

Kani City Promotion Plan for Multicultural Coexistence

FY 2016 ~ FY 2019

“KANI CITY : A CITY OF MULTICULTURAL UNITY, MADE BY ALL AND FOR ALL”



Multicultural Coexistence

“Where persons of different nationalities and ethnic groups recognize and accept their cultural differences to coexist and establish equal relationships as members of their regional society.”

(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC): “Workshop Report on Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence,” March 2006)



“Residents with foreign roots”

In Kani City, in addition to foreign residents, there are also naturalized citizens, children from international marriages, returnees and people who are acquiring Japanese nationality with different cultural backgrounds living here. “Residents with foreign roots”, which include these people with diverse cultural backgrounds, will be the subject of measures in the Kani Promotion Plan for Multicultural Coexistence.

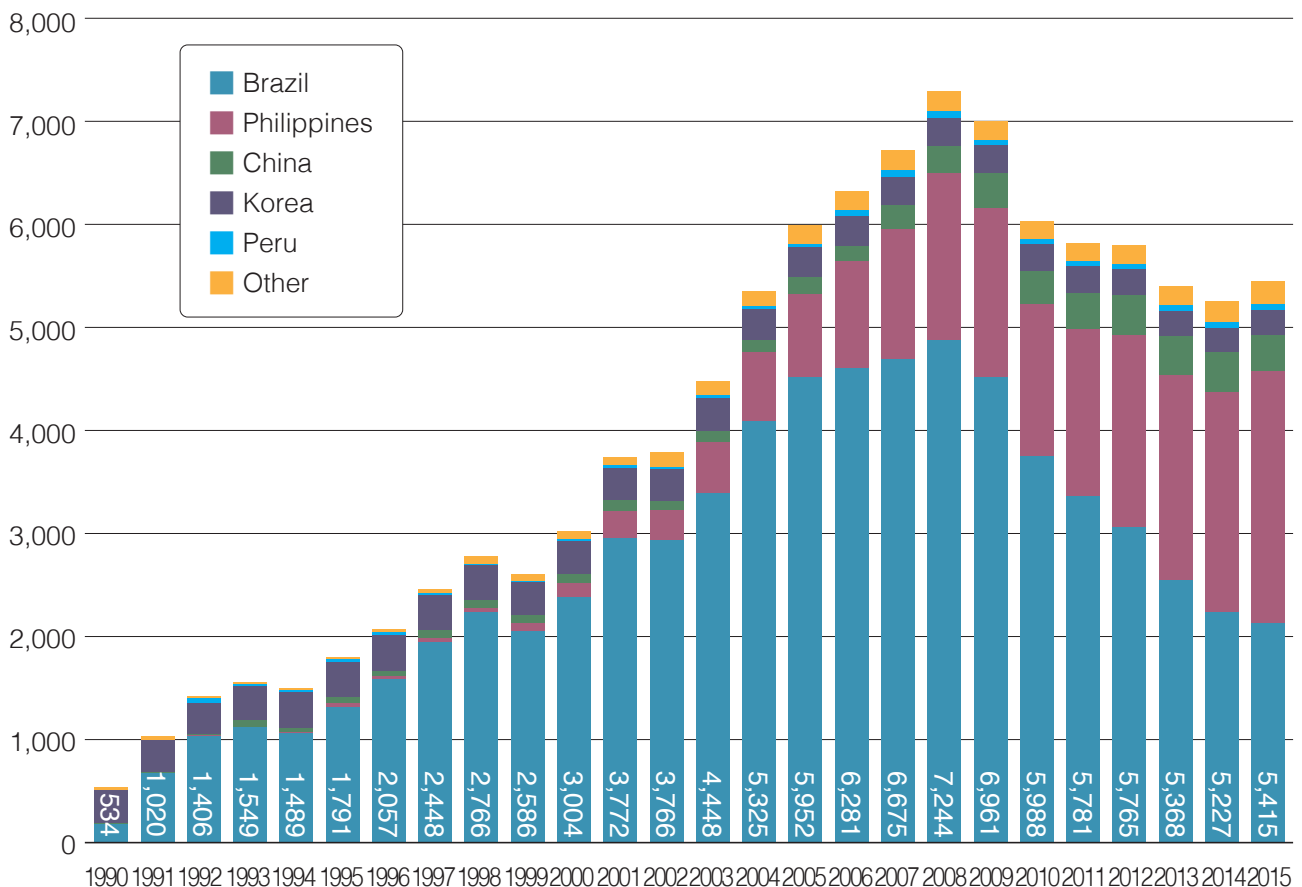


Policy Points

As more and more “residents with foreign roots” are permanently settling in Japan, there is a growing awareness of both Japanese and “residents with foreign roots” as being equal residents living together in their respective communities. Based on such awareness, it is vital to promote the development of cities of multicultural coexistence in which both residents live together in harmony by mutually accepting their cultural differences and providing support for each other.

