals so as to ensure an appropriate work environment. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Multilingualize consultations and advice to be given by the Employment Environment and Equal Employment Departments (Offices) of the prefectural labor bureaus and “Consultation Counters on General Labor Matters” [New]

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) newly established in all of the Employment Environment and Equal Employment Departments (Offices) (47 bureaus) and “Consultation Counters on General Labor Matters” (380 locations). [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Promote safety and health education that foreign workers are able to understand

With regard to the development of audiovisual materials corresponding to the fields of acceptance (14 fields) of specified skilled workers, materials are being prepared in 11 languages including Japanese and the number of languages will further be expanded to 14 languages in order to enhance the languages of the safety and health materials for foreign workers.

In addition, seminars will be held for people who conduct safety and health education for foreign workers, a consultation desk will be established relating to ensuring the safety and health of foreign workers, and support will be provided for persons who provide health and safety education to foreign workers through individual visits by health and safety experts to the business sites that employ foreign workers. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 84]

- Understand the actual conditions of labor accidents of foreign workers (statistics, analysis, etc.)
[New]

The trends in labor 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 labor accidents. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare]

- Further enhance multilingual support for consultations about work by the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work)

The functions of the multilingual contact center will be strengthened through adding 3 new languages to make a total of 14 languages.

In addition, regarding the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work), which have interpreters, based on the circumstances of each region, consideration will be given to adding additional languages, and introducing a multilingual translation system on a trial basis and measuring its effects, thereby further developing the system of providing consultations at the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work), and carrying out smooth employment support. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 86]

- Promote measures for settled foreign nationals

The best examples of vocational training courses for settled foreign nationals will be collected ((i) ways to make textbooks, (ii) implementation of supplementary lessons, (iii) examples of use of vocational training coordinators for settled foreign nationals, and (iv) other effective cooperation measures, etc.), and support will be given to the local governments wishing to carry out vocational training that takes into account the lack of Japanese language skills through the enhancement of measures such as dissemination of information. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 89]

(7) Promote enrollment in the social insurance, etc.

- Develop operation of the social insurance

Since social insurance is an important safety net for foreign nationals to be able to live in Japan, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Justice and others will cooperate to promote enrollment in the social insurance by the business offices employing the foreign nationals and the foreign nationals themselves. In addition, 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. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 93]

3. Strengthen residence management, etc.

(1) Thorough management of the enrollment of international students

- Respond accepting of international students at universities and other educational institutions in common [New]

Prompt and accurate ascertaining of the situation of management of the enrollment of international students and reinforced guidance will be carried out. 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 has been 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 Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice]

- Respond universities (departments for international students) [New]

With regard to departments for international students which specialize in Japanese language education, criteria equivalent to the public notice criteria for Japanese language educational 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. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and Ministry of Justice]

- Respond universities (non-degree students, etc.) [New]

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]

- Respond specialized training colleges [New]

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

(2) Countermeasures against malicious intermediary agencies (brokers)

- Reinforce examinations of applications involving malicious intermediary agencies (brokers)

In cases of using intermediary agencies that was used by large numbers of illegal foreign residents or foreign nationals who depart from their authorized activities, or in case where foreign

nationals are being sent to study at a Japanese language educational institution in which is enrolled a large number of such foreign nationals, the submission of documents pertaining to Japanese language ability and the ability to pay expenses will be required for the issuance of the 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 agencies that have been identified in Japan, and will be requested to control these agencies as necessary. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] [Related Policy No. 102]

(3) Operate the Japanese language exam properly

- Understand the Japanese language exam results accurately [New]

As well as a mechanism to create certificates especially for submission to the regional immigration services bureaus in relation to the Japanese language exams for enrollment in Japanese language educational 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 bureaus. [Ministry of Justice]

(4) Promote the employment of international students in Japan

- Request disclosure of information such as the employment rate of international students

A special site will be established in the Japan Student Services Organization in order to consolidate and effectively disseminate information such as the employment rates of international students, etc. and to promote the publication of information on universities, etc. [Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology] [Related Policy No. 72]

- Enhance job-matching opportunities between international students and recruiting companies based on the Employment Service Center for Foreigners and the International Students Corner of the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) as regional bases

In order to promote the employment of international students in Japan, the Employment Service Center for Foreigners and International Students Corner of the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work) will serve as regional bases, and in order to enhance job-matching opportunities between international students and recruiting companies, efforts will be made to enhance the explanatory sessions on companies and employment guidance, to hold joint explanatory sessions on employment through collaboration between the local companies and local governments, and to seek out job offers for international students. [Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 76]

- Support employment for international students graduating from universities and graduate schools in Japan

Information will be disseminated on the amendment of the public notice on “Designated Activities” aimed at employment support for international students who have graduated from or completed a course from a Japanese university or graduate school. [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 68]

