

Aiming for a Multicultural Society

Summary of the Yokkaichi Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan



In the Yokkaichi Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan, foreign residents are expected to play an important role in local communities due to the declining birthrate and aging population. We aim to realize a society where each and every citizen can demonstrate their individuality and abilities and live a healthy, fulfilling life by fostering a sense of multicultural coexistence among residents and companies, supporting communication with foreign residents, and promoting the construction of comfortable living environments for foreign residents.

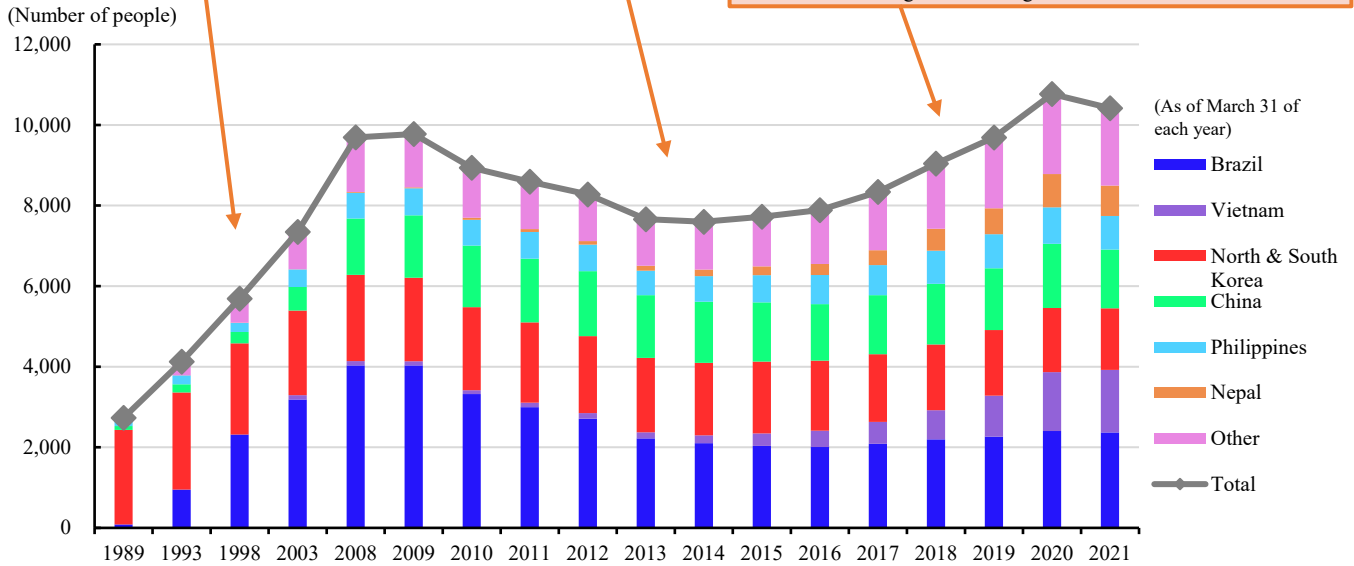
Yokkaichi

Changes in the number of foreign residents

The revision of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act in 1990 granted second- and third-generation individuals with Japanese ancestry and their families the residence status with no restrictions on employment. The number of foreign nationals entering Japan for the purpose of employment from Brazil and other South American countries increased.

