

Aichi Multicultural Society Promotion Plan 2013–2017



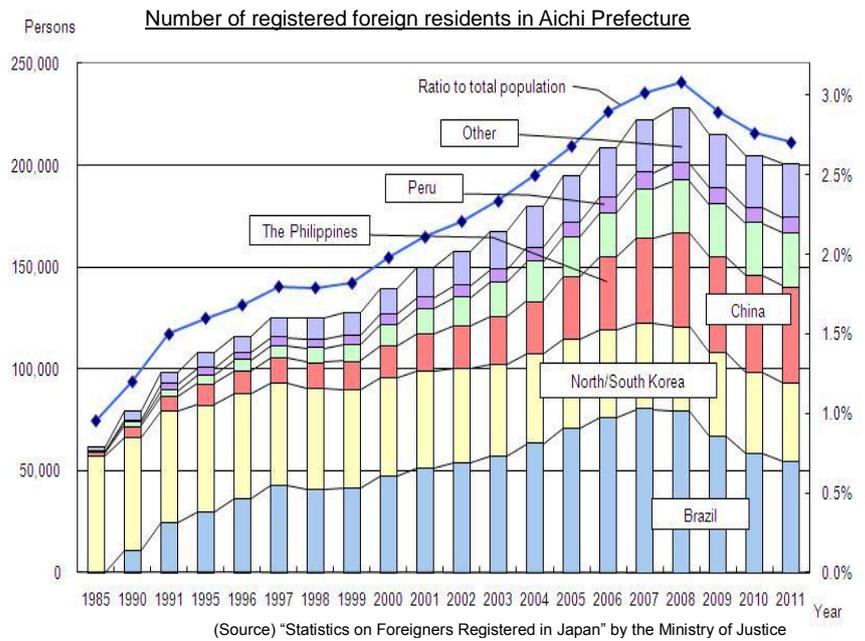
Live, shine, and create together.

Plan period

Fiscal 2013 - 2017

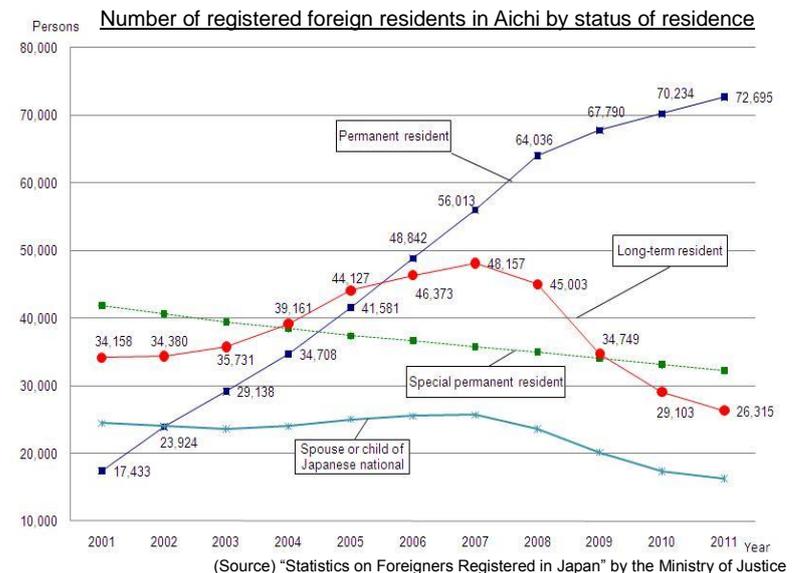
Background of drawing up the Plan

- ◆ Since the first establishment of the Aichi Multicultural Society Promotion Plan in March 2008, the situations surrounding foreign residents in the prefecture have become severer due to the impact of the Global Financial Crisis and the Great East Japan Earthquake, resulting in a decrease in the number of foreigners.
- ◆ Meanwhile, the number of foreigners who obtain “permanent resident” status has been constantly increasing, indicating that more and more foreigners are willing to live permanently in the prefecture.
- ◆ Foreigners in the prefecture are increasingly diversified in various aspects such as nationality, age, and place of residence.



Purpose of establishing the Plan

- ◆ As foreigners are becoming increasingly diversified and willing to live in the prefecture permanently, new issues that need to be addressed are arising.
- ◆ While administrative measures and NPO efforts have improved the situation, there are still some problems remaining. Among them, improvement of their living environments, particularly in terms of education and work, is urgently needed.
- ◆ Today, students and foreigners are expected to play an important role in the promotion of multicultural coexistence.
- ◆ In cooperation with these new players, we must promote systematic and comprehensive measures that will not only address the problems but will also contribute to the further development of the region and the establishment of a comfortable society to live in.



