

Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline for a Multicultural, Harmonious Society

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川崎市多文化共生社会推進指針

Aiming to Be a Harmonious Community

— ともに生きる地域社会をめざして —
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Summary

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概要版(英語)

Multicultural Promotion Policies



Políticas de promoción multicultural



Políticas de Promoção Multicultural



Gabay sa pagtaguyod ng isang
multicultural society para sa matiwasay na
pagsasamahan ng iba't-ibang kultura



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多元文化共生社会推进方针



Chính sách thúc đẩy xã hội cộng sinh đa văn hóa

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Kawasaki City

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川 崎 市



The Situation of Foreign Residents

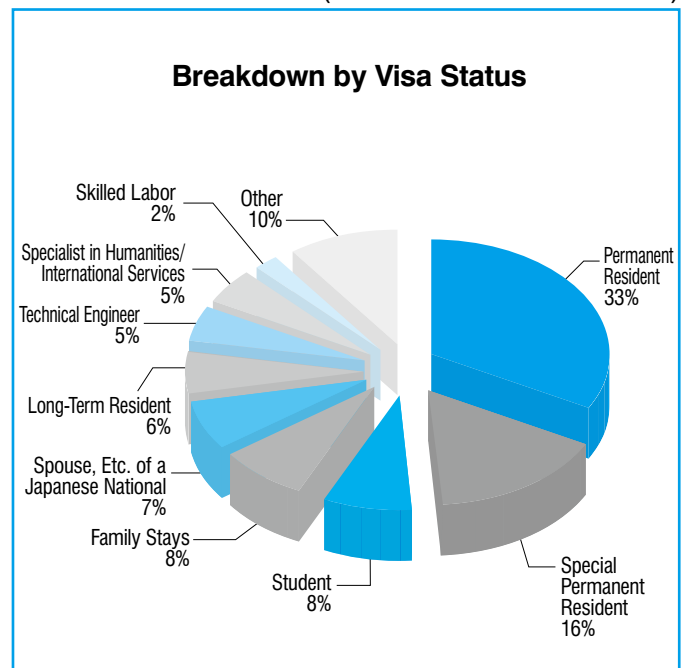
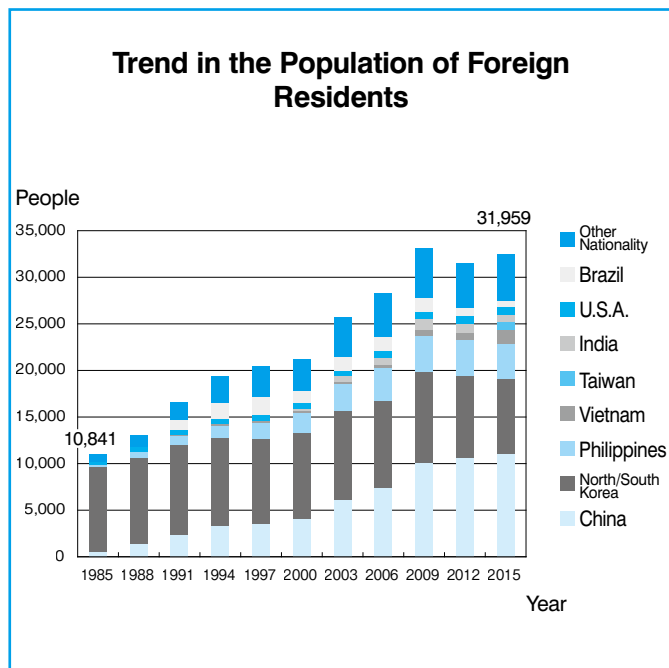
The population of foreign residents in Kawasaki City* as of the end of June 2015 totaled 31,959 people from 122 countries/regions. This accounts for 2.17 percent of the total city population. Where they are from, as well as their reasons for coming to Japan, are growing more diverse with each year.

Until the 1980s, most of the registered foreign residents of our city were from North Korea and South Korea who gained special permanent residence status due to their historical background.

Since then, people have become more mobile and more often crossed national borders due to changes in the global society and economic structure. Moreover, with the 1990 revisions to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, people from various countries around the world with various visa statuses have come to Japan and live in various neighborhoods of our city.