Promotion of multicultural coexistence will result in residents of various cultures and values participating in a multitude of regional activities, as well as the deepening of new independent residential interactions and alliances which will ultimately lead to the development of a comfortable and appealing way of life for all residents.

This plan is intended as a successor for the previous plan which expired in fiscal year 2015 and to promote efforts for the realization of a multicultural society.



Changes in Registered Foreign Resident Population (as of April 1st for each year)



Issues Directed at Internationalization

Kani City's activities for internationalization became definitive after the December 2000 institution of Kani City Outlines for Internationalization Policies with the increase and settlement of “residents with foreign roots”.

Since the formulation of Kani Promotion Plan for Multicultural Coexistence in 2011, regional internationalization from the standpoint of harmonious multicultural existence where, regardless of nationality, residents recognize and respect their cultural differences while simultaneously living together as mutual members of their regional communities which they themselves will develop is being implemented.

In the future, it will be necessary to aim at building communities where “residents with foreign roots” settling in the area can take part in social planning as local residents.



Multicultural Center Frevia

Multicultural Center Frevia, founded in April 2008, aims to promote exchange with residents regardless of nationality, to deepen mutual understanding about cultural differences and customs, and to contribute to the formation of a community where people with diverse cultures may live together. Since its foundation, with the Kani International Exchange Association as its administrator, it has been providing daily life and international information, holding Japanese study support classes, giving various administrative consultation services, and providing opportunities for exchanges with local residents. In addition, regardless of nationality, many residents have been utilizing the Frevia Cafe which was built in 2012 within the establishment.

The word “Frevia” was loosely derived from the English words “friendship” and “civilization” (culture) which represent the idea that if people intermingle amiably and friendly, there will be a gradual deepening of understanding of others’ culture.





Basic Concepts

1. Basic philosophy

“Kani City : A City of Multicultural Unity, Made By All and For All

This endeavor involves a process where all community residents of varying cultures and customs, regardless of differences such as nationality and ethnicity, mutually respect their diverse backgrounds, as they function as participating members of society in developing a city where all its residents can live together in peace with love and visions for their regional community.

2.Focal policy points

I Coexistence with language

It is essential to acquire language skills and grasp correct information necessary for daily life, in order to adapt to Japanese society and live among others in comfort and peace. Thus, promotional activities will be carried out to expand upon opportunities for study of Japanese and one's native language, and to provide information in various languages.

II Coexistence in child education

Improvements in educational environments and support for school attendance will be promoted for total and comfortable access by all to fundamental education, so that children can grow up healthy in Japanese society with confidence and pride, and can someday be active in the pursuit of their hopes and dreams not only in Japan but also in the societies of their native countries.

III Coexistence in daily life

Promotion will be carried out for maintenance and improvement of a comfortable living environment with careful consideration of mutual cultures and living practices, to be able to support each other and live stable, anxiety-free lives as equal occupants of one's regional community.

IV Coexistence in regional communities

Regional development will be promoted in which residents will regard and respect each other's human rights and deepen mutual interaction and connections as they actively participate as members of their regional community, and will be able to make use of their knowledge and abilities as partners in city development.

3. Basic policies

I Coexistence with language

1 Support for language educational studies

Increases will be made in opportunities for Japanese and native language studies and improvements will be made in systems for Japanese education, to enable “residents with foreign roots” to acquire necessary skills for living independent lives in the regional community.

2 Provision of multi-language information

Multilingualization will be promoted for information necessary for “residents with foreign roots” in their daily lives in the regional community, and methods for information distribution will be improved to enable accurate conveyance of correct information.

II Coexistence in child education

1 Improvements in education environment

Improvements will be promoted for systems of acceptance of “children/students with foreign roots” by public elementary and junior high schools, in order to guarantee educational opportunities for foreign children.

