

Koshigaya City Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan

◆ Background and Purpose of the Plan

In 1989, the number of foreign national residents in Koshigaya City was 1,360 and it has increased to 7,006 in December 2019, exceeding 2% of the total population. Further increase in foreign residents is estimated in the future. In terms of status of residence, permanent residents make up the largest group implying a tendency towards long-term settlement among foreign residents. In addition, there are more Japanese nationals who have their linguistic and cultural backgrounds in other countries due to an increase in returnees from overseas, acquisitions of Japanese nationality and international marriages. Therefore, in Koshigaya where the diversity of nationalities exists, it becomes even more important to achieve a multicultural coexistence society in order to promote community development.

“Koshigaya City Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan” was made to aim for further development of Koshigaya as well as comprehensive and systematic conduct of projects for a multicultural coexistence community.

◆ Positioning of the Plan

This plan is a concretely and systematically refined sectoral plan of “the 4th Koshigaya City Comprehensive Promotion Plan” to promote one of its stated policies, “building a community where we respect each other and human rights”. While maintaining consistency with the concepts of “Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan” issued by Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication in 2006 and “Saitama Prefecture Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan”, this plan also refers to circumstances and issues unique to Koshigaya.

◆ Period of the Plan

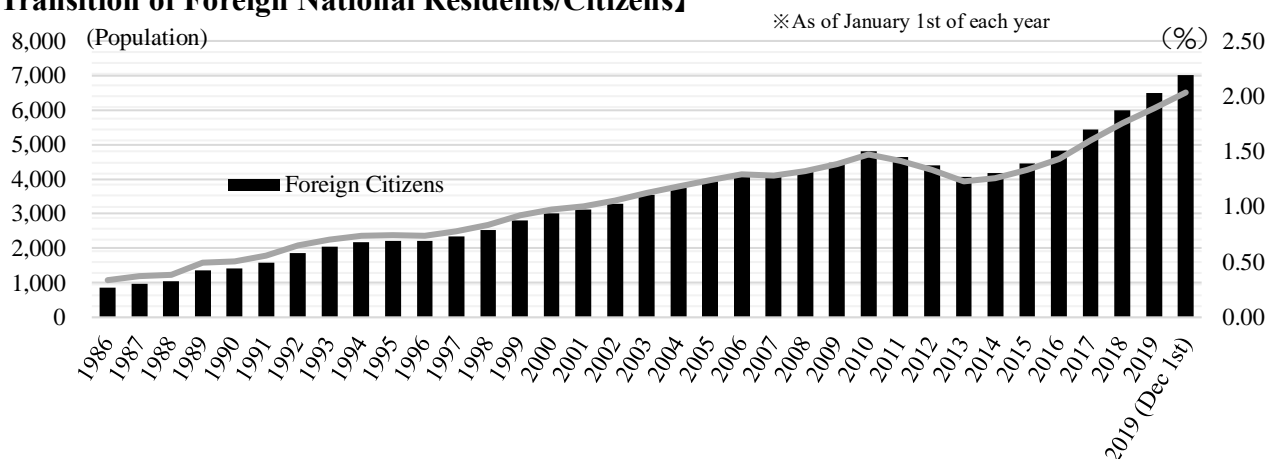
This plan covers the 6 year-period from 2020 to 2025. However, it will be revised, if necessary such as changes in socioeconomic environment and public awareness.

◆ Current Situation of Koshigaya City

(1) Number of Foreign Residents/Citizens

Although the number of foreign residents had temporarily decreased after Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, it has been increasing again since 2014. It is 7,006 on December 1st, 2019 accounting for 2.03% of the total population, marking the highest of all time.