According to the Foreign Resident Awareness Survey we conducted in 2014, the number of years that foreign residents live in our city have generally increased compared to the previous survey done in 1993. Additionally, more than half of the children of foreign residents in our city have Japanese nationality. This shows an increasing number of children with Japanese nationality that also have a connection to foreign countries. This shows that the circumstances of foreign residents in our city are changing with the times.

(As of the end of June 2015)



* "Population of foreign residents" refers to the number of registered foreign residents in the Basic Resident Registrar. (This does not include foreign residents who have Japanese nationality.)

Foreign Residents

Kawasaki City considers each foreign resident a valuable member of the community and has used the word foreign city resident to describe them since the enactment of the Kawasaki City Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents Ordinance in 1996.

The definition of this word includes not only residents with foreign nationalities but also Japanese nationals with a connection to a foreign country (such as those who were born of international marriages, those returning from China, and those who have acquired Japanese nationality).

Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline for a Multicultural, Harmonious Society

Basic Objective: Achieve a Multicultural, Harmonious Society

Respecting differences in nationality, race, and culture, we aim to achieve a multicultural, harmonious society where everyone accepts each other, human rights are respected, and everyone lives in harmony as individual citizens.

Basic Ideal

(1) Respecting Human Rights

In acknowledgment of international principles, etc., related to human rights, we will strive to promote policies involving foreign residents with different cultural backgrounds so that they will not be discriminated against or have their human rights infringed upon.

(2) Promoting Foreign Residents' Participation in Society

We will strive to promote foreign residents' participation in society to ensure that they can make the best use of the rich skills they have as individuals, participate in various activities, and share the burden of city development as fellow city residents.

(3) Support to Encourage the Independence of Foreign Residents

We will strive to support foreign residents who face difficulties in everyday life due to cultural differences and a lack of Japanese-language skills so that they can gain independence and actively become involved in the local community while maintaining their cultural identities.

Basic Direction of Policy Promotion

1 Improving Administrative Services

- (1) Providing administrative services
- (2) Providing information and consultations
- (3) Pension system
- (4) Health and medical treatment
- (5) Welfare
- (6) Housing
- (7) Disaster prevention

2 Promoting Multicultural Education

- (1) Guaranteed school entrance and academic support
- (2) Education that encourages respect for individual differences
- (3) Academic support in the local community
- (4) Support for the family

3 Promoting Foreign Residents' Participation in Society

- (1) Participation in city administration
- (2) Activities by foreign resident groups in the community

4 Forming a Harmonious Society

- (1) Raising awareness of city residents
- (2) Raising awareness of city employees
- (3) Employment of foreign residents by the city
- (4) Raising awareness of employers
- (5) Using the Kawasaki International Center

5 Improving Systems to Implement Measures for the Promotion of Policies

- (1) Improving the administrative organization
- (2) Collaborating with relevant institutions, volunteer groups, etc.
- (3) Prevailing upon the national government, etc.

Important Issues

- 1. Improve multilingual information and interpreting services
- 2. Improve Japanese-language learning support programs
- 3. Create community centers for policy promotion
- 4. Consider policies meant to eliminate discrimination

Specific Description of the Promotion of Policies

1

Improving Administrative Services

We will strive to improve policies and the living environment so that foreign residents can obtain the information and administrative services they need to lead healthy, safe, and worry-free lives.

(1) Providing Administrative Services

1. We will consider policies, always keeping foreign residents in mind, so that city administrative services can be provided equally to them.
2. We will strive to establish a new residency management system and the Basic Resident Registration System which pertains to our foreign residents.
3. We will strive to probe the issues and conditions that arise with the new residency management system, and will call for the national government to make improvements as necessary.

(2) Providing Information and Consultations

1. We will strive to improve the way we provide information, such as by making multilingual information available and improving the information service counter for foreign residents.
2. We will try to improve the foreign resident consultation system.
3. We will strive to use an ombudsperson system concerning the infringement of human rights of foreign residents.

(3) Pension System

1. To promote enrollment in the pension plan, we will strive to enhance public relations activities concerning the pension system, including the lump-sum withdrawal program.
2. We will actively work with employers concerning the enrollment of foreign employees in the pension plan.
3. We will call for the national government to improve the lump-sum withdrawal program and bailout measure for those systematically not qualified for pensions.

