

Fukui City Multicultural Coexistence Plan

Supporting community - developed by the cooperation of
people of various nationalities

Digest version

「Multicultural Coexistence」 is
“when people of various nationalities and races respect the differences of
their cultures and live together as members of the same community while
cultivating a fifty-fifty relationship”

(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications,
from 「Multi-cultural Coexistence Promotion Workshop Report」)



In formulating the plan

Objective of the plan

With the mutual cooperation of the citizens and government we must create a new Fukui city, where with work, entertainment and interaction provided each and every citizen will have a healthy life with hopes for the future and will feel genuine safety and peace. In order to do this, the citizens and the government need to interact and cooperate to face the various issues as the number of foreign citizens¹ has been increasing in the depopulating society and we strongly support the standpoint that the Japanese and the foreigners are equal citizens.

“Fukui City Multicultural Coexistence Plan” (referred to as plan below) was formulated so that we can implement a safe-living community in which all citizens including foreigners respect each other’s differences and have an equal involvement.

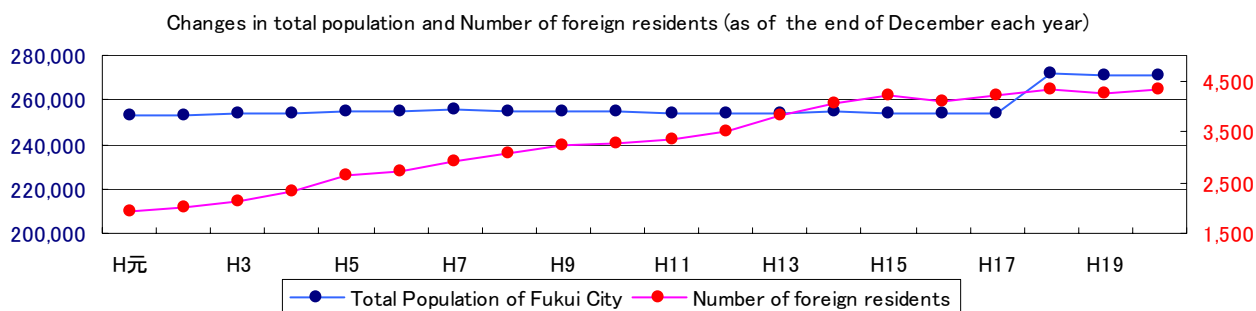
¹ By saying “foreign citizens” we mean all foreign people living in Fukui city in general, including those who already have Japanese citizenship.

Present situation and issues of Fukui city

Present situation of foreign citizens

As of the end of December 2008 there are 4,324 registered foreigners² (54 countries) in Fukui city, which makes up 1.6% of the total population of Fukui city that accounts for 270,756 people.

In case of the population by age the percentage of registered foreigners of age 20-50 is 70% of the total population as the number of Japanese people of age 15-64 (working-age population) decreases and the number of people of 65 years old and above (elderly population) increases.



In Fukui city 80% of all registered foreigners are people from Asian countries. The number of working foreign citizens has increased since the amendment of Immigration and Refugee Status Law (Immigration Control Act) in 1990 and the expansion of the on-the-job training system for foreigners. In addition, according to marriage statistics one out of 16 couples is an international marriage one. So with the increase in the number of marital partners we can see that the number of foreign citizens with permanent residence is growing too.

Main issues

(1) Provision of administrative services to foreign citizens

The information about administrative services and responsibilities applied to the citizens is lucidly explained in plain Japanese and other foreign languages.

(2) Multicultural understanding

Foreigners are not guests but neighbors, so it is extremely necessary to have the understanding of multi-culture in order to build a society secure for all citizens.

(3) Citizens mutual support

Both Japanese and foreign citizens need to establish mutual supporting relations with fifty-fifty relationship and participation in social life as the same community members.

² “Registered foreigners” are foreigners who stay in Japan for a certain period of time and are obliged to register according to the Alien Registration Act.

Basic idea of Multicultural Coexistence Plan

Vision

The city comfortable to live in for the Japanese is also comfortable for foreigners. The city comfortable for foreigners is comfortable for the Japanese too.

Fukui city boasts abundant nature as well as traditional history and culture. There are also local assets that Fukui people are proud of. In Fukui city each elementary school area has a community center that actively expands community programs. We take advantage of our city's regional characteristics and aim at the society of affluence and vitality in which anyone can be respected as an individual and multicultural people can participate in its realization.

The vision of this plan is

Supporting community - developed by the cooperation of people of different nationalities

Basic Principal

(1) Create the environment comfortable for foreign residents to live in too

Foreign residents living in Fukui city should be treated as citizens and should have rights and bear a burden of duties when receiving administrative services.

(2) Creating multicultural consciousness

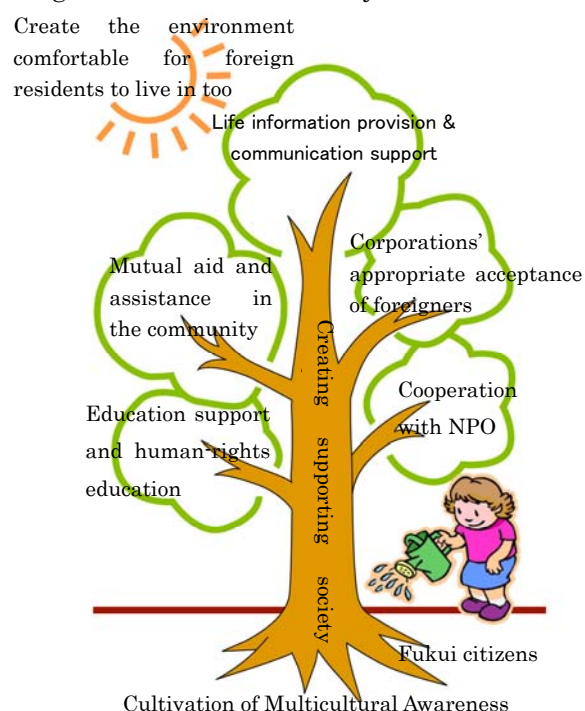
To promote a convivial society where various people and cultures coexist, the residents, community and government need to raise awareness of building a multi-cultural society.

(3) Creating a community in which each person can take part

The support of the entire society is needed to develop the mutual ability of Japanese and foreign citizens and to understand each other. That's why we need to establish mutual aid and assistance relations in the community.

Cooperation of each group

To promote a multicultural coexistence society, the citizens, community and government, from each standpoint, need to take their roles and to have mutual cooperation.



Structure of measures

