



The 4th
Shizuoka Prefecture
Basic Plan for the Promotion
of Intercultural Cohesion



Intercultural
SHIZUOKA



Shizuoka Prefecture

Purpose

As the foreign resident population grows and their long-term settlement continues in Shizuoka Prefecture, we have strengthened the foundation of intercultural cohesion for the realization of a society where all residents of the prefecture live together with mutual respect. This plan aims to develop an intercultural and cohesive society where anyone can live comfortably and contribute to society, taking into account the changes in the social landscape and the achievements and challenges of the initiatives up to the 3rd plan, while incorporating the well-being perspective.

Position

This plan is positioned as a field-specific plan under Shizuoka Prefecture's top-level plan, the *Shizuoka Prefecture Strategic Plan (2025–2028)*. In realizing a society where all residents can feel a sense of well-being, promotion of intercultural cohesion is essential. We will pursue a cross-departmental effort and act in coordination with other related policies towards this.

Operating Period

Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2028 (3 years)

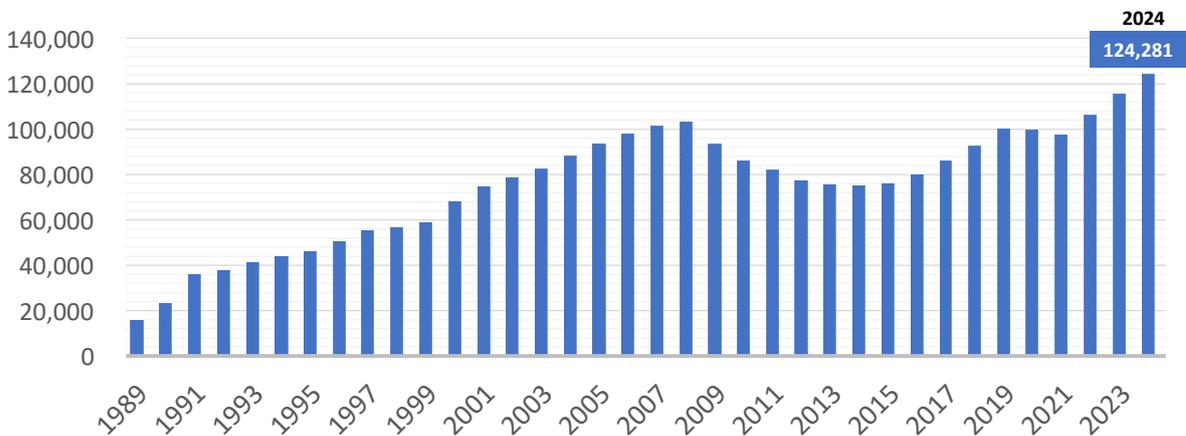
Background and Target Direction

Foreign Residents in the Prefecture (as of end of December 2024)

In contrast with the declining total Japanese population in Shizuoka, the foreign resident population has reached a record high of 124,281 foreign residents as of the end of 2024.

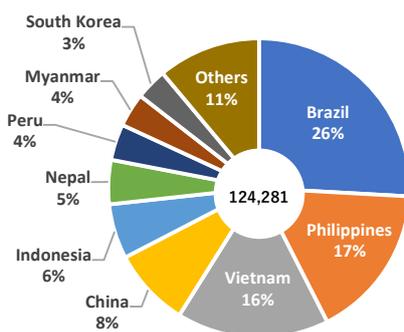
Foreign Resident Population Trend

Ministry of Justice "Statistics on foreign residents" as of End of December 2024

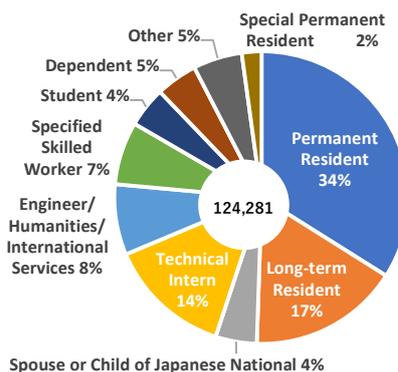


※ Taiwan was counted with China until 2011. Korea (Joseon) and South Korea are counted separately from 2015.

Breakdown by Nationality



Breakdown by Visa Type



Ministry of Justice "Statistics on foreign residents" as of End of December 2024

There was a rapid increase in foreign resident population in Shizuoka Prefecture following the revision of the Immigration Control Act in 1990, primarily of Japanese descendants from Brazil and other South American countries in the western region of the prefecture.