(4) Health and Medical Treatment

1. We will try to spread multilingual materials concerning medical institutions.
2. We will strive to improve mother and child health programs for foreign residents.
3. We will pour our efforts into public relations aimed at foreign residents concerning health maintenance and disease prevention.
4. We will expand public relations activities for the health insurance system to promote enrollment in health insurance.
5. We will actively work with employers to promote the enrollment of foreign employees in the health insurance plan.
6. We will consider taking measures relating to the medical cost that those who are not enrolled in health insurance have to pay at medical institutions.
7. We will participate in the operation of the medical interpreter dispatch system that Kanagawa Prefecture runs, and strive to improve medical interpreter services.
8. We will call for the national government to improve the health insurance system.

(5) Welfare

1. We will actively conduct public relations activities for welfare services.
2. As for nursery school children, we will strive to create childcare environments in which differences in language and lifestyle are taken into consideration.
3. We will strive to improve the Elderly Foreign Resident Welfare Allowance and Physically/Mentally Disabled Foreign Resident Welfare Allowance programs.

4. We will cooperate with service providers to ensure that consideration is given to differences in language and lifestyle when providing welfare and nursing care services to the disabled and elderly who need nursing care.
5. Based on the Basic Kawasaki City DV Prevention and Victim Support Plan, we will try to improve programs for the prevention of domestic violence toward foreign residents as well as support programs for victims.

(6) Housing

1. We will strive to improve consultation systems while working on public relations activities for the Kawasaki Basic Housing Regulation and tenant support system.
2. We will make an effort to eliminate the racial discrimination that occurs when foreign residents try to rent private housing and to ensure a stable supply of housing for foreign residents.

(7) Disaster Prevention

1. We will strive to establish systems that enable foreign residents to receive proper information and services without discrimination during a disaster.
2. We will try to raise awareness among foreign residents concerning disaster prevention by offering information in various languages.
3. In preparing for a disaster, we will strengthen cooperation with citizen groups, volunteer groups, etc.

2

Promoting Multicultural Education

We will promote education that encourages self-reliance and mutual understanding while guaranteeing all children the right to receive an education and respecting the culture of the minority in society.

(1) Guaranteed School Entrance and Academic Support

1. We will strive to guarantee all children at compulsory education age the right to enter school and create an environment conducive to study for all children.
2. We will try to improve consultation systems concerning all aspects of education, such as school entrance, study, and advancement to higher education.
3. We will strive to improve study support programs for school children who need instruction in the Japanese language so that they will acquire language skills necessary for their studies and in everyday life.

(2) Education That Encourages Respect for Individual Differences

1. Together with foreign residents, we will promote multicultural education in which Japanese and foreign residents respect each other.
2. We will strive to create an environment in which minorities can develop their own identities while preserving the cultures and languages of their home countries.
3. We will promote friendly exchanges with local foreign schools and offer support to those schools.
4. We aim to improve teacher-training programs for human rights and multiculturalism.

(3) Academic Support in the Local Community

1. We will strive to improve study support programs, including Japanese-language instruction programs.
2. We will try to promote the understanding of Japan's society, system, and culture among foreign residents.

(4) Support for the Family

1. We will provide information and support with consideration of the circumstances surrounding foreign parents.
2. We will cooperate with families to promote mutual understanding and respect of each language and culture.

3

Promoting Foreign Residents' Participation in Society

We will strive to create an environment where foreign residents can actively participate in city administration and promote measures to ensure that they can participate in various activities, making the best use of their individual skills, as members of the local community.

(1) Participation in City Administration

1. We will strive to promote activities of the Representative Assembly for Foreign Residents and have the opinions of foreign residents reflected in city policies.
2. We will build an environment where foreign residents can actively participate together in the city assembly or ward council.
3. In operating the voting system we will try to create an environment that encourages foreign residents to participate.
4. We will consider, in cooperation with other municipalities, calling for the national government to acknowledge voting rights in local elections.

(2) Activities by Foreign Resident Groups in the Community

1. We will strive to call on town councils, community associations, and the PTA to accept foreign residents as members and work on mutual understanding and friendly exchanges.
2. We will create environments in which foreign resident groups, support groups, etc., can easily conduct activities.

4

Forming a Harmonious Society

In an effort to build a society where all city residents respect each other and live together in harmony, we will promote the building of local communities that are open while promoting awareness programs for city residents, city administration, and businesses.

