

An Overview on the Revisions Made to the Guidelines for the Creation of a Multicultural Society in Hyogo

1 Purpose of the Revisions to the Guideline

Faced with an increase in both the population and the number of different foreign nationalities residing in the prefecture, and the growing importance of foreign talent in the industries in the prefecture, Hyogo prefecture has determined to revise the Guidelines for the Creation of a Multicultural Society in Hyogo (established in March 2016) after assessing the said guidelines in accordance to various socio-economic conditions while maintaining a focus on the ultimate goal of promoting multiculturalism and regional revitalization.

Changes in Socio-Economic Conditions

- The total number of foreign residents in the prefecture is increasing, and their communities are becoming more multicultural and diverse
- The Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was amended, and a new status of residence, Specified Skilled Worker, was established
- The Japanese Language Education Promotion Act has been enforced to enhance opportunities for Japanese language education
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications revised the Multiculturalism Plan for the Local-Level (revised in line with the principles of the SDGs)
- The environments of multiculturalism have been changed due to the rapid spread of COVID-19

2 An Overview on the Foreign Residents in the Prefecture

1. Number of Foreign Residents

(1) Recent Trends

The total number of foreign residents at the end of 2014 was 96,530 (the final value used to create the previous guidelines). Since then, it has increased to 115,681 by the end of 2019 (7th in the nation). It increased by 19,151 (19.8%) in five years.

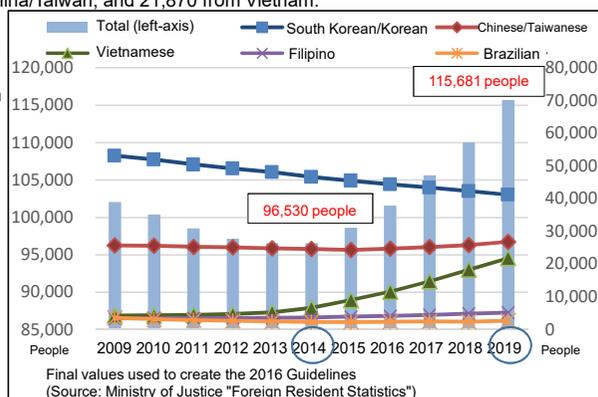
(2) By Country/Region (2014-2019)

At the end of 2019, the highest populations of foreign residents are from these countries respectively: 41,206 from South Korea/Korea, 26,821 from China/Taiwan, and 21,870 from Vietnam.

Foreign residents from Vietnam increased by 15,290 (232.4%) compared to the end of 2014. The number of different nationalities also increased from 141 (end of 2014) to 157 (end of 2019).

(3) By Prefectural Area (2014-2019)

At the end of 2019, the Kobe area boasted the largest number of foreign residents (50,155), while the Kita-harima exhibited the highest rate of increase (93.1%). Tajima, Tamba, and Awaji also increased by 50% or more.



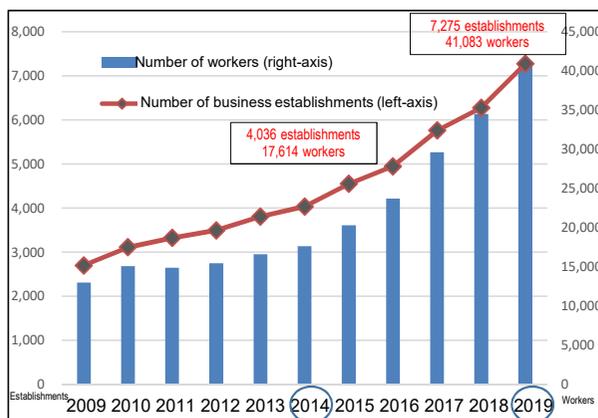
2. Foreign Workers

(1) Recent Trends

The number of business establishments hiring foreigners and the number of foreign workers within the prefecture have both increased. At the end of 2014, the number of business establishments hiring foreigners was 4,036 and the number of foreign workers was 17,614; compared to the end of 2019, these numbers increased to 7,275 and 41,083 respectively.

(2) By Country/Region (2014-2019)

In 2019, the highest numbers of foreign workers are from the following countries: 17,207 from Vietnam, 9,582 from China, and 3,094 from Philippines. When compared to 2014, the number of workers from Vietnam has increased by 14,877.



