

Matsue City Multicultural Relations Improvement Plan

◆Overview

A multicultural socioeconomic is rapidly developing in Japan. Increases in foreign residents from many countries, the creation of the "specified skilled worker" visa, movements towards a diverse, inclusive society, increasing digitalization, and an increase in the severity of natural disasters are all part of this.

At the end of 2019, there were 1,618 foreign residents in Matsue, an increase of 40% from 5 years ago.

In response to the above situation, we have developed this plan as a set of guiding principles for systematically actualizing a multicultural society that respects all groups of people in all facets of life. This is what it means to be a city that is open to the world.

Our Vision

Matsue: A Place of Respect, Fulfillment, and Opportunity for All

~Building an "Open Minded" Community~

Across his lifetime, Lafcadio Hearn embraced a variety of people and places, possessing a spirit of "open mindedness" that took joy in diversity. Continuing in the spirit of Hearn and the old residents of Matsue that embraced him, the diverse residents of Matsue will together build a truly multicultural city. We will build a place where people respect and acknowledge differences in nationality, race, and values, and where everyone is able to lead fulfilling lives and thrive in their pursuits.

Strategies for Success

Overcome Language Barriers

(Communication Support)

Strategy 1: Provide Essential Information in Multiple Languages

(1) Make signs in public facilities and essential city information multilingual

- Make government and other public buildings' signs multilingual

- Provide essential information from the government in multiple languages

(2) Improve Ease of Communication

- Training city employees in using easy Japanese

- Maintaining systems that provide interpretation

- Translation and interpretation using modern information technologies

Strategy 2: Make Studying Japanese More Accessible

(3) Create more opportunities to study Japanese

- Increase the number of Japanese classrooms

- Support for non-Japanese children and students learning Japanese

- Provide information about where people can study Japanese

(4) Collaboration between Japanese classrooms

- Sharing information and materials among a Japanese Classroom Association.

Collaborating Organizations

1. Matsue city hall departments

2. The national government and relevant organizations

3. Residents, local groups, and business people

Fundamental Objectives

I Overcome Language Barriers

II Provide Safety and Peace of Mind for All

III Respect Diversity, Help Everyone Thrive

Provide Safety and Peace of Mind for All

(General Support for Life in Japan)

Strategy 3: Provide General Information and Support in Multiple Languages

(5) Make information useful in everyday life available in multiple languages

- Post useful information on Matsue City's website and on social media

- Create and distribute guides to life in Matsue in multiple languages

- Provide useful information in collaboration with companies, universities, and other local groups

(6) Improve language support at the city hall

- Establish a dedicated consultation counter for foreign residents

- Coordination with other relevant consultation counters

Strategy 4: Prepare for Natural Disasters and Maintain Existing Disaster Support Systems

(7) Maintain existing emergency information broadcast systems

- Post weather and natural disaster warnings on social media upon natural disaster outbreaks

- Post useful information on social media upon natural disaster outbreaks and have support at evacuation centers in multiple languages

- Spread information about coronavirus symptoms

- Support in multiple languages for emergency calls to the fire department

(8) Increase awareness of disaster prevention, crime prevention, and traffic safety

- Disaster prevention training for foreign residents

- Promote foreign resident participation in local disaster prevention training

- Improve understanding of crime prevention traffic safety

Strategy 5: Guarantee Educational Support and Provide Childraising, Health, Welfare, and Medical Services Support

(9) Guarantee Educational Support

- School support for non-Japanese children/students

- Support learning Japanese for non-Japanese children/students

- Study, education, and career support for non-Japanese children/students

- Promote education on multiculturalism and understanding foreign cultures at public schools

(10) Provide childraising and welfare support services

- Provide information on childraising and welfare services that exist

- Livelihood support from related organizations

(11) Provide health insurance and medical services

- Provide information on Japan's health insurance system

- Support multiple languages at medical facilities

- Provide information on which hospitals have support for multiple languages

- Provide information and consultations on infectious diseases

Active Period:

04/2021 - 03/2026 (5 years)

Respect Diversity, Help Everyone Thrive

(Building a Happy, Multicultural Community)

Strategy 6: Improve Understanding of Foreign Cultures and Multiculturalism

(12) Improve understanding of foreign cultures and multiculturalism

- Hold lectures and events that increase international awareness

- Train human resources that work on improving multicultural relations and international exchange

(13) Respect the human rights of foreign residents

- Make efforts towards eliminating unjust and discriminatory speech and actions

Strategy 7: Build a Social Environment that is Easy to Participate In

(14) Encourage local cultural exchange

- Encourage foreign participation in neighborhood councils and PTA's

- Encourage foreign participation in local activities, traditional events, and other social occasions

- Create exchange opportunities between foreign and local communities

- Hold classes and lectures by foreign residents on topics or skills they are knowledgeable about

- Collaborations between foreign and local communities

- Provide opportunities to learn more about culture and customs in Japan and Matsue

(15) Revitalize communities through employment and entrepreneurial support

- Support foreign residents in employment and entrepreneurship

- Support companies that hire foreign residents

- Maintain existing consultation systems for foreign laborers

- Make workplaces friendly towards foreign workers