【Transition of Foreign National Residents/Citizens】



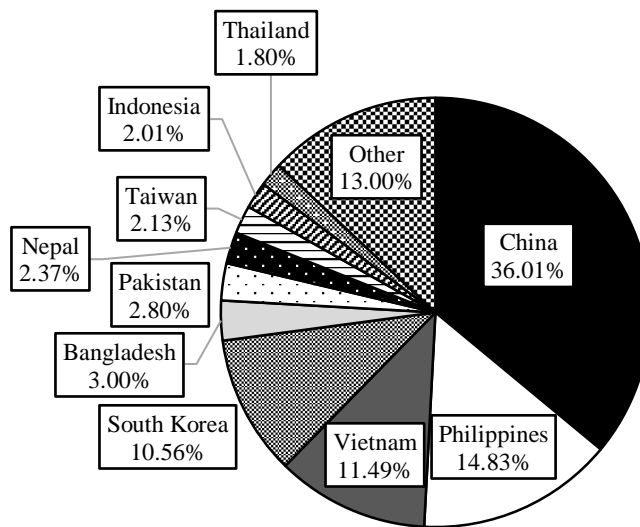
(2) Population by Nationality

In terms of nationality, China is the largest group with 2,523 people accounting for approximately 36% of all foreign residents as of December 1st, 2019. It is followed by Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea, and Bangladesh. While the number of foreign nationality ranges over 83 of countries and regions, the sum of the top 10 countries makes up more than 85% of all foreign residents.

(3) Population by Status of Residence

In terms of status of residence, “Permanent Resident”, “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident”, “Long Term Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident” make up 53.91% of all foreign residents as of December 1st, 2019. It suggests a trend towards long-term settlement by foreign residents. It is also worth mentioning that the number of both “Technical Intern Training” and “Student” has more than doubled compared to 5 years ago.

【Statistics by Nationality】



【Statistics by Status of Residence】

As of December 1st, 2014 As of December 1st, 2019	2014		2019	
	Foreign Citizens	Rate	Foreign Citizens	Rate
Total Population	4,425	100.00%	7,006	100.00%
Status of Residence based on identity	3,185	71.98%	3,777	53.91%
Permanent Resident	1,820	41.13%	2,535	36.18%
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	453	10.24%	436	6.22%
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	82	1.85%	137	1.96%
Long Term Resident	397	8.97%	437	6.24%
Special Permanent Resident	433	9.79%	232	3.31%
Status of Residence based on activities	1,240	28.02%	3,229	46.09%
Technical Intern Training	230	5.20%	758	10.82%
Dependent	286	6.46%	624	8.91%
Student	264	5.97%	600	8.56%
Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services	213	4.81%	551	7.86%
Designated Activities	67	1.51%	154	2.20%
Skilled Labor	85	1.92%	112	1.60%
Other	95	2.15%	430	6.14%

※"Technical Intern Training" is the total of "Individual-enterprise-type" 1 and 2, and "Supervising-organization-type" 1, 2 and 3.

※"Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" is the total of "Engineer", "Specialist in Humanities" and "International Services".

◆ Fundamental Philosophy of the Plan

Building a multicultural coexistence community where we respect each other's differences and cultivate diversity

Promoting multicultural coexistence adheres to residents' understanding different cultures. It is not a question of which is right or wrong, but only by understanding and respecting each other's different values and cultures, Japanese people and foreign residents can live together unprejudiced. On the other hand, we cannot deny the tendency for differences in each other's cultures or values to be determined negatively.

Therefore, to build a richer and vibrant community, we should recognize the differences in each other positively as something ordinary, acknowledge and respect each other's differences. Multicultural coexistence can be promoted by foreign and Japanese residents having an exchange and participating in various activities, with diversity recognition; thus our fundamental philosophy aims to create a sustainable communal society allowing all residents to maximally exert their ability.

◆ Fundamental Objectives of the Plan

- 1 Building a community connected through communication
- 2 Building a community where all residents can live safely and peacefully
- 3 Building an attractive community utilizing diversity
- 4 Building a community promoting international exchange

◆ Fundamental Indicators of the Plan

- 1 Number of volunteer interpreters and translators: 86 (end of fiscal 2018)
➡ 180 (end of fiscal 2025)
- 2 Number of participants in multicultural coexistence promotion projects:
111 (fiscal 2018) ➡ 200 (fiscal 2025)
- 3 Satisfactory level of participants in multicultural coexistence promotion projects:
No data ➡ More than 80% (fiscal 2025)

◆ System of Policy

Fundamental Objective 1 Building a community connected through communication

Problems can be solved if there is enough communication among residents; however, a lack of communication will sometimes cause a misunderstanding.