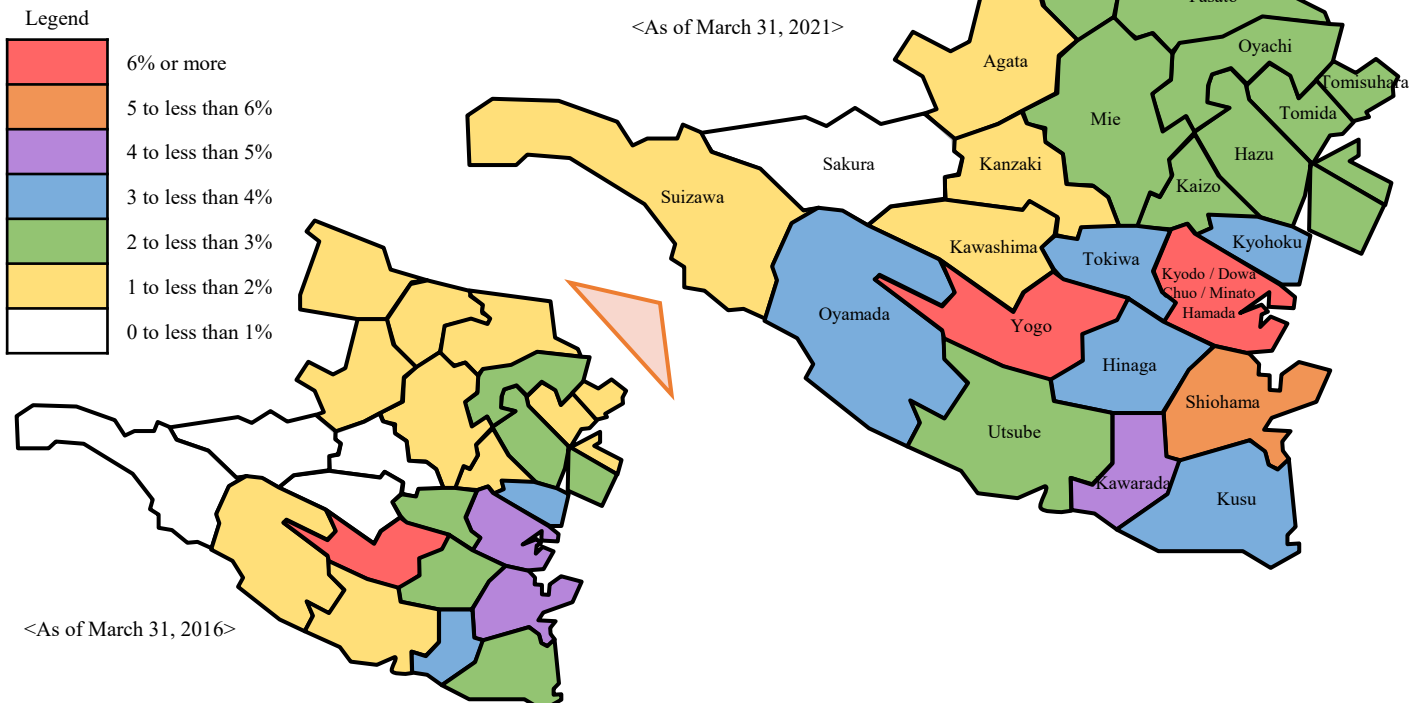
Due to the impacts following the global financial crisis of 2008 and the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the number of foreign residents declined significantly from their peak.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of foreign residents from Vietnam, mainly technical interns, and Nepal, mainly international students. The number of foreign residents is once again increasing.



Distribution of foreign residents by area (percentage of population comprised by foreign residents)

More than 15% of the city's foreign residents, or about 1,600 people, live in the Sasagawa district within greater Yogo. However, when looking by district, the percentage of the population comprised by foreign residents increased in all districts when compared to 2016, indicating that the areas in which foreign residents live have become more decentralized.



Yokkaichi Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan

Basic Principle: To realize a society in which all people can live together and support each other as residents of Yokkaichi by accepting and respecting each other and utilizing differences in nationality, ethnicity, and culture as a strength.

I. Multicultural Community Development

We will promote the development of awareness of multicultural coexistence and work to develop communities in which foreign residents participate together with Japanese residents.

- (1) Development of awareness for multicultural coexistence
 - ☆ Work to develop awareness among residents of respect for human rights among residents
 - ☆ Respect cultural diversity and promote an understanding of coexistence
 - ☆ Create face-to-face relationships among residents
- (2) Participate in community development together
 - ☆ Discover and train human resources to promote multicultural coexistence
 - ☆ Promote the development of environments in which foreign residents can become independent and play an active role as members of their local communities
 - ☆ Create a system to incorporate the opinions of foreign residents in city government
- (3) Creating new local appeal by utilizing diversity
 - ☆ Create new local appeal by utilizing of diversity

II. Facilitating Smooth Communication

For foreign residents, we provide information on governmental and other services necessary for daily life, provide lifestyle counseling, promote understanding of Japanese society and culture, and support Japanese language study.

- (1) Information is always available, and asking questions is easy (Information provided and a consultation system in place that uses easy Japanese and offers multilingual support)
 - ☆ Ensure the reliable provision of information on governmental services and other essential services
 - ☆ Make Interpretation and translation services available at administrative and consultation counters
 - ☆ Provide consultation services for foreign residents
 - ☆ Utilize technologies such as ICT and AI
- (2) Learn about Japan; listen, speak, and write Japanese (Promotion of Japanese language learning and an understanding of Japanese society and culture)
 - ☆ Raise awareness of Japanese language learning and provide opportunities for foreign residents to learn Japanese
 - ☆ Promote understanding of Japanese society and culture among foreign residents
 - ☆ Deepen mutual understanding and exchange between Japanese and foreign residents through study of the Japanese language, etc.

