

In recent years, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan has increased (2.83 million), and the number of foreign workers in Japan has also rapidly increased (1.46 million). A new status of residence has been established (enforced from April 2019)

⇒ In December 2018, the government introduced the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” as part of its **effort to enhance appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals** and in order to promote **the development of an environment for realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals**.

In line with the direction of “Enhancement of Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” formulated in June 2019, the government has revised the Comprehensive Measures. Continuously, the relevant ministries and agencies will work together to steadily implement and enhance the Comprehensive Measures.

December 20, 2019
Ministerial Conference on
Acceptance and Coexistence of
Foreign nationals

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

○ Continuously listen to opinions from a broad range of stakeholders at the Meeting to Listen to “Voices of Our people” (continuous exchange of opinions with local governments), enhance the general organization by development of the system for Accepting Environmental Coordinator

(2) Implementation of awareness-raising activities

○ Implement human rights awareness-raising activities to realize a “cohesive society” where all people support mutually and value each other’s human rights

Efforts aimed at promoting appropriate and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals

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

○ Promote job matching support connecting foreign workers seeking employment to companies in the region (financial support for local governments that perform job matching in the Care Worker field, mediation for job offers and job seeking by the organization for specified skilled workers in the construction field, implementing of model project through collaboration between the local governments and the Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work))

○ Publicizing of the advantages of working in the regional areas in cooperation with local governments and promote provision of support to the regions through the subsidies for preparations for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals

○ **Active support for voluntary, proactive and leading efforts by the local governments through Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization** (collection of reference cases, horizontal deployment etc.)

(2) Smooth implementation for skill exams and Japanese language tests of the Specified Skilled Worker

○ **To expand opportunity to take skill exams on the Specified Skilled Worker** (enabling temporary visitor to take the exams), and prevention of fraud in the Japanese language tests

○ **To enhance methods for disseminating information on the Specified Skilled Worker skill exams and Japanese language tests** (provision of the latest information in multiple languages on the Ministry of Justice website. Multilingual websites for the relevant organizations)

(3) Excluding malicious intermediary organizations (brokers)

○ To agree on bilateral intergovernmental documents and share information based on them

○ Rigorous exclusion of malicious intermediary organizations (brokers) etc. through reinforced cooperation among the relevant organizations such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Embassies and Consulates), the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Organization for Technical Intern Training, as well as imposing strict immigration examination

(4) Expand supports for Japanese language educational infrastructure overseas

○ To Promote the implementation of Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese (JFT-Basic) necessary for living and working in Japan

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

○ To enhance disseminating information through the Japanese Embassies and Consulates, ensure accurate and effective public relations on the Specified Skilled Worker in collaboration with the Japanese Embassies and Consulates

Support for foreign nationals as residents

(1) Create livable local communities

① Provide multilingual information on administrative procedures and living, and develop a structure of counseling

○ **Expand support to local governments for one-stop consulting counters** (expansion of the scope of the subsidies to all local governments and to multiple local government’s cooperation, corresponding to consultation from Japanese nationals contributing coexistence)

○ **Establishment of the “Center for Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals”** (provisional name) consolidating the related departments of the Immigration Services Agency, the Japan Legal Support Center (“Houterasu”), human rights organs, the Public Employment Security Offices (“Hello Work”), visa information desk, JETRO and others (promoting foreign nationals’ employment in rural areas, responding to inquiries from the one-stop consulting counters, training for local government officials, trial implementation of interpretation support services)

○ Prepare and utilize a “Guidebook on Living and Working” (14 languages and “Plain Japanese”) for safe and secure living and working in Japan

○ **Create guideline for utilization of “Plain Japanese”**

○ **Efforts aimed at realizing AI simultaneous interpretation and expanding supported languages concerning multilingual speech translation technology**

② Promote and support measures for multicultural coexistence in local communities

○ **Active support for voluntary, proactive and leading efforts by the local governments through Subsidy Program for Promotion of Regional Revitalization** (collection of reference cases, horizontal deployment etc.) (reposted)