As the number of foreign residents increases, we aim to provide information effectively by offering livelihood information in multiple languages and promoting the usage of “simple Japanese”. In addition, for the purpose of realizing a community where everyone can respect diversity and foreign residents can live with peace of mind as members of the community regardless of different cultures and customs, we offer opportunities to study Japanese required for communication with Japanese residents and support a deeper understanding by foreign residents of Japanese society and culture. With those in mind, we aim to develop a community creating bonds between Japanese and foreign residents through communication.

Details of the Plan

(1) Multilingualization of information and enhancement of consultation system

- ① Utilization of interpretation and translation system in the City Office
- ② Multilingualization of City’s handouts and documents
- ③ Multilingualization of the City’s official website
- ④ Multilingualization of facility board maps
- ⑤ Multilingualization of information signboards in the City Office
- ⑥ Setting multilingual electronic bulletin boards
- ⑦ Issuance of foreign language versions of Koshigaya City Newspaper: “Koshigaya Messenger”
- ⑧ Issuance of foreign language versions of “Koshigaya Living Guidebook”
- ⑨ Issuance of foreign language versions of “Koshigaya Guide Map”
- ⑩ Setting multilingual information rack “Gaikokujin ⓘ Corner”
- ⑪ Spreading the use of simple Japanese

(2) Support for Japanese language learners and Japanese society

- ① Collaboration with Japanese language classes in Koshigaya
- ② Opening introductory workshops for Japanese language volunteers
- ③ Orientation for foreign residents about activities of daily living
- ④ Dispatch system of Japanese Language Teachers to elementary schools and junior high schools
- ⑤ Opening workshops for experiencing Japanese culture
- ⑥ Organizing teaching material for Japanese language education and guidance

Fundamental Objective 2

Building a community where all residents can live safely and peacefully

As the number of foreign residents and those who are seeking permanent settlement in Japan increases, we provide continued support throughout the entire life stages such as education, disaster, crime prevention, medical care, health and welfare, residency and work environment. And we aim to build a community where all residents can live safely and peacefully by solving their everyday worries and troubles caused due to language and cultural differences.

Details of the Plan



(1) Education

- ① Educational training for teaching children with foreign roots
- ② Dispatch system of Japanese Language Teachers to elementary schools and junior high schools (reposted)
- ③ Provision of information on the educational system in multiple languages
- ④ Subsidy for commute fees to foreign schools
- ⑤ Holding lectures on multicultural coexistence promotion by foreign residents
- ⑥ Organizing teaching material for Japanese language education and guidance (reposted)

(2) Prevention of disaster and crime

- ① Conducting disaster prevention drills for foreign residents
- ② Binding multilingual description sheet in evacuation shelter operation manual
- ③ Setting up of Disaster Multilingual Support Center
- ④ Multilingualization of “Evacuation Areas Map” and “Seismic Hazard Map”
- ⑤ Multilingualization of “Flood Hazard Map”
- ⑥ Installation of signboards indicating evacuation areas, evacuation shelters and evacuation routes
- ⑦ Encouragement for foreign residents to participate in disaster-prevention drills
- ⑧ Raising awareness toward crime prevention and traffic safety

(3) Medical care, health and welfare

- ① Providing information on medical institutions available in foreign languages
- ② Multilingualization of “Guide to National Health Insurance”
- ③ Multilingualization of information materials in a hospital
- ④ Multilingualization of information on health care
- ⑤ Multilingualization of child-rearing support service lists
- ⑥ Medical interpreting using electronic terminals

(4) Residency

- ① Providing information on housing
- ② Orientation for foreign residents about activities of daily living (reposted)
- ③ Encouragement to participate in local community activities
- ④ Multilingualization of information materials on rubbish collection rules
- ⑤ Multilingual response to 119 emergency calls
- ⑥ Emergency interpreting using electronic terminals

(5) Work environment

- ① Support for foreign workers
- ② Consultation and providing information on business management

Fundamental Objective 3

Building an attractive community utilizing diversity

In addition to conducting comprehensive support projects for foreign residents, it is often the case that if a situation changes, and by respecting each other's cultural differences, "support recipients" may become "support providers". In order to do so, we must raise public awareness of multicultural coexistence and work to build a lively community vitalized by diversity in which foreign residents can blend into their communities and participate in society, so that they can become contributors to the community along with Japanese residents.