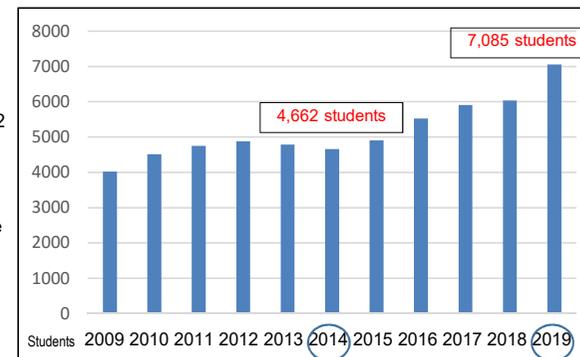
3. International Students

(1) Recent Trends

The total number of international students has also increased from 4,662 in 2014 to 7,058 in 2019.

(2) By Nationality (2014-2019)

In 2019, the highest numbers of international students by nationality are as follows: 3,065 Chinese, 2,065 Vietnamese, 424 South Korean, and 228 Nepalese. When compared to 2014, the number of Vietnamese students has increased by 1,786.



Source: The Hyogo Regional Council for the Promotion of International Student Exchange "Enrollment Status Survey on International Students in Hyogo Prefecture"

3 Issues Related to Changes in Socio-Economic Conditions

Issues are identified through surveys and interviews, etc., performed to municipalities, local communities for foreigners, and foreign residents.

(1) Dealing with Multi-Nationalization and Dispersion

- The number of foreign residents in Hyogo prefecture is increasing and becoming more multinational, and the areas where they reside are becoming more and more dispersed. Therefore, it is necessary to understand their conditions so that we can establish environments that meet their respective needs.
- As foreign residents in the prefecture begin to live more dispersedly, infrastructure must be established in each area within the prefecture to enable foreign residents to access medical care services with peace of mind.
- In regions where newly-arrived foreign residents are increasing, it is necessary to raise multicultural awareness and understanding among local residents.

(2) Ensuring Access to Educational Opportunities

- As the number of students with foreign backgrounds increases, it is necessary to elevate the educational environment to enhance language learning and academic abilities that will help them realize their goals and develop their careers.
- With the Japanese Language Education Promotion Act now in effect, it will be necessary to offer more opportunities and systems for approachable, everyday Japanese language learning geared toward infants, children, students, international students, employees, etc.

(3) The Importance of Foreign Talent in Industries in the Prefecture

- From the perspective of developing a sustainable economy for the prefecture, it is necessary to grasp the foreign workers' actual situations while improving their work environment and employment support.
- It will be necessary to foster an environment of mutual support that allows foreign workers to benefit from bonds and connections with regional and local communities that they established through interaction.

(4) Dealing With Disasters and Infectious Diseases

- In addition to enhancing efforts to provide multilingual information and consultation services to foreign residents, it will be necessary to promote multiculturalism efforts that are compatible with the Hyogo Style (new lifestyle).

4 Visualization of Our Intended Goal, Issues, and Efforts

1 Intended Goal

To further develop this region to be more inclusive by utilizing its multinational diversity to encourage residents to connect with each other and enable a truly multicultural society in Hyogo.

2 Issues

Issues Surrounding Foreign Residents in Light of Changes in Socio-economic Conditions

(1) Dealing with Multi-Nationalization and Dispersion

(2) Ensuring Access to Educational Opportunities

(3) The Importance of Foreign Talent in Industries in the Prefecture

(4) Dealing with Disasters and Infectious Diseases

3 Parties Promoting Change

Hyogo Prefecture, municipalities, regional institutions of the national government, Hyogo International Association, municipal international associations, communities for foreigners, foreigner-support organizations, companies, educational institutions, and local resident organizations

Coordinate as a network to engage in these efforts

4 Efforts

(1) Key Policies

(1) Respecting the Human Rights of Foreign Residents

(2) Promoting the Participation of Foreign Residents in Local Communities

(3) Ensuring Access to Educational Opportunities for Students With Foreign Backgrounds

(4) Further Enhancing the Medical Interpretation System

(5) Establishing a System to Handle Situations Involving Disasters/Infectious Diseases

(2) Comprehensive Efforts

(1) Raising Multicultural Awareness

(2) Fostering Individuals Who Are Well-versed with Diverse Cultural Settings to Succeed

(3) Establishing a Standard of Living to Help Foreign Residents Live and Work with Ease

(4) Creating a Vibrant Community Where Everyone Can Participate

Raising Awareness on the Significance of Multiculturalism

Promoting Japanese Language/Mother Tongue Education for Students with Foreign Backgrounds, etc.