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

(2) Improve the environment on life services

① Develop an environment to provide medical care, health and welfare services

○ Promote the reliable medical system, which is accessible for foreign patients in any residential areas, by promoting the use of telephone interpreters and multilingual translation systems, developing manuals for the acceptance of foreign patients in medical institutions, and establishing regional countermeasure council, etc.,

○ Placement of medical interpreters and medical coordinators and supporting multilingualization of information to local hub medical institutions

○ Reduce the occurrence of unpaid medical charges by checking foreign nationals who have a record of unpaid medical charges under a strict immigration control

○ Appropriately implement pre-entry screening for tuberculosis to prevent the spread of infectious diseases

② Enhance spread information and support at the time of a disaster

○ Promote dissemination of disaster and weather information in 14 languages through Japan Meteorological Agency(JMA) website and “Safety tips” which disseminates Earthquake Early Warnings and public protection information

○ 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

③ Enhance traffic safety measures, and responses to accidents and incidents, consumer problems, legal problems, human rights issues, and requests for advice by the needy

○ **Requests for procedures to obtain a driving license to be provided in multiple languages** (the driving license tests, procedures to change from a foreign driving license to a Japanese driving license)

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

○ Multilingualize support at consumer affairs centers (Consumer Hotline-188), JLSC (Japan Legal Support Center), human rights bodies, and consultation services by the needy

④ Prepare an environment and support for securing housing

○ Disseminate practical service manuals for landlords and rental agencies, rented housing standard contracts in foreign languages, etc. (supported in 14 languages including “Plain Japanese”)

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

⑤ Improve user-friendly financial and telecommunication services

○ **Prepare an environment to facilitate the opening of accounts by foreign nationals at banks and other financial institutions** (publication of leaflets in 14 languages, appropriate management of bank accounts through keeping track of the period of stay by financial institutions)

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

(3) Realization of smooth communication (Enhance Japanese language education)

- Enhance Japanese language education for foreign nationals as residents (preparation of a comprehensive system to reinforce the Japanese language education environment in the region, expansion of supported languages of ICT learning teaching materials)
- Promote the establishment of evening classes at public junior high schools and enhance educational activities
- Create framework for Japanese language education based on CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment)
- Development, enhancement, and spread of training / retraining programs for Japanese language teachers, and improve new qualifications to prove the attributes and abilities of Japanese language teachers
- Support evaluation for Japanese communication skills in working situations of foreign workers (creation of definition for communication ability and evaluation tools and provision to each company as a model)

(4) Measures for foreign national children

- Promote appropriate support for foreign national children at day care centers and others
- Ensure school attendance of foreign children and pupils properly (spreading of the best examples of understanding of school attendance status and promoting of school attendance based on result of "survey for school attendance of foreign national children", support for local governments that provide meticulous guidance such as Japanese language education)
- Steadily improve the Fixed Number of Teachers Required for Japanese Language Teaching based on the Law Concerning Class-Size and the Standard of the Number of School Personnel in Public Compulsory Education Schools, and support the assignment of Japanese language teaching assistants or mother tongue supporters
- Improve the competency of teachers and others (promotion of nationwide training through the development of training instructors and dispatch of instructors to training sessions organized by the local governments, and other measures)
- Support local governments that provide Career education for senior high school students and others in collaboration with regional companies and NPOs, and ensure learning opportunities

(5) Support employment for international students, etc.

- Publicize information on the public notice on "Designated Activities"(No.46) in order to increase employment opportunities for international students who have graduated from Japanese universities
- Promotion of employment for international students who graduate in autumn (promotion of year-round recruitment, notifying on the status of "Designated Activities" that allow international students who have been offered a job to stay until employment to companies)
- Promote "Program for Training Foreign Nationals in Japanese Food Culture" which expanded the coverage of jobs available for international students who have graduated from cooking or confectionery technical schools
- Further simplification of the documents required for the applications for residence when getting a job in small or medium-sized business or other businesses
- Accredit by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology programs at universities to promote employment, etc.
- Sharing a checklist and best practices in order to promote flexibility in the recruitment process and treatment after hiring by responding to the diversity of the international students, dissemination from the relevant ministries and agencies to economic organizations and universities
- Request publication of the employment rate of international students, prioritize allocation of scholarships to educational institutions depending on the status of employment support efforts and employment situation, enhance support for study abroad / Japanese language learning to secure nursing care personnel
- Allocate coordinators nationwide who provide prompt and efficient recruiting assistance to small and medium sized enterprises
- Provide information at job fairs and other related events in Japan and overseas, for those interested in internship matching or employment in Japanese companies
- To promote acceptance of internship of international student in Japan and from overseas (briefing session and seminar at the "Center for Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals"(provisional name))
- Develop guidelines for promotion of appropriate use of internships and publicize information about internships