(1) Raising Awareness of City Residents

1. We will strive to raise awareness of residents so that discrimination will be eliminated and all people will respect each other regardless of differences in nationality, race, and culture.
2. We will conduct public relations activities and awareness programs on multicultural thinking for city resident groups and volunteer groups.
3. We will strive to promote cultural exchange programs in such places as local communities so that city residents can learn about various cultures and appreciate each other through cultural and art activities.

(2) Raising Awareness of City Employees

1. We will improve training programs for city employees and teachers to raise awareness of human rights and multiculturalism.
2. We will strive to raise awareness among city employees so that they can do their work while paying attention to foreign residents.

(3) Employment of Foreign Residents by the City

1. We will consider how the city should hire foreign residents or appoint them to jobs while working together with other municipalities.
2. Aiming to form a multicultural, harmonious society, we will seek to employ foreign residents as part-time contracted employees and temporary employees.

(4) Raising Awareness of Employers

1. We will raise awareness of employers so that they will conduct proper hiring practices and not discriminate against foreign residents in terms of hiring and labor conditions.
2. We will call for employers to raise awareness among their employees concerning human rights and multiculturalism.
3. We will support on-site training programs to raise awareness.

(5) Using the Kawasaki International Center

1. We will strive to promote the use of the Kawasaki International Center and improve programs geared toward multiculturalism.
2. We will support the expansion of consultation, translation, and interpreting services conducted by the Kawasaki International Association.
3. In collaboration with the Kawasaki International Association, we promote international exchanges and cooperation led by city residents by supporting activities by city resident groups engaged in international exchanges and cooperation.
4. We will work together with the Kawasaki International Association to improve support for foreign students with financial aid, housing consultation, etc., while promoting friendly exchanges between foreign students and city residents.

5

Improving Systems to Implement Measures for the Promotion of Policies

To comprehensively promote policies related to foreign residents, we will improve alliances and alignment functions within the administration, work together with city residents and relevant institutions and groups, and call for the national government and other bodies to improve various systems.

(1) Improving the Administrative Organization

1. We will improve alliances and alignment functions between departments, mainly within the entire city assembly, to promote policies.
2. By strengthening ties with governments of other cities and the Kanagawa prefectural government to exchange information, we will deepen awareness of policy development issues.
3. We will manage the progress of policies and evaluate policies based on guidelines.
4. We will periodically conduct surveys related to the living conditions and awareness of foreign residents to keep tabs on the progress of a multicultural, harmonious society and formulate better policies.
5. We will investigate the possibility of creating policies designed to eliminate discrimination and prevent violations of human rights due to race.

(2) Collaborating with Relevant Institutions, Volunteer Groups, Etc.

1. We will consider how cooperative ties with city resident groups and volunteer groups should be.

(3) Prevailing upon the National Government, Etc.

1. We will ask the national government and the Kanagawa prefectural government to improve laws and systems involving the everyday lives of foreign residents.

Concerning Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline for a Multicultural, Harmonious Society

The world is becoming more globalized as a result of changes in the social economy, and many people from various countries and regions are coming to Japan. Foreign residents who live in our community are therefore becoming more and more common.

Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline for a Multicultural, Harmonious Society was published in 2005—the first of its kind in Japan—to realize a multicultural, harmonious society in which all people acknowledge each other, respect each other's human rights, and live together as independent residents, making the best use of the diverse nationalities, ethnicities and cultures as assets. We have since systematically and comprehensively promoted policies related to foreign residents. With the recent changes in the environment surrounding foreign residents—such as the start of the new residency management system—as well as new issues, we are making revisions for the second time.

In revising this document, we kept the structure that had been established. To realize a multicultural, harmonious society, we identify important issues that highlight a new perspective when promoting individual policies. We considered the need for a comprehensive perspective for policies for all ages as well as issues defined by the results of the foreign resident awareness survey, and responded to issues related to all policies, while evaluating the particular promotional content of each policy.

Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline for a Multicultural, Harmonious Society—Aiming to Be a Harmonious Community is available on the Kawasaki City website, and can also be viewed at the Kawasaki Information Plaza, city administration reference corners of each ward, municipal libraries, and other locations.

<http://www.city.kawasaki.jp/250/page/0000040959.html>

Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline for a Multicultural Harmonious Society: Aiming to Be a Harmonious Community (Summary)



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