- Support employment through industry-government-academia collaboration

In order to promote the recruitment process according to the diversity of the international students and the diversification of post-employment treatment at work, best practices will be established through industry-government-academia collaboration, and measures will be promptly implemented for horizontal deployment of these measures. [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)] [Related Policy No. 74]

- Expand companies eligible for the simplified procedures

Regarding employment support for international students provided to small or medium-sized business that satisfy certain conditions, consideration will be given to the expansion of the scope of small or medium-sized business eligible for simplified procedures. [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 70]

- Accept highly-skilled foreign professionals utilizing internships

Regarding the internships permitted through the status for residence of “Designated Activities” from the perspective of contributing to international exchanges as well as the improving of the international students’ own skills, the scope and activities of the international students eligible for an internship and the purpose of the system will be clarified, and guidelines will be developed to promote further appropriate use of the system. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 81]

- Publicize information about utilization of internships

With regard to foreign nationals attending a foreign university, information about use of internships will be given in cooperation with the relevant organizations to companies in Japan so that such foreign nationals will be able to work in a Japanese company using their expertise. [Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry] [Related Policy No. 75]

- Support employment for international students graduating from professional training colleges, etc. in the Cool Japan field

In order to expand the field of work in which international students who have majored in cooking or confectionary courses and who have completed a specialized course in a professional training college can find a job, the “Project to Train Foreign Nationals in Japanese Cuisine” will be expanded and necessary measures will be taken as soon as possible within the year to train foreign nationals not only in the field of Japanese cuisine and other cuisines but also confectionery. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries] [Related Policy No. 68]

- Disseminate information through Japanese Embassies and Consulates [New]

With regard to the efforts in this category, information will be disseminated to those who are interested in studying in Japan through the Japanese Embassies and Consulates. [Ministry of Foreign Affairs]

(5) Further optimization of the Technical Intern Training Program

- Strengthen the program for on-site inspections by the Organization for Technical Intern Training

In terms of the technical intern training program, there are still many cases of misconduct, and therefore the on-site inspection capacities of the Organization for Technical Intern Training and the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will be reinforced. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Organization for Technical

Intern Training] [Related Policy No. 83 and 122]

- Further promote the optimization of the program contributing to preventing the disappearance of technical intern trainees [New]

In order to effectively prevent the disappearances of the technical intern trainees through the establishment of rules on sanctions against the disappearance of the technical intern trainees due to improper handling on the part of the implementing organization, the relevant Ministerial Ordinance will be reviewed to the effect that the new acceptance of technical intern trainees will not be permitted for a certain period of time with regard to implementing organizations that are at fault for disappearances.

In addition, in order to implement an easy and accurate check as to whether the amount of remuneration for the technical intern trainees and their payments are appropriate, and through this, in order to prevent misconduct being committed by the implementing organizations in relation to the wages, the relevant Ministerial Ordinance will be amended for stipulating that the implementing organization is required to pay remuneration to the technical intern trainees using a method where the actual payment amount can be confirmed such as a wire transfer. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Organization for Technical Intern Training]

(6) Detection and crackdowns on cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act

- Promote effective and efficient crackdowns

The Ministry of Justice will develop a crackdown system and implement a greater number of effective crackdowns by strengthening the cooperative relationships with the related organizations and promoting close and prompt information sharing. In addition, effective and efficient crackdowns 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. [Ministry of Justice, and relevant organizations etc.] [Related Policy No. 120]

(7) Countermeasures against forged or altered residence cards

- Utilize residence card numbers in the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status

The residence card number will be added as an item to the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status, and the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status including this number will be shared between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. This will make it possible for the Ministry of Justice to check that these information are consistent with the information possessed by the Ministry itself, and to identify the foreign nationals those who are suspected of gaining employment through presenting a forged or altered residence card to the employer, and to conduct further proper investigations of violations of the Immigration Control Act and to implement the procedures for revocation of the status of residence of such persons. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 120]

- Prevent illegal work, etc. using forged or altered residence cards

If a company etc. newly hires a foreign national, or if the employed foreign national receives an extension of the period of stay or a change in the status of residence, it must thoroughly check

the authenticity of the residence card with regard to the status of residence permitting work which was granted, etc. In addition, effective methods should be considered to enable easy detection of forged or altered residence cards. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 120]

- Crackdown on forged or altered residence cards, etc.