(6) Ensure an appropriate work environment

① Ensure proper working conditions and employment management, guarantee industrial health and safety

- Develop the structure of the labor standards inspection offices and Public Employment Security Offices (Hello Work), strengthen the onsite inspection capacity of the Organization for Technical Intern Training
- Expand advice structure and promote multilingualization at the "Foreign Workers Consultation Corner (Advisor for Foreign Workers)" , "Telephone Consultation Service for Foreign Workers" and the "Advice Hotline on Labor Conditions" (supported in 14 languages)
- Create a new app for the Technical Intern Trainee Handbook which is distributed at the time of entry, so that Technical Interns can obtain information they need to know on a timely basis
- Multilingualize safety and health education materials for foreign workers, creation of teaching materials for danger experience by VR technology

② Support stable local employment

- Promote multilingual responses at Hello Work (supported in 14 languages) and support local reemployment, implement vocational training for settled foreign nationals
 - Expand the implementation region and targets for training businesses aimed at gaining an understanding of business etiquette and the improvement of communication in the Japanese workplace
- ### (7) Promote enrollment in social insurance, etc.
- Promote enrollment in social insurance through the provision of information from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, etc.
 - Secure proper use of Health Care Insurance (in principle, introduce a domestic residency requirement as a rule to recognize dependents, respond to inappropriate cases, etc.)
 - Improve the tax payment environment such as support for reliable performance of the tax obligation

Construction of a new residency management system

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

- Expand online applications for status of residence procedures by the accepting companies, etc. (application for certificate of eligibility, application for change of status of residence, application for certificate of authorized employment, etc.), and enforce standard processing periods
- Promote smooth acquisition and renewal of the Individual Number Cards, and consider the integration of the residence cards and the Individual Number Cards

(2) Strengthen residence management network

- Consider online linking between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to promote the sharing of information to accurately grasp the situation of residence and employment of foreign nationals
- Build a mechanism to accurately grasp employment situation by industry, occupation, status of residence, etc., and improve / utilize official statistics
- Strengthen immigration and residency management system in the Immigration Services Agency

(3) Accurate management of international students enrolment

- Stricter examinations of status of residence, such as not to allow universities and other educational institutions with improper management of the enrolment of international students to accept international students, and to create the same standards to Japanese language educational 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

(4) Further optimization of Technical Intern Training Program

- Share information on Technical Intern Trainees known by the Immigration Services Agency to enhance on-site inspection capabilities of Organization for Technical Intern Training
- Consider measures to share directly with Technical Intern Trainees how to respond in the event of fraud and the possibilities of becoming involved in crime after disappearance etc.
- Strengthen efforts to prevent the disappearance of technical intern trainees (efforts such as suspension of acceptance for a certain period of time with regard to implementing organizations that are at fault for the disappearances), check strictly the requirements including the same amount of remuneration to Japanese workers, disseminate that technical intern trainees can change their training sites in case of such as human rights violations

(5) Strengthen measures against illegal foreign residents

- Eliminate illegal foreign residents thoroughly by strengthening cooperation among the relevant agencies, such as the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Implement careful examinations of provisional release guarantors and optimize the setting of amounts for temporary deposits
- Utilize the return-home support program of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), thereby reinforcing efforts to promote voluntary departure of those who resist deportation
- Consider effective deportation methods as well as legislative and other measures, building upon the discussion of "the Expert Meeting on Detention and Deportation"