2 Promotion of support for school attendance

Regional promotion will be carried out for supporting “children/students with foreign roots” by raising interest regarding educational issues throughout the regional community.

III Coexistence in daily life

1 Enhancement of consultation system

Promotion activities will be carried out for improvement of consultation office services and for coordination with related agencies, in order to respond to various issues and life-related consultation issues arising in the lives of “residents with foreign roots” in the regional community.

2 Enhancement of living infrastructure

Promotion will be carried out for improvement of living and working environments necessary for ensuring a stable living infrastructure for “residents with foreign roots”.

3 Enhancement of social infrastructure

An environment will be created which will allow everyone smooth access to medical, health and welfare services which are indispensable for healthy and comfortable living.

4 Enhancement of disaster prevention systems

Promotion will be carried out for enhancement in regional community and “residents with foreign roots” awareness of disaster prevention, as well as for maintenance and improvement of systems for enabling appropriate and rapid response and support during times of disaster.

IV Coexistence in regional communities

1 Development of regional multicultural coexistence

Awareness building will be promoted in regards to multicultural coexistence, which will involve all residents living together while deepening their mutual understanding of differences in their cultures and values, as well as mutually recognizing and respecting each other’s human rights.

2 Participation in city development

“Residents with foreign roots” will be encouraged to participate as vital community partners in their regions and society, and a system will be created and promoted for allowing the opinions to be reflected in city development issues.



Specific Policies

I-1

Support for Japanese and native language education

(1) Expanding opportunities for Japanese and native language education

Efforts will be made to increase Japanese language education opportunities, to allow “residents with foreign roots” to acquire Japanese ability and communication skills necessary for independent life in their community.

A native language education to the young generation will be conducted, and development of global human resources will be promoted.

1. Implementation of Japanese classes at Kani City Multicultural Center
2. Support in Japanese classes in the community and in companies hiring foreigners
3. Implementation of mother tongue education in the region
4. Information dissemination regarding Japanese classes

(2) Enhancement of Japanese and native language support system

In order to increase opportunities for language education in the community, efforts will be made in the training of both Japanese and native language support teachers and Japanese language study support volunteers.

5. Training of Japanese and native language teachers
6. Creation of system for access to Japanese and native language teachers
7. Increase of Japanese language teaching materials at Kani City Multicultural Center, libraries, etc.



I-2

Providing information in various languages

(1) Promotion of multilingual translation of information

Efforts will be made to accommodate needs by providing information in a variety of languages and easily understood Japanese, in order to ensure that information essential for community life such as administrative services and rules, and obligations such as tax payment regulations is understood.

8. Enforce standards for multi-lingual translation of administrative documents, etc.
9. Increases in multilingual supply of information
10. Increases in multilingualization of pamphlets/other publications, billboards/ advertising displays, etc.
11. Content enhancement of foreign language editions of life guide books
12. Enhancement/increases in foreign language editions of guide maps

(2) Improvement of mediums for information conveyance

Efforts will be made in the provision and proliferation of multi-lingual information, through the use of various forms of media (Internet, magazines, etc.), public facilities used by large numbers of “residents with foreign roots”, etc.

13. Increases in provision of information in coordination with community associations, companies, shops, foreign resident community groups, etc.

14. Increases in cross-links with Kani City and multicultural center homepages, prefecture/government multi-language information websites, etc.
15. Promotion of registration for foreign language newsletter email services and facebook page.
16. Increases in public multi-language information sections/areas, etc.
17. Increased information provision for people registering for residence in Japan



II-1 Improvement of education environment

(1) Enhancement of learning environment

Efforts will be made in understanding and resolving circumstances of children not enrolled or not attending school, as well as in improving both learning environments and educational systems.

18. Improving projects for ensuring learning opportunities for foreign children/students

19. Fact-finding/support for children/students not attending school

20. Improving educational abilities of foreign class teachers, etc.

(2) Enhancement of educational counseling

Seek to establish accessible consultation system, guidance/support guidelines and educational systems for children with developmental disabilities and other adversities, as well as cultivating family education.

