

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

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—共に生きる地域社会をめざして—

Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline
for a Multicultural, Harmonious Society



川崎市多元文化共生社会推進方針



Diretrizes de promoção de Kawasaki para uma
sociedade multicultural e harmoniosa



Guía de Promoción de Kawasaki para una
Sociedad Multicultural y Armoniosa



카와사키시 다문화 공생사회 추진 지침



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



Chính sách thúc đẩy xã hội cộng sinh đa văn hóa
thành phố Kawasaki

Summary

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概要版(英語)

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Kawasaki City

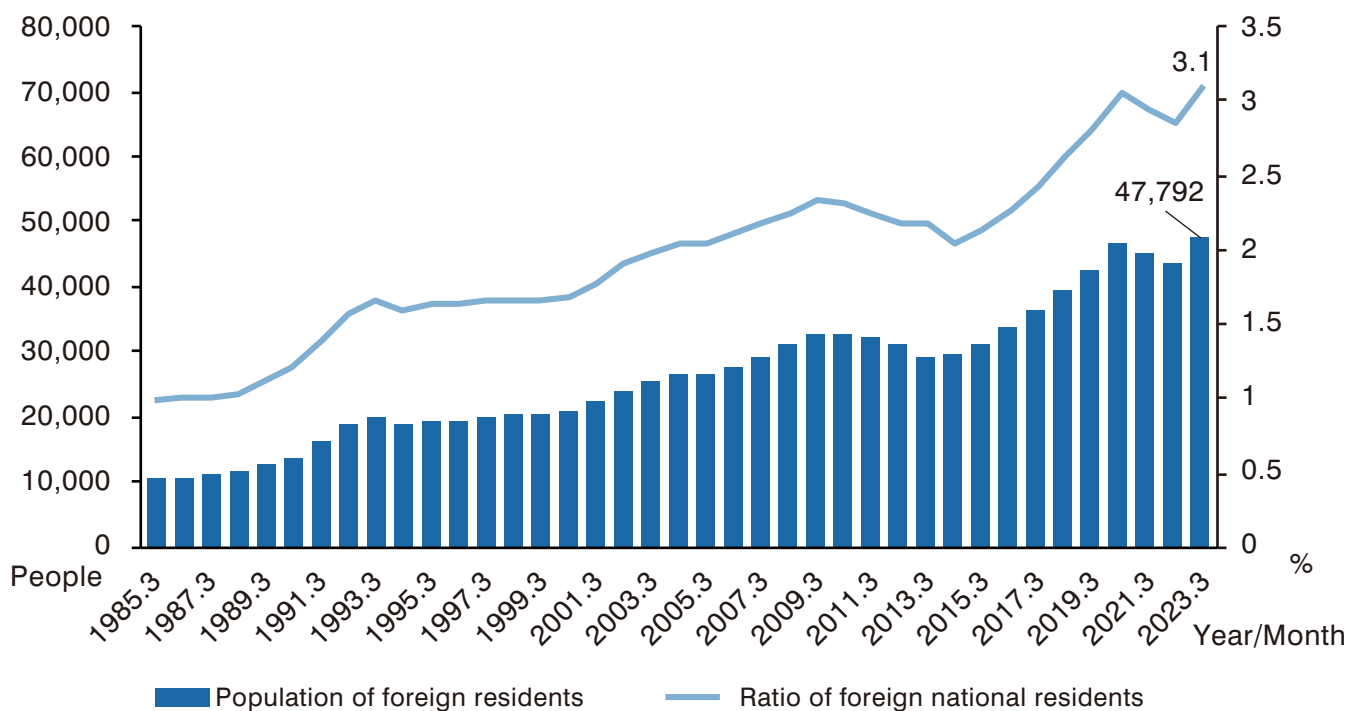
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川崎市

The Situation of Foreign Residents

The population of foreign residents in Kawasaki City as of the end of December 2023 totaled 50,794, accounting for 3.29% of the total city population. Their countries of origin, as well as their reasons for coming to Japan, are growing more diverse with each year. Currently these people come from 145 countries and regions of the world.

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, in tandem with the progression of globalization, 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.

Also, there are more and more people holding Japanese citizenship of diverse cultural backgrounds who have ties abroad, including children born of international marriages, and Japanese who lived abroad for a time and returned home. In addition, in recent years, the number of people holding Specialist in Humanities/International Services is increasing, along with the number of Permanent Residents. This in turn means there are more spouse or family visas being issued through people holding the above visas, an indication that foreign nationals are becoming an integral part of the community.