Plan Details

(1) Social participation of foreign residents

- ① Holding lectures on multicultural coexistence promotion by foreign residents (reposted)
- ② Translating and interpreting city office related issues by foreign resident volunteers
- ③ Encouragement to participate in local community activities (reposted)
- ④ Empowerment of "multicultural coexistence promoters" and "volunteer interpreters and translators"
- ⑤ Support for Koshigaya International Festival

(2) Raising awareness toward multicultural coexistence society

- ① Holding lectures on multicultural coexistence promotion by foreign residents (reposted)
- ② Eliminating discrimination against foreign residents
- ③ Spreading the information about consultation windows on human rights for foreign residents
- ④ Education and enlightenment to eliminate hate speech
- ⑤ Workshop for experiencing Japanese culture (reposted)
- ⑥ Support for Koshigaya International Festival (reposted)

(3) Human resource development vitalized by diversity

- ① Holding lectures on multicultural coexistence promotion by foreign residents (reposted)
- ② Koshigaya City Junior High Youth Delegation program
- ③ Campbelltown Youth Delegation program
- ④ Conducting study sessions for volunteer interpreters and translators
- ⑤ Opening introductory workshops for Japanese language volunteers

(4) Building a network of key persons

- ① Construction of key person network

Fundamental Objective 4 Building a community promoting international exchange

Through exchange with foreign residents and friendship with the sister city, we foster an international consciousness among all citizens and support deeper international understanding. We promote to have a global exchange of residents and corporations regardless of language and cultural barriers, and aim for community development promoting international exchange utilizing diversity brought by foreign residents.

Details of the Plan

- (1) **International exchange in local communities**
 - ① Support for Koshigaya International Festival (reposted)
- (2) **International exchange with foreign countries**
 - ① Koshigaya City Junior High Youth Delegation program (reposted)
 - ② Campbelltown Youth Delegation program (reposted)

◆ System of Multicultural Coexistence Promotion

(1) **Cooperation and collaboration with related organizations**

For promoting projects and solving issues, it is important that residents, corporations and related organizations in the city undertake those tasks proactively.

Especially promoting the projects based on this plan requires cooperation and collaboration with various organizations such as Koshigaya International Association, volunteers, schools, colleges and corporations of each business field.

(2) **Promotion structure of the City**

In order to effectively promote the projects for building multicultural coexistence community, we cooperate with related departments/sections within the city office. And we try to grasp the actual state of foreign residents, extract their problems, and implement comprehensive and cross-sectional policies for multicultural coexistence.

(3) Roles of Koshigaya International Association and community activity groups

It sometimes requires flexible response and quick decision making to solve issues in the field of multicultural coexistence. In such cases, community activity groups such as Koshigaya International Association may respond quickly and solve effectively. Therefore, Koshigaya International Association is expected to play the role of supporting community activities as the “intermediate organization” between the city and community activity groups.

Koshigaya City has been supporting community activity groups such as local Japanese Language Classes. In cooperation with Koshigaya International Association, we continue to support such community activity groups and undertake each policy of this plan in cooperation with each organization.

(4) Multicultural coexistence and local community

Local neighborhood associations and community groups are facing highly diverse problems such as lower rate of residents joining and having fewer human resources due to the aging of residents. Therefore, if young foreign residents who are in their prime join their activities, they will be sure to play important roles in the community. Thus, we will actively inform the existence of foreign residents to neighborhood associations, and implement policies to encourage foreign residents to join it.