

Fukui City Multicultural Coexistence Plan (Version 4)

- Overview -

1. Objective

In response to the increasing number of foreign residents, Fukui City formulated “Fukui City Multicultural Coexistence Plan” in 2010 with the aim of creating a community where both Japanese and foreign residents can live with a peace of mind. Since then, we have been working on promoting a city where people from different ethnic background can co-exist.

Although the number of foreign residents once decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic begun in 2020, there has been no change in the Japanese government’s policy of promoting foreign labors due to the shortage of workforce throughout the nation. Therefore, it still is a critical issue to strengthen our efforts to realize a multicultural society.

Fukui City presents a Multicultural Coexistence Plan (Version 4) to address current social situations, work on newly emerged issues and further promote measures to realize a multicultural society.

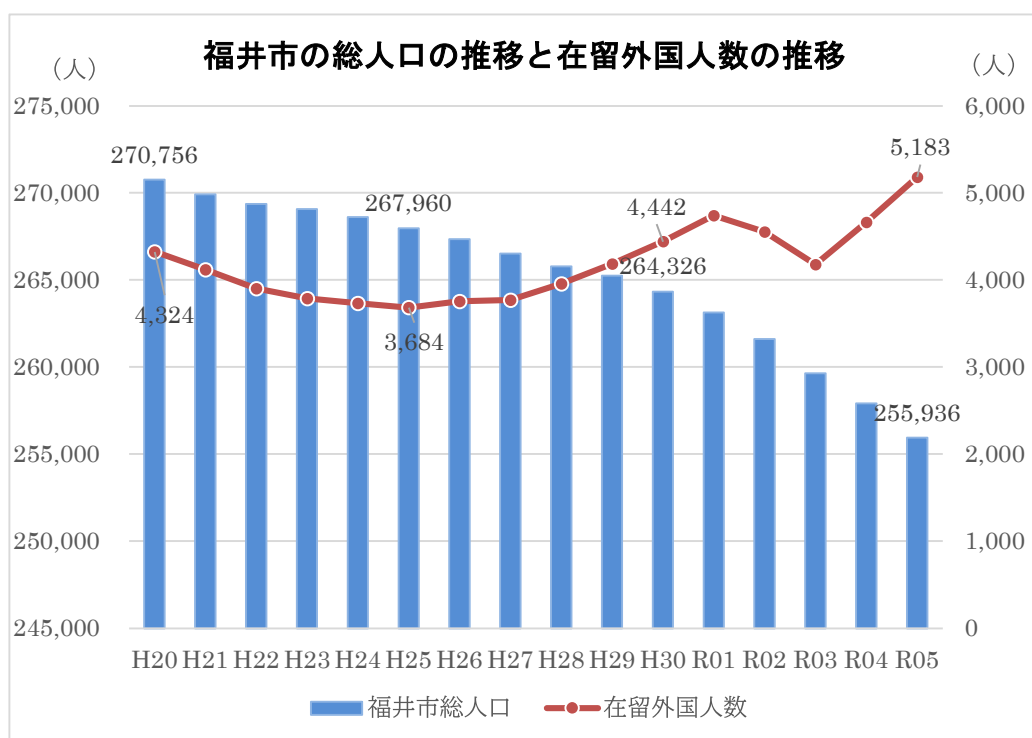
2. Target period

Fiscal year 2025 (Reiwa 7) to 2029 (Reiwa 11) 【5 years】

3. Current situation of Fukui City

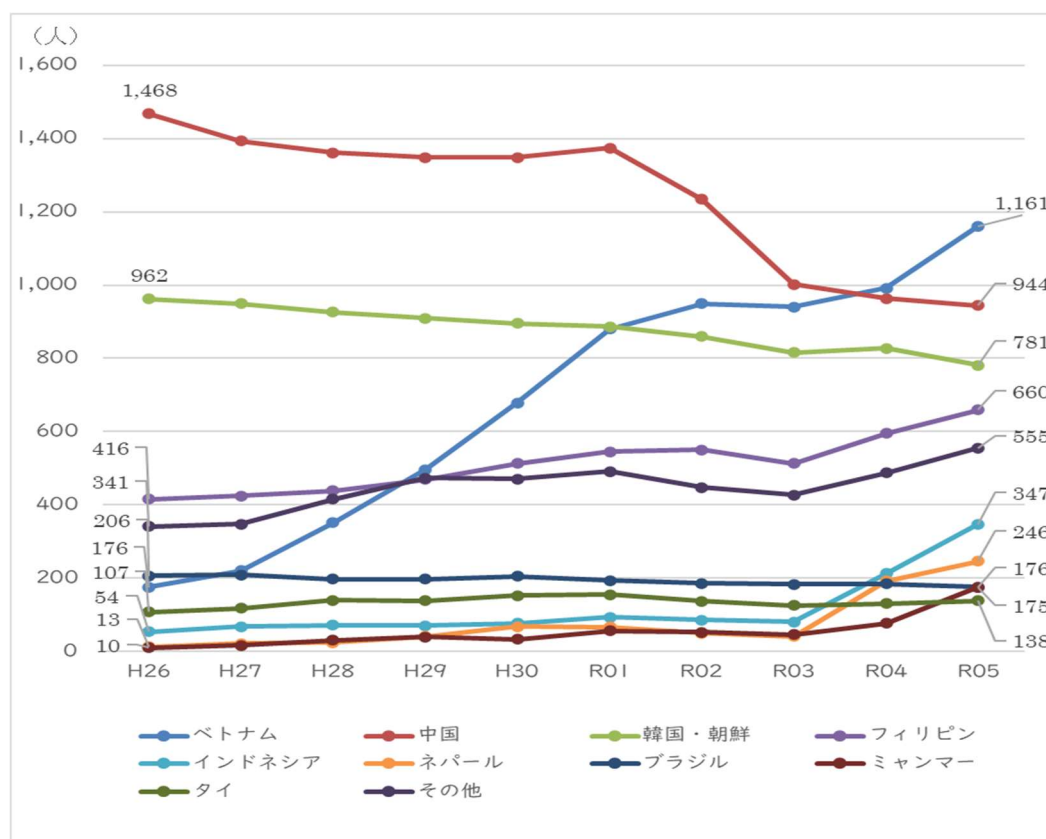
【Changes in the number of foreign residents in Fukui City】

As of the end of December 2023, the number of registered foreign residents in Fukui City reached 5,183, although the number declined during 2019 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is about 2.03% of the total population of 255,936 and is the highest percentage ever.



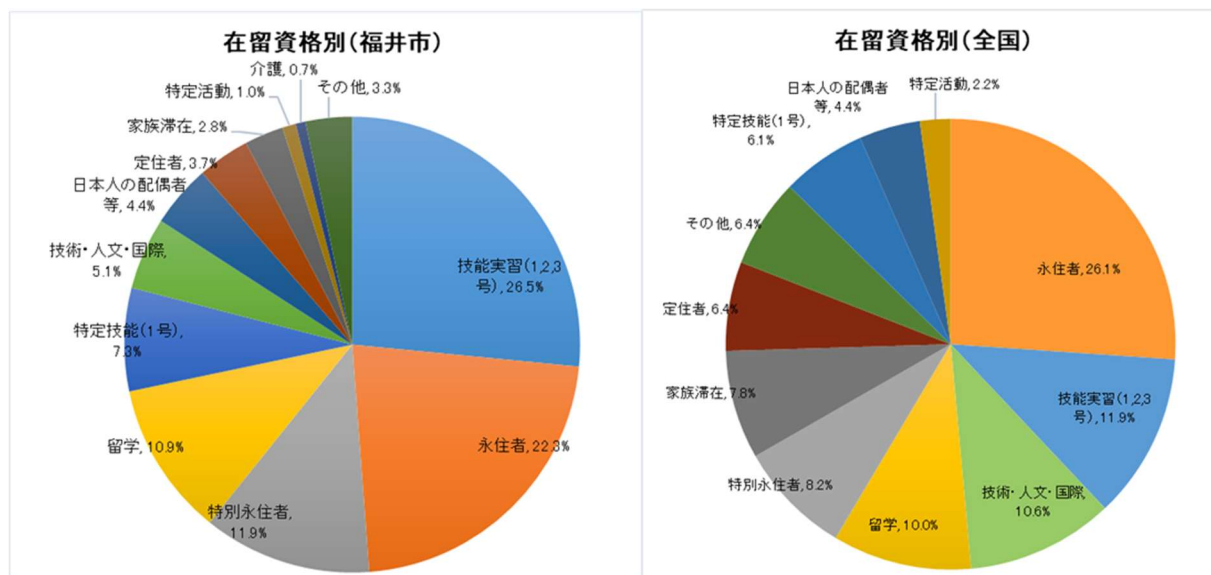
【Changes in the number of foreign residents by nationality/area】

The percentage of Chinese and Korean residents had been high until 2019; however, recently, the number of residents from Southeast Asian countries has been increasing: Vietnam (1,161), Philippines (660), Indonesia (347), Nepal (246), Myanmar/Burma (176).