As of 1990, the population of foreign national residents in the city has increased dramatically. In recent years, the population shrank temporarily due to the coronavirus pandemic, but is has recently been trending upward once again. From the time the Guidelines were last revised in June 2015, the figure has risen by approximately 18,800 people from 31,959, or roughly 1.6 times.

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 Residents 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
- (6) Forming a multicultural society in local areas

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.

Specific Description of the Promotion of Policies

1

Improving Administrative Services

We will strive to improve policies and the living environment, including use of ICT, 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 strive to ensure that foreign nationals as well as related institutions are informed of the visa management system and the Basic Resident Registration System as pertains to our foreign residents.
3. We will address any issues that may arise related to administrative services pertaining to the visa management system, and will call for the national government to make improvements as necessary.

(2) Providing Information and Consultations

1. Using ICT, 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. Information will also be provided in simple Japanese.
2. We will try to improve the foreign resident consultation system.

(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 are creating an environment where foreign national residents can easily participate in shelter operations.
3. We will try to raise awareness among foreign residents concerning disaster prevention by offering information in various languages.
4. 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 on the part of all residents and mutual understanding while guaranteeing all children the right to receive an education and respecting the culture of the minority in society. In this regard we are also creating an effective system to facilitate studies.

(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, using ICT.
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 strive to improve study support programs for school children who need instruction in the Japanese language so that they are able to acquire language skills necessary for their studies and for 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 collaborate with families to promote mutual understanding and respect for the individual's native 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 build an environment where foreign residents can actively participate together in the city assembly, as we encourage participation in these institutions.
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 Residents in the Community

1. We call on community associations and the PTA to accept foreign residents as members and work on mutual understanding and friendly exchanges.
2. We create environments in which foreign residents and support groups can readily participate in local projects.

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 community, we will seek to employ foreign residents as parttime contracted employees and temporary employees, including appointed 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 are engaged in public relations and raising awareness on the part of businesses of our role in working toward a multicultural society.
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 support translation and interpreting services conducted by the Kawasaki International Association, as well as consultation services provided by the Multicultural Comprehensive Consultation One-Stop Center.
3. In collaboration with the Kawasaki International Association, our goal is to achieve a successful multicultural community, as well as international exchange and cooperation led by city residents by supporting activities by city resident groups engaged in international exchange and cooperation. In this way we work toward a multicultural community.
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. We are moving ahead with collaboration on boosting the Kawasaki International Association.

(6) Forming a multicultural, harmonious society in local areas

1. By creating an environment conducive to resident self-led projects and creating living spaces, we facilitate the formation of a multicultural society where both foreign residents and Japanese can live harmoniously.

5

Improving Systems to Implement Measures for the Promotion of Policies

To comprehensively promote policies related to foreign residents, we improve alliances and alignment functions within the administration, take steps to create a strategic center, and 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.
6. Based on the needs of foreign residents and geographical features, we are working to promote such projects as the Kawasaki Multicultural Plaza.

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

1. Cooperating and collaborating with a diverse array of different entities to develop strategies for multicultural policies.

(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

When the city government was first instituted in 1924, the population was roughly 50,000. In contrast, it now stands at more than 1.54 million, drawing people from around the nation as well as from other countries and regions. Kawasaki is characterized by diversity with extensive multicultural interaction.

From an early stage, the city has developed strategies to accommodate foreign residents. Kawasaki implemented a set of strategies ahead of the rest of the nation, known as the Kawasaki's Promotion Guideline for a Multicultural Harmonious Society, with a view to achieving a multicultural community.

The third edition of the Guidelines was released in 2015. The fourth edition was based on several factors such as an increased number of foreign residents and a more diversified population; national measures such as comprehensive strategies to employ foreign national personnel and create a harmonious existence together with them; changes in socioeconomic circumstances such as the SDGs; and deliberations by the Kawasaki City Multicultural Society Promotion Council, based on the Kawasaki City Foreign Resident Awareness Survey conducted in 2019. The objective is to better determine the city's direction.

Kawasaki City, along with moving forward on pre-existing initiatives, will continue to hold the value of diversity in high regard. Drawing on that potential, all city residents act to support a multicultural community. This structure allows each individual to manifest their talents and create a comfortable place to live for all involved.

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



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



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