Roles of the Plan

- ◆ A guideline that clarifies the basic policies and roles of the Prefectural Government
- ◆ A medium-term action plan that specifically and systematically explains the measures promoted and implemented by the Prefectural Government and the Aichi International Association
- ◆ Clear description of the roles of the relevant parties including the national government, the Prefectural Government, municipalities, prefectural residents, NPOs, businesses, and universities

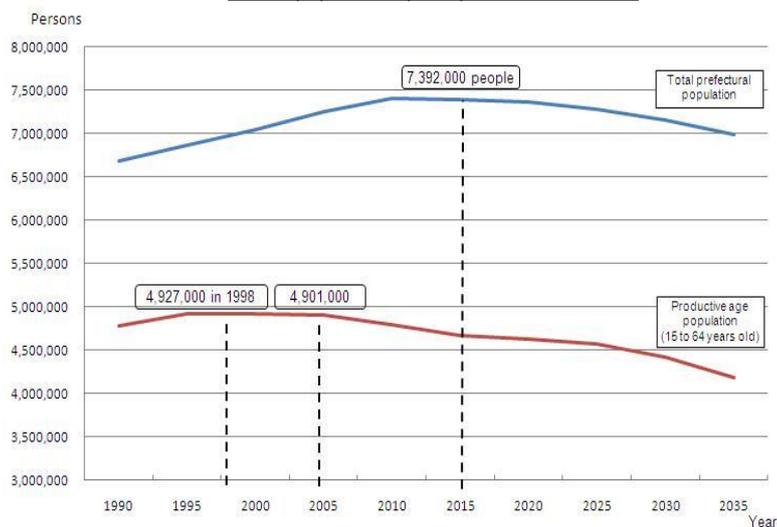
Procedures to draw up the Plan

- ◆ Establish a New Aichi Multicultural Society Promotion Plan (tentative name) Review Meeting (9 members including academic experts)
- ◆ Hold discussions at the Opinion Exchange Meeting for Foreign Residents in Aichi (11 foreigners residing in the prefecture selected from among applicants)
- ◆ Conduct surveys on foreign residents’ awareness, etc.
- ◆ Public comments, etc.

Why is the promotion of a multicultural society necessary?

- ◆ As foreigners in the prefecture are becoming increasingly diversified and obtaining permanent residence status, the issues involving foreign residents are becoming increasingly complex and diverse.
- ◆ While foreign residents are now registered in the Basic Resident Register, it is necessary to further promote measures to create a society friendly to everyone, regardless of their nationality.
- ◆ As the society is expected to have a shrinking and super-aging population, it is crucial, in order to maintain regional vitality, to create a society that will allow every resident including foreign residents of the prefecture to fully exercise their abilities.

Aichi's population: past, present, and future



(Source) "Population Projections by Prefecture" by the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research (May 2007)
 "Aichi Prefecture Statistical Yearbook" by the Statistics Division, Department of Community Affairs, Aichi Prefectural Government

What does the promotion of a multicultural society mean?

■ Protection of the human rights of foreign residents in the prefecture

Promoting a multicultural community conforms to the principle of respect for the human rights of foreigners, which is guaranteed in the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Constitution of Japan, etc. Respecting and protecting the human rights of all residents of the prefecture regardless of differences in nationality or ethnicity is the basis for forming a peaceful and happy society.

■ Improvement and vitalization of regional attractions

As overall social/economic activities become increasingly globalized, actively promoting attempts to make our communities open to the world will enhance the appeal of Aichi Prefecture, enabling us to boast the attractions of the prefecture to people outside of Aichi and throughout the world. At the same time, inviting competent personnel from overseas to settle in this region will help vitalize the regional society, promoting the development of the regional industry/economy.

■ Regional globalization

The promotion of a multicultural society will help local residents develop international perspectives and deepen their understanding of foreign cultures. Activating cross-cultural exchanges in communities will increase opportunities to discover new values and create new, rich cultures, which will also lead to the development of many human resources capable of playing important international roles.

■ Safe and secure society

Helping foreign residents understand Japanese laws/regulations and customs, providing them with helpful information to protect them from traffic accidents and crime, and improving their living environments, will lead to the establishment of a society where everyone can live safely and comfortably.

■ Community friendly to everyone

The promotion of a multicultural society will lead to the development of a community that accepts diverse characteristics and differences in languages, cultures, abilities, etc., and is friendly to everyone.

[Basic Objective]

Establish a multicultural society for a vibrant and prosperous region

* What is a multicultural society?

We define a multicultural society as “a regional society in which all residents of the prefecture are able to live safely and play active roles regardless of differences in nationality or ethnicity, mutually understanding different cultural backgrounds and ways of thinking.”

[Policy objectives and their ultimate goals]

To achieve the basic objective, the three policy objectives below are set.

In this Plan, to clarify the specific image of a multicultural society, the goals to be achieved are provided. For the next five years, we will work to establish the systems and structures in preparation for making these goals a reality.

Policy Objective I: Build a community in which everyone can participate

➤ **An environment that allows everyone to play an important role, fully exercising their abilities, is established.**

To ensure that foreign residents can play as important roles as Japanese residents do, systems for education, Japanese language training, etc., are developed, and an environment that enables foreign residents to make full use of their strengths, such as their understanding of two or more cultures, is established.

➤ **Various players, including foreign residents, cooperate/collaborate with each other on an equal footing.**

Administration, NPOs in various fields, companies, universities, schools, neighborhood associations, local residents, etc. cooperate/collaborate with each other from their own standpoints. Foreign residents are also involved in planning, examining, and implementing the relevant measures, playing a new important role in building a multicultural society.