III. Development of Environments in Which It Is Easy to Live Together

We will work to raise awareness of disaster prevention in addition to raising awareness of child care, education, labor, medical care, healthcare, insurance, pension, welfare, and housing systems, as well as provide smooth governmental services, etc.

- (1) For the children's future (parenting and education)
 - ☆ Support for children in infancy
 - ☆ Support aimed at school attendance, etc.
 - ☆ Support for the study of Japanese and other subjects at school as well as career development
 - ☆ Support for after-school learning and spaces for students
 - ☆ Consideration for children from different religious and cultural backgrounds
- (2) For working with peace of mind (Employment and labor)
 - ☆ Support the workplace environments of foreign residents
 - ☆ Encourage international students to find work in the community
- (3) For living with peace of mind (Medical care, healthcare, insurance, pension, welfare, housing, etc.)
 - ☆ Provide information on various systems related to daily life in easy Japanese and multiple languages
 - ☆ Take appropriate measures and use procedures based on the nature of the consultation at consultation counters, etc.
 - ☆ Utilize technologies such as ICT and AI
- (4) In case of emergencies (Disaster prevention, crime prevention, community safety, measures against infectious diseases, etc.)
 - ☆ Engage foreign residents in disaster prevention, crime prevention, community safety, measures against infectious diseases, etc.

IV. Establishing a System for Promoting Coexistence

In order to promote multicultural coexistence, we will improve the systems in this city and promote comprehensive efforts. In addition, we will work with relevant organizations such as the Council for Cities with Large Populations of Foreign Nationals to encourage the improvement of systems nationwide.

- (1) Establishing a system for promoting coexistence
 - ☆ Development of systems and promotion of comprehensive efforts in the city
 - ☆ Encourage the national government and other entities to improve systems
- (2) Development of a base for multicultural coexistence
 - ☆ Efforts at multicultural coexistence gatherings
 - ☆ Development of Multicultural Exchange Center Facilities

Yokkaichi Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Plan

Yokkaichi City Hall website
<https://www.city.yokkaichi.lg.jp/www/contents/1490616597743/index.html>



Establishment of action targets

In promoting efforts for multicultural coexistence, we have set targets for Basic Pillars I–III.

I. Multicultural community development

Item	Reference value	Target value
Percentage of respondents who “Understand well” or “Understand a little” about the term and concept of multicultural coexistence in the Resident Survey (for Japanese residents)	28.7%	50.0%
	FY 2020 Resident Awareness Survey	FY 2025 Resident Awareness Survey
Percentage of people who respond that they participate in local events such as festivals, cleanup activities, and disaster drills (those who respond that they “Participate” or “Participate occasionally”) in the Resident Survey (for foreign residents)	50.4%	60.0%
	FY 2020 Resident Awareness Survey	FY 2025 Resident Awareness Survey

II. Facilitating Smooth Communication

Item	Reference value	Target value
Percentage of businesses that provide support for foreign employees learning Japanese	32.3%	40.0%
	FY 2020 Mie Prefecture Japanese Language Education Survey	FY 2025 Survey <Survey methods TBD>

III. Development of Environments in Which it is Easy to Live Together

Item	Reference value	Target value
Percentage of people who responded to the Resident Survey (for foreign residents) that they wish to continue living in Yokkaichi in the future	76.4%	80.0%
	FY 2020 Resident Awareness Survey	FY 2025 Resident Awareness Survey

To realize multicultural coexistence

Residents play a central role in multicultural coexistence. Residents living in the community communicating with and understanding each other is the first step toward realizing a multicultural society.

At the same time, the city (administration) will implement various projects and support toward the realization of a multicultural society based on the Basic Principles and the four Basic Pillars (see the previous page).

Furthermore, in order to promote multicultural coexistence, it is necessary for various entities, such as community associations, various volunteer groups and NPOs, and companies that employ foreign residents to actively coordinate, collaborate, and exchange opinions with the government and various related organizations.

A diverse group of people bringing their ideas and knowledge together and cooperating with each other will lead to the creation of a multicultural society.



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