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 handle any malicious use. In particular, efforts will be made to grasp the situation of distribution of fake residence cards through detection and crackdowns on fake residence cards manufacturing sites. [Ministry of Justice, and relevant organizations etc.] [Related Policy No. 120]

(8) Realize smooth deportation of violators of the Immigration Control Act

- Strengthen active monitoring of foreign nationals on provisional release

With regard to foreign nationals for whom a written deportation order has been issued but accorded provisional release due to rejecting return or various reasons, in order to confirm and ascertain the situation of compliance with the conditions of provisional release (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 foreign nationals who have been accorded provisional release and whether or not there are continuing grounds for provisional release will be properly and strictly monitored. As a result of the investigation, when it has been confirmed that there has been a violation of the conditions or the grounds for provisional release no longer exist, the foreign national will be detained again through revocation of the provisional release or denial of extension of the period of provisional release. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 121]

- Develop the deportation system

In order to further reduce the number of foreign nationals evading deportation, the deportations will be further enhanced depending on the circumstances of the case such as individual deportation, small-scale group deportation or deportation with security personnel etc., and for this purpose, the deportation system will be developed. Furthermore, in order to deport safely and reliably individuals who cannot be deported on a regular flight, group deportation using charter flights will be reinforced and consideration will be given to conducting research on effective deportation methods. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 121]

- Eliminate the deportation bottleneck

Negotiations will continue with countries that refuse to issue temporary passports for return ex officio and do not accept their nationals for deportation, through consultations with the consular authorities, etc. requesting their cooperation to accept those nationals, and to resolve and eliminate the obstacles to deportation, such as establishing high-level negotiations specializing in the deportation of foreign nationals evading deportation, and to execute the written deportation order as promptly as possible. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs] [Related Policy No. 121]

- Stricter immigration examinations of foreign nationals coming from countries that do not accept the deportees

In terms of the acceptance of foreign nationals, with regard to the status of residence “Specified Skilled Worker”, since the Ministry of Justice Order 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 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] [Related Policy No. 121]

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

- Acquisition of information on each accepting organization and implementation of online notification procedures pertaining to specified skilled workers

Consideration will be given to the establishment of an information base to continuously manage and track information pertaining to the situation of acceptance of foreign nationals per accepting organization of a system for online submission of notifications to the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency by the organization accepting the specified skilled workers. [Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 113]

- Promote smooth acquisition and renewal of the Individual Number Cards of foreign residents

The regional immigration services bureaus will give guidance on applications for the Individual Number Cards to all of the accepting organizations when they receive the certificate of eligibility, and overseas Japanese embassies and consulates will inform about the acquisition of the Individual Number Cards by checking whether visa applicants have application form for the Individual Number Cards when they apply for a visa. In addition, at the time of new landing permission in Japan, the guidance will be given to all mid to long-term residents about their obligation to notify their places of residence at the municipal office where the place of residence is located as well as the information about acquisition of the Individual Number Cards, etc. By taking these measures, proper authorities endeavor to promote smooth acquisition of the Individual Number Cards for mid to long-term residents.

Furthermore, the organizations of affiliation of specified skilled workers accepting specified skilled worker (i) will be required to provide information about the Individual Number system at the time of the general living orientation held for foreign nationals and to provide necessary support such as accompanying the foreign national to the counter where necessary to complete the procedures.

In addition, the regional immigration services bureaus will disseminate information about the applications for issuance of the Individual Number Cards to all of the mid to long-term residents when they come to the bureaus in person to apply for the extension of the period of stay or others. Also, the regional immigration services bureaus, which have particularly large numbers of mid to long-term residents coming to submit their applications, will implement a model project which is cooperated with the municipal authorities located in the jurisdiction to provide support for the applications for issuance of the Individual Number Cards. Depending on the situation of implementation, the regional immigration services bureaus will implement horizontal deployment upon the request of the municipal authorities. [Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications] [Related Policy No. 114]

- Prepare the procedures for applications for Individual Number Cards at the time of preparation of a residence record

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.

An environment for smooth acquisition of the Individual Number Cards at the time of the preparation of a residence record will be developed with regard to mid to long-term residents who newly land in Japan, as in the case of the abovementioned measure. At the same time, consideration will continuously be given to integration of the residence cards and the Individual Number Cards. [Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Ministry of Justice] [Related Policy No. 114]

(10) Strengthen residence management network

- Add the residence card number to the items of information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status

With regard to the addition of the residence card number to the items of information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare plans to revise the necessary ministerial order during the fiscal year of 2019, and to add the residence card number to the necessary information. This will enable the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to use the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status with the newly added the residence card number information in order to grasp the situation of the foreign nationals' employment accurately and to implement efficient crackdowns by identifying imposter residents.

In addition, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will consider online linking of the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status and the information about foreign nationals held by the Ministry of Justice in order to promote effective employment management and residence management through promptly finding cases where the information on foreign nationals held by the Ministry of Justice and the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status do not match or cases where the information on the Notified Foreign National Employment Status has not been reported. [Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare] [Related Policy No. 116]

In line with the direction of enhancement mentioned above, the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” will be revised towards the end of this year.