21. Multilingual counseling

22. Learning assistance for foreign children with developmental difficulties, etc.



II-2 Promotion of support for school attendance

(1) Enhancement of school attendance support system

Provide support for school attendance by “children with foreign roots”, through deeper ties and mutual coordination among guardians (parents), schools, international community organizations, and other related groups/individuals

23. School attendance support for children of preschool age

24. Improve support for children/students of school age

25. Improve school attendance support for children exceeding regular school age

26. Providing information on school attendance subsidy system

(2) Raising awareness regarding school education

Ensure the guarantee of compulsory school-aged children's right to learn, provision of detailed information regarding school education, and expand interests of parents in their children's education.

27. Providing information regarding school education in foreign languages

28. Coordination with companies, etc. employing foreign workers

29. Implementation of academic guidance sessions



III-1 Improvement of consultation systems

(1) Improvement of consultation counters

Efforts will be made to enhance foreign consultation services allowing multilingual response to various daily-life issues and concerns encountered by foreign residents in the community.

30. Provision of consultation services

(2) Coordination with related agencies and groups

Seek to establish a system enabling responses to various consultation cases associated with prefectural government and related agencies and groups.

31. Providing information on consultation counters offering multilingual support

32. Consultations in foreign languages

33. Creating networks with support groups and other related agencies



III-2 Improvement of infrastructure

(1) Improvement of living environment

Efforts will be made to create more opportunities and venues for “residents with foreign roots” to know about living practices and rules necessary for regional/community life.

34. Cultivate daily-life rules

35. Enhancing housing consultation systems & provision of housing information in foreign languages

(2) Improvement of working environment

Efforts will be made to provide foreign residents with employment support and overall awareness of improvements in work environments for foreign employees.

36. Raise awareness for local companies regarding improvements in working environment/conditions for foreign employees

37. Providing labor-related consultation services and information

38. Providing multilingual information regarding support for foreign entrepreneurs

39. Support for acquisition/improvement of Japanese language skills necessary for employment



III-3 Improvement of social infrastructure

(1) Information dissemination regarding social security system

Efforts will be made in providing multilingual information regarding services including medical, health and welfare, as well in the promotion of smooth access to such services.

Efforts will also be made to promote foreign resident registration for social security, as well as to raise awareness regarding payment of insurance fees and taxes

40. Promotion of awareness and enrollment in the social security system

41. Providing of information regarding the social welfare system

42. Providing of information regarding maternal and child health, vaccinations, and health screenings

43. Improvement of environments allowing easy access to health screenings and health-related consultations

44. Providing information regarding medical facilities capable of multilingual assistance

(2) Enhancement of child-rearing support

Efforts will be made in providing multilingual information and awareness regarding child-raising.

- 45. Multilingual assistance at nurseries, etc.
- 46. Improvement of maternal and child health service projects in various languages
- 47. Raising guardian's (parent's) awareness regarding assurance policies for school attendance of "children with foreign roots"



III-4 Improvement of disaster prevention systems

(1) Raising awareness regarding disaster prevention

Efforts will be made to enhance "residents with foreign roots" awareness regarding disaster prevention, and to promote foreign citizen participation in disaster prevention drills.

- 48. Providing multilingual information regarding disaster prevention
- 49. Conducting disaster prevention drills which allow for participation of "residents with foreign roots"
- 50. Raising disaster prevention awareness in coordination with companies, etc.

**(2) Promotion of disaster countermeasures**

To enable effective response to the needs of foreign victims in the event of disaster, efforts will be made in improving disaster support systems and provision of information on disaster conditions and disaster support in various languages and simplified Japanese.

- 51. Providing disaster-related information in various languages
- 52. Establishing support systems for disasters
- 53. Improvement of Kani City Multicultural Center's systems and functions as a multilingual support center in the event of disaster
- 54. Coordination with related agencies and groups in the event of a disaster
- 55. Promotion of mutual aid relationship-building for disasters

**(2) Promotion of community safety measures**

Through coordination with related agencies/organizations, etc. to provide multilingual information and awareness enhancement, efforts will be made to raise foreign resident awareness regarding community safety aspects such as crime prevention, traffic safety and consumer affairs.

- 56. Increased foreign resident awareness regarding crime prevention, traffic safety and consumer life

IV-1 Regional development for multicultural coexistence

(1) Awareness-building regarding respect for human rights

Efforts will be made in the development of a city based on mutual respect for human rights, through improvement of human rights awareness activities and multilingual consultation systems.