In recent years, foreign nationals from countries like Vietnam and Nepal that come for employment purposes has been increasing.

■ Achievements and Challenges of Shizuoka Prefecture's Initiatives

The "Shizuoka Prefecture Basic Plan for the Promotion of Intercultural Cohesion" was first formulated in 2011, and has been reviewed periodically leading up to the 3rd plan (FY 2022-2025). With the continuing long-term settlement and diversification of foreign residents, various policies were developed on the 3rd plan such as the promotion of Yasashii Nihongo (simple and considerate Japanese) and the expansion of local Japanese language classes.

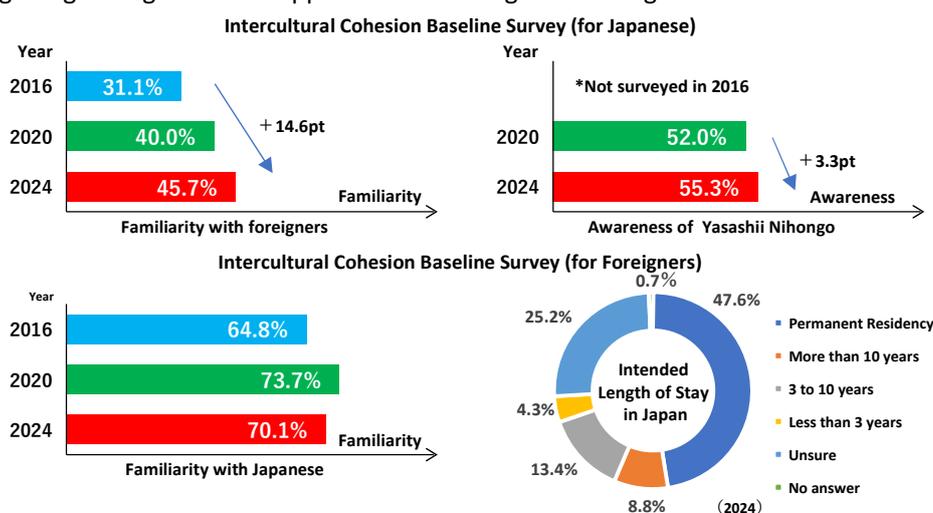
The 4th plan was formulated through comprehensive evaluation of the achievements and challenges of the 3rd plan based on the results of the Shizuoka Prefecture Intercultural Cohesion Baseline Survey, and the perspective of well-being* .

*Well-being: state of physical, mental, and social fulfilment. The Shizuoka Prefecture Strategic Plan (2025-2028) incorporates enhancing the well-being of prefectural residents as a common guiding principle in all aspects of prefectural administration.

Achievements and Challenges based on the Shizuoka Prefecture Intercultural Cohesion Baseline Survey

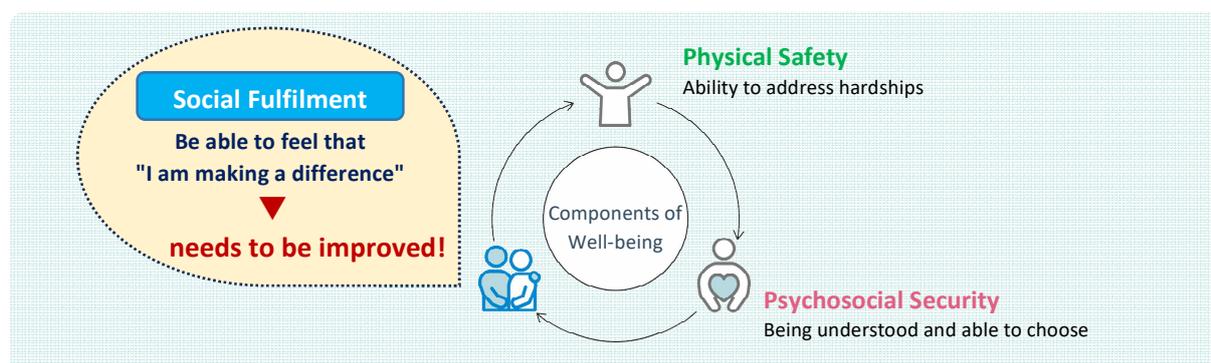
According to the baseline survey, the psychological distance felt by Japanese people with foreigners has improved 14.6 points from 2016 to 2024, and their understanding of intercultural cohesion has been progressing steadily. The awareness of Yasashii Nihongo has improved 3.3 points compared to 2020, showing positive results of the prefecture's policies. On the other hand, compared to the percentage of foreigners who feel a sense of familiarity toward Japanese people, Japanese people's favorable attitude toward foreigners remains low, and promoting mutual understanding and interaction remains a challenge.