Policy Objective II: Foster awareness of the significance of multiculturalism

➤ **The human rights of foreign residents are respected and accepted positively in the community.**

The importance of respecting the human rights of foreign residents, as well as of multicultural coexistence, is fully understood, resulting in active interactions between foreign and Japanese residents. The development of continuous/broad-based systems/mechanisms for multicultural coexistence is also promoted.

Policy Objective III: Build a community that everyone can comfortably live in

➤ **A community where foreigners can live independently, securely and safely has been established.**

Systems for consultation, welfare, medicine, and health care are well developed. Working and housing environments have been improved. Measures to prevent crimes and establish a secure and safe community have also been implemented.

<Priority Policy Items>

Policy Item		Ideal Situation	Major Relevant Departments, Organizations, etc.
1	Set up a project team consisting of relevant departments, which will implement comprehensive/systematic measures to support the children of foreign residents	Project team established	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, the Department of Community Affairs, the Board of Education, etc.
2	In cooperation with professional institutions, conduct surveys on the current status of regional Japanese language education and draw up/promote prefectural guidelines for Japanese language education	Guidelines drawn up	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, the Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language, international associations, Japanese language schools, companies, foreign residents, etc.
3	Following the cooperation roadmap, promote collaboration between government organs and NPOs in multicultural coexistence-related fields and other fields	Promoted along with the cooperation roadmap	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, the Department of Community Affairs, the Disaster Prevention Office, the Department of Health and Public Welfare, the Department of Industry and Labor, the Board of Education, the Aichi International Association, NPOs, etc.
4	Examine the role of the “Opinion Exchange Meeting for Foreign Residents in Aichi” and enhance its functions to become a forum that encourages foreign residents to participate in planning, examining, and implementing the relevant measures	Functions enhanced	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, foreign residents
5	Promote students’ activities concerning multicultural coexistence and young foreigners’ social contribution activities	Exchange parties held	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, universities, students, young foreigners
6	Establish a multicultural society month	Established	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, relevant sections, municipalities, international associations, NPOs, companies, universities, prefecture residents, etc.
7	Promote the Aichi Medical Interpretation System and expand its coverage to the welfare field	Expanded to welfare field	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, the Department of Health and Public Welfare, municipalities, etc.
8	To ensure that companies fulfill their social responsibility, promote fair employment of foreign laborers through communication of the “Charter for Proper Employment of Foreign Laborers and Their Adaptation to Japanese Society”	Seminars held	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, companies, etc.
9	Set up a multilingual support center for major earthquakes and other disasters	Agreement concluded	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, the Aichi International Association, etc.
10	Strengthen ties with local municipalities, neighborhood associations, and other relevant organs to promote the building of safe/secure communities	Meetings for cooperation held	The Department of Regional Development and International Affairs, the Disaster Prevention Office, Police Headquarters, municipalities, neighborhood associations, etc.

Clarifying the roles of the entities involved in promoting multicultural society

Entity	Role
National government	Steadily implementing measures for foreigners, drawing up medium to long-term policies for accepting foreigners, providing sufficient financial support for municipalities, etc.
Aichi Prefectural Government	Implementing broad-based measures/pioneering initiatives, promoting collaboration/cooperation with various entities including foreign residents of the prefecture, submitting demands to the national government, etc.
Municipalities	Improving administrative daily-life services, providing information on administrative services, obligations to be implemented, etc.
International associations	Promoting specialized, careful initiatives in view of local needs and problems, establishing networks among various entities, etc.
NPOs and other organizations	Conducting activities responding properly to local needs, organizing various activities that encourage the active participation of foreign residents, etc.
Companies	Promoting initiatives to facilitate foreign workers' adaptation to Japanese society such as providing opportunities to learn the Japanese language, confirming awareness of their social responsibility, etc.
Prefectural residents	<p><Japanese residents> Understanding the role of foreign residents in developing communities, promoting interactions, etc.</p> <p><Foreign residents> Learning the Japanese language, understanding Japanese culture and customs, participating in community activities, etc. Also, teaching Japanese culture and systems to other foreign residents, communicating foreign residents' ways of thinking to Japanese residents, playing the role of connecting foreigners with Japanese as well as other foreigners, etc.</p>
Universities	Supporting administrative entities/NPOs, educating residents, promoting multiculturalism-related activities by students, developing human resources, etc.
Schools (Elementary schools, junior/senior high schools)	Serving as the bases for building a multicultural society, supporting the learning of foreign pupils/students, providing appropriate career guidance, etc.

Enhancing collaboration/cooperation among the entities promoting multicultural society

- Promote cross-sectional collaboration/cooperation among relevant departments, organizations, NPOs, etc.
- Promote activities of the Multicultural Society Promotion Council (consisting of 7 prefectures and 1 city with many foreign residents)

Proper administration and revision of the Plan

- Receive third-party evaluations of the implementation status of the measures announced in the Plan, and disclose the results every year
- Revise the contents of the Plan in a proper, timely manner based on the Plan's implementation status, changes in social conditions, national government policies, etc.

March 2013

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