- 57. Raising awareness regarding respect for human rights
- 58. Multilingual consultation services regarding human rights

(2) Awareness-building regarding multicultural coexistence

Seek to promote mutual understanding between residents of different cultures, through increasing understanding and awareness regarding multicultural coexistence and opportunities to exhibit various languages and foreign cultures.

59. Raising multicultural coexistence awareness
60. Providing opportunities and venues for cross-cultural experience learning
61. Congregation of lectures, events, etc. regarding multicultural coexistence
62. Use of Kani City Multicultural Center as a base of operations for multicultural activities



IV-2 Participation in city/community development

(1) Promotion of participation in regional society

Efforts will be made to create an environment in which “residents with foreign roots” can participate with ease in regional society/city development as members of their community

63. Promotion of foreign resident participation in community association activities, etc.
64. Promotion of participation by foreign community groups in social activities
65. Promotion of foreign resident participation in city development





Program Promotion

In order to attain a multicultural coexistent society, Kani City will comprehensively promote measures and policies for multicultural coexistence through mutual coordination and cooperation, which will involve administration, city residents, various organizations, groups, companies and businesses carrying out their roles as supporters of multicultural life.

1. Division of roles

- (1) Kani City will improve promotion systems to attain a multicultural society, through efforts to comprehend issues and administrative needs regarding regional internationalization, while also working to further enhance administrative services and expand multicultural coexistence measures. As part of this effort, the Kani City Board of Education will strive to guarantee that foreign children of compulsory schooling age have opportunities to receive education in the community.
- (2) Public elementary and junior high schools will work to improve acceptance and educational systems, to allow “children with foreign roots” to receive education with ease.
- (3) Nurseries and kindergartens will carry out childcare and education to help “children with foreign roots” develop skills for adapting to communal living in Japan through acquiring basic Japanese language skills and learning Japanese living customs.
- (4) City residents will all be required to live together and participate in their community as equal members of society through understanding the significance of harmonious multicultural living, regardless of nationality or culture.
- (5) NPO Kani City International Exchange Association will be expected to carry out the core functions of strengthening ties with regions and administration in order to promote regional internationalization.
- (6) NPOs, volunteer groups, etc. will make full use of their respective human resources and know-how to perform activities to connect foreign and Japanese residents, as well as in providing support for “residents with foreign roots” facing various issues not covered by the municipal administration.
- (7) Regional community groups, including neighborhood associations, will accept foreign residents as equal residents of the community/region and promote mutual understanding between all regional residents, while also encouraging foreign resident participation in regional activities.
- (8) Foreign community groups will encourage “residents with foreign roots” to actively participate in regional activities, while also making coordinated efforts with the regional community and administration to solve various foreign resident-related issues.
- (9) Companies and businesses will make efforts to improve working environments for foreign workers and promote foreign resident adaptation to Japanese society, while also striving to solve a number of regional issues which include promotion of job development of foreign residents in coordination with administration, community, and related agencies, and will contribute to multicultural community development.
- (10) National and prefectural government will be required to comprehensively promote reform for a variety of systems, etc. to allow for smooth and definite provision of various administrative services to foreign residents, and will also be expected to promote a number of measures for foreign resident support.

2. Promotional Systems

(1) Improvement of city administration systems

Verification of promotion plans progress between related divisions within the city administration and sharing of issues or assessment of affairs regarding measures and policies will be conducted to effectively promote multicultural coexistence measures described in the plan.

(2) Establishment of Committee for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence

A Committee for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence will be established through the participation of interested residents. To definitively promote the promotion program, the committee will conduct verification and reviews of the Program every fiscal year, and will also propose program reviews, etc. in response to social condition changes, new issues, etc.

(3) Network building for multicultural living

Kani City Multicultural Center, acting as a primary base due to its central role in international exchange and the formation of a multicultural society, will encourage coordination and networking between residents and groups, etc., and will cooperate with all related parties to promote development of a multicultural coexistent society.

(4) Reflection of opinions of “residents with foreign roots”

Foreign resident forums and questionnaire surveys will be conducted regularly to gather the opinions of “residents with foreign roots”. This information regarding foreign residents’ administration-related needs and regional issues will be shared amongst the related parties, and the opinions obtained will be reflected in the city government policies.



(5) Coordination with municipalities with high concentration of foreign residents

Exchanges of information, issues etc. will be carried out in coordination with other municipalities regarding various increasingly prevalent problems related to regional multicultural coexistence.