Furthermore, approximately half of foreign residents intend to stay for at least 10 years or permanently highlighting the growing need for support services designed for long-term settlement.



Achievements and Challenges from the Perspective of Well-being

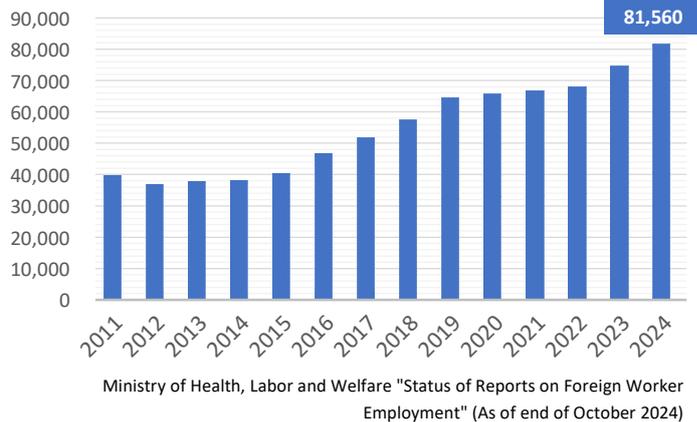
In terms of well-being, past initiatives have pushed for foundational improvements such as in physical safety—addressing daily hardships—and psychosocial security—support in understanding of language and systems. In the 4th plan, we will further strengthen efforts to foster social fulfilment—that is, creating an environment where foreign residents participate in supporting the community, and can feel their contribution. A shift is needed to position foreigners not only as recipients of support but as partners in community development.



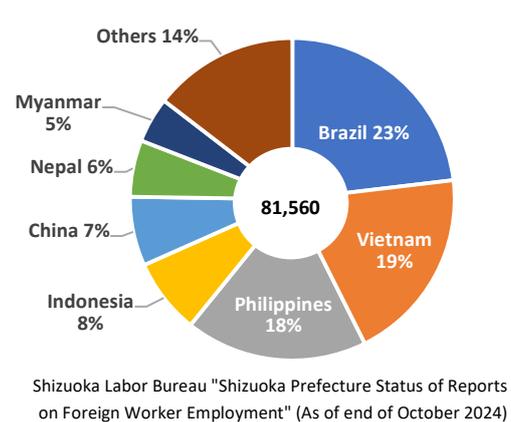
■ Shizuoka Prefecture's Target Direction

Shizuoka is facing a major turning point marked by rapid population decline and an aging society. In order to maintain the prefecture's economy and regional vitality, and pass it on to the next generation, working together with foreign nationals is essential. Over 120 thousand foreign nationals already live in the prefecture, and more than 80 thousand of them are employed in various fields such as the manufacturing, caregiving, and service industries. Foreign residents are supporting the prefecture's economy and communities, and their presence is becoming indispensable.

■ Trend of Foreign Worker Employment in the Prefecture



■ Breakdown by Nationality of Foreign Workers



On the other hand, as the number of foreign residents increases, concerns have been raised by prefectural residents about deteriorating local public safety and living environments, as well as feelings of unfairness regarding various systems applied to foreign residents. Furthermore, we are also seeing situations where anxiety is amplified by the spread of inaccurate information and misleading statements through social media and other channels. It is important to carefully address the anxieties and concerns of residents and work to prevent social division.

Maintaining social order is of utmost importance in harmoniously living together with foreigners.

Acts that violate laws or rules, or the improper use of systems, must be addressed fairly and strictly regardless of nationality, while respecting human rights and in cooperation with relevant authorities.

Whether Japanese or foreign nationals, ensuring everyone follows the rules and can live with peace of mind requires thorough implementation of appropriate systems. This forms the foundation for trust and social cohesion.

The prefecture unequivocally rejects any words or actions based on overt discrimination against foreigners or exclusionary and xenophobic attitudes that target specific nationalities, religions, or other groups. We aim to realize an interculturally cohesive society that has both public order and social harmony.

The prefecture requests that the national government provide accurate and easy-to-understand information regarding its fundamental approach and systems for foreign resident policies, including the manner of accepting foreign nationals. Concurrently, we will enhance consultation services and information provision to help foreign residents deepen their understanding of Japan's systems, customs, and rules of daily life.

Shizuoka Prefecture will further advance interculturally cohesive initiatives emphasizing the principle of **interculturalism**—foreign nationals and Japanese people living in the region have mutual understanding and create new values together .

Foreign residents are

PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Turning diversity into strength and realizing a society where anyone can live with peace of mind is Shizuoka Prefecture's target direction.

■ Vision

Most Interculturally Cohesive Prefecture in Japan

～Shizuoka Prefecture: Mutual Understanding, Valuing Diversity as a Strength, Opportunity for All～

In addition to improving the well-being of prefectural residents, this plan will adopt "interculturalism" as a fundamental concept that permeates the entire plan.



Intercultural
SHIZUOKA

Shizuoka Prefecture Intercultural Cohesion
Logo that imagines "Interculturalism"

Interculturalism

Interculturalism is an approach that positively views foreign residents as partners in community development, and transforms the cultural diversity they bring into vitality and growth for the entire prefecture.

■ Framework of Initiatives

We will realize our vision built on these 3 strategic pillars.

Pillar 1: Foster Momentum in Realizing an Interculturally Cohesive Prefecture

- ◎ Advocate the principle of interculturalism
- ◎ Promote mutual understanding and interaction between foreign and Japanese residents

Highlight of this Strategic Pillar

Advocate the principle of interculturalism anew, and promote initiatives such as the Intercultural Month.

Pillar 2: Support the Empowerment of Foreign Residents

- ◎ Enhance Japanese language classes that build futures
- ◎ Assist participation of foreigners in work and the community
- ◎ Support the development of foreign residents' children

Highlight of this Strategic Pillar

Position Japanese language education as a means for foreign residents to thrive in Japanese society and build their futures.

Pillar 3: Enrichment of Safe and Comfortable Living

- ◎ Promote counseling and information dissemination fit for each life stage
- ◎ Advance disaster preparedness and crime prevention measures
- ◎ Communicate accurate and easy-to-understand information

Highlight of this Strategic Pillar

Deliver tailored information and more to individuals from infancy to old age through promotion of counseling and information dissemination fit for each life stage.

■ Overview of Framework of Initiatives

Goal	Strategy	Action
Pillar 1: Foster Momentum in Realizing an Interculturally Cohesive Prefecture	○ Advocate the principle of interculturalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance initiatives through the celebration of Intercultural Month Improve intercultural cohesion measures through membership to the ICC
	○ Promote mutual understanding and interaction between foreign and Japanese residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Yasashii Nihongo Conduct intercultural cohesion programs Create spaces for intercultural cohesion through local Japanese language classes
Pillar 2: Support the Empowerment of Foreign Residents	○ Enhance Japanese language classes that build futures *Specifics will be established in the Shizuoka Prefecture Japanese Language Education Promotion Basic Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local Japanese language classes Teach Japanese language to children with foreign roots Support Japanese language education of employees and foreign students
	○ Assist participation of foreigners in work and the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help practically develop foreigners who actively participate in the community Support performance in the workplace (diversity management, consultation desk) Raise awareness of Workers' Charter
	○ Support the development of foreign residents' children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote initiatives to prevent non-enrollment Support the career development of children with foreign roots
Pillar 3: Enrichment of Safe and Comfortable Living	○ Promote counseling and information dissemination fit for each life stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life stage-specific support from early childhood to seniorhood <p> Early Childhood Up to 5 years old Childhood 6-14 years old Youth 15-29 years old Adulthood 30-64 years old Seniorhood 65 years old and up </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrich multilingual counseling system Information dissemination in Yasashii Nihongo (easy and considerate Japanese)
	○ Advance disaster preparedness and crime prevention measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of crime prevention and traffic safety information Establishment of support system for foreigners during disaster
	○ Communicate accurate and easy-to-understand information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide accurate information regarding foreigners Make Japan's systems and social norms known



Early Childhood

Up to 5 years old

Childhood

6-14 years old

Youth

15-29 years old

Adulthood

30-64 years old

Seniorhood

65 years old and up

We will promote counseling and information dissemination in order for foreign residents of the prefecture to live a safe and comfortable life. Furthermore, in order to prevent foreign residents to go against the law or rules unintentionally, we will strengthen counseling support and provision of information regarding Japan's systems, customs, and social norms.