【Breakdown by resident status】

Fukui City is characterized by having a high percentage of “Technical Interns,” compared to other cities. The percentage of the interns from China has drastically decreased from 2013 (H25) by 76.8%. It is probably because a wage gap between two countries became small with the economic growth of China.



On the other hand, “Technical interns” from Vietnam increased from 50 to 633, those from Indonesia increased from 34 to 241, and those from Southeast Asia have drastically increased. Japan is facing a severe labor shortage and trying to secure work force by accepting technical interns from these areas.

4. Survey Results

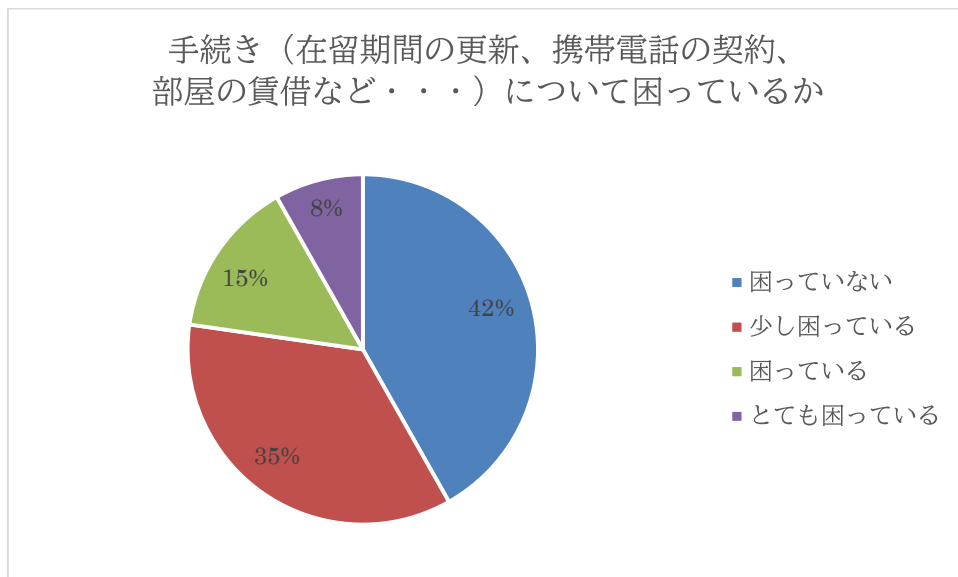
Foreign residents do not seem to have major problems in regular daily life (shopping, throwing garbage, transportation, etc.); however, they feel difficulties in adapting themselves to Japan or Japanese culture/system (learning Japanese, work, school, communication with Japanese people), in particular, they have difficulties in taking various procedures/paperwork and measures against a disaster.

The results show that they gather information from Internet, Japanese friends, at work or school, and from friends from their home country (from most to least), when they are in trouble. Only a few gathers information from their neighbors, Japanese TV, or newspaper. It suggests that foreign residents try to solve problems using their private network.

When gathering information on internet, they use Facebook, LINE, Instagram, X(Twitter), TikTok=WhatsApp, in order of most frequently viewed. Some also use Google or Yahoo.

From this, we can see them utilizing major search engines and social media.

When searching on Internet, they mainly use their native language, then Japanese and other language.



On a free comment section, some foreign residents wrote, “Learning Kanji is difficult,” “I cannot understand if someone speaks Japanese too fast,” “It is difficult to make Japanese friends,” and etc. They are experiencing communication problems with Japanese. Other comments such as “It is difficult to find halal food for Muslim people,” “The tax system is complicated,” “Communication at clinics/hospitals or police station is difficult,” show that they have problems regarding daily living or welfare. Also, some problems about public transportation can be seen from the comments such as “There are a few public transportations,” and “I don’t know how to take a bus or train.”

5. Structure

We have summarized issues to date and will strive to create a community where multiple cultures can co-exist.