Providing Multilingual Information

Promoting the Participation of Foreign Residents in Community Activities

Creating an Environment and Sharing Information That Meets the Needs of the Conditions of the Region

Establishing a System to Receive Students at Schools and Ensuring Access to Educational Opportunities

Enhance Multilingual Consultation Services

Fostering Talent Who Are Engaged in Activities to Promote Multiculturalism

Establishing a System to Receive Foreign International Students and Business Talent

Providing Support for Learning Japanese Language, Culture, and Customs

Fostering the Growth of Global Talent from Hyogo Prefecture and Promoting Regional Exchange

Establishing Infrastructure for Medical/Health and Welfare Services

Establishing a System to Secure Housing

Enhancing the Environment and Assistance for Work and Employment

Raising Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness and Establishing a Support System to Aid Residents During Disasters

Raising Awareness on Infectious Disease Prevention and Establishing a System to Handle Situations Involving Infectious Diseases

5 Five Key Policy Areas

By taking into account the changes observed in various socio-economic conditions, we were able to identify the following five key policy areas where we will promote our efforts to develop comprehensive measures through collaboration with the involved parties.

(1) Respecting the Human Rights of Foreign Residents

While interactions in everyday life, culture, sports, etc., have helped deepen mutual understanding of different cultures to some extent, however there are still cases where foreign residents are subjected to discriminatory remarks and actions and faced with issues such as hate speech. By understanding each other's historical backgrounds and respectfully acknowledging differences of nationality and ethnicity, we aim to realize a multicultural society where the human rights of foreign residents are respected.

(2) Promoting the Participation of Foreign Residents in Local Communities

To establish more inclusion throughout various areas of the prefecture, we will create an environment where foreign residents and the newly increased foreign talent to connect with, interact with, and receive support from people around them. We will have initiatives such as establishing spaces where business operators, administrative organizations, governments, and local communities can exchange opinions and collaborate.

Additionally, regarding the employment of foreigners, we will move forward with efforts to secure appropriate working conditions for them, ensure their safety and health, and provide them with access to things such as insurance coverage.

(3) Ensuring Access to Educational Opportunities for Students With Foreign Backgrounds

We will establish a sustainable guidance/consultation system at schools that intends to promote language acquisition and academic ability retention as well as supporting foreign students to achieve their goals, such as advancing to the high school or university of their choice. Additionally, we will promote the implementation of special admission for foreign students at prefectural high schools across the prefecture. Furthermore, we will work towards improving multicultural training for administrators, teachers, and staff.

In addition to promoting efforts to create spaces where students with foreign backgrounds can receive educational support, we will also support efforts to enhance Japanese language education at the local level and mother tongue education being carried out by communities for foreigners.

(4) Further Enhancing the Medical Interpretation System

We will move forward with efforts to firmly establish medical interpretation systems and meet other needs to increase the level of convenience at medical institutions so that foreigners can enjoy peace of mind as they receive medical services.

Additionally, to foster an environment where foreigners can have a sense of security when receiving medical services, we will make efforts to thoroughly provide information and establish a system to ensure that medical institutions can serve as hubs and play an active role.

(5) Establishing a System to Handle Situations Involving Disasters/Infectious Diseases

In addition to promoting efforts to provide administrative information in multiple languages and Easy Japanese, we will promote efforts to coordinate with different consultation services offered to foreigners. Additionally, we will also promote multiculturalism-related efforts that are compatible with the Hyogo Style (new lifestyle). We will proceed with efforts to effectively communicate information to foreigners by creating a mechanism to establish a multilingual support center in the event that a large-scale disaster occurs, etc.

6 Framework of Our Initiatives

To further develop this region to be more inclusive by utilizing its multinational diversity to encourage residents to connect with each other and enable a truly multicultural society in Hyogo.