Multilingual consultation and information dissemination delivered by Shizuoka Assistance Center for Foreign Residents (CAMELLIA)*

*A one-stop consultation service providing multilingual information and counseling to ensure foreign residents can quickly access appropriate information and support services related to daily life.

Post-arrival Daily Life Orientation from Immigration Services Agency

- ◎Daily Life Orientation (Registration of residence, MyNumber system, health insurance and pension system, garbage disposal, local rules, etc.
- ◎Introduction of multilingual consultation desk and local Japanese classes

Moving Out/ Going Back to Home Country

- ◎Procedure for moving out, cancellation of utilities, withdrawal from pension system
- ◎Transferring schools, procedure for leaving Japan

Pregnancy and birth/ Childcare

- ◎Mother and child health
- ◎Childcare support, children's centers and workshop information
- ◎Childcare consultation desk

Schooling

- ◎Explanation of Japanese school system
- ◎Enrollment procedures, school fees, school lunch, etc.
- ◎Learning support, Japanese language support, and other necessary support
- ◎Irregular school level admission
- ◎Night school

Further Education/Job Hunting

- ◎Career consultation/support
- ◎Job hunting, internship
- ◎Certifications, obtaining a driver's license

Employment

- ◎Laws
- ◎Insurance/allowance, taxes
- ◎Practical training, Language training
- ◎Changing jobs

Retirement

- ◎Pension
- ◎Interaction with the community
- ◎Death, funeral ceremonies

Health and Welfare

- ◎Information about health and welfare
- ◎Community Support Center

Legal Matters and Traffic Safety

- ◎Marriage, divorce, custody
- ◎DV, abuse
- ◎Traffic safety & crime prevention
- ◎Overstaying, illegal employment prevention

Residence and Involvement in the Community

- ◎Rental contracts
- ◎Garbage disposal, local rules
- ◎Crime prevention and traffic safety information
- ◎Local organizations

Disaster Prevention and Reduction, Emergencies

- ◎Hazard map, evacuation areas
- ◎Evacuation information (Emergency level)
- ◎Disaster prevention tools in Yasashii Nihongo and other languages

Healthcare and Wellness

- ◎Healthcare institutions with interpreters, emergency numbers
- ◎Consultation process
- ◎Mental health
- ◎Information on infectious diseases and vaccination

Interaction and Participation

- ◎Intercultural cohesion and international exchange
- ◎Local Japanese language classes
- ◎Local events
- ◎Places for interaction and participation in the community

*Items written inside the green boxes are examples of supported counseling and information dissemination themes. These need to be implemented in coordination with local governments and related institutions.

Priority Initiatives

Improve Intercultural Cohesion Measures through Membership to the ICC

As we join the International Cities Programme (ICC), an international network of cities that shares the principle of interculturalism, we aim to further enhance our intercultural cohesion initiatives by incorporating outstanding insights from abroad.

Promote Local Japanese Language Classes

We will promote having community-based Japanese language classes, providing opportunities for all interested foreigners to acquire the Japanese language skills necessary for daily life. Furthermore, we will foster these classes as "places for intercultural cohesion" where local residents get involved, thereby promoting interaction among prefectural residents.

Promote Initiatives to Prevent Non-enrollment

To achieve zero non-enrollment among foreign children, we will support municipalities by conducting detailed surveys on enrollment status, providing guidance for enrollment, and conducting hearings and offering advice to municipalities.

Enrich Multilingual Counseling System

The Shizuoka Assistance Center for Foreign Residents "CAMELLIA" operates as a one-stop, multilingual resource for foreigners facing various life challenges, connecting individuals to the appropriate support services in collaboration with national and municipal governments.

Goals

	Strategic Pillar	Objective Name	Baseline (2024 Achievement)	Target (by 2028)
Desired Outcome	—	Percentage of Japanese people who answered they can use Yasashii Nihongo	31.4%	40%
〃	—	Number of foreign children targeted for school enrollment outreach	70 persons	35 persons
Desired Output	Pillar 1: Foster Momentum in Realizing an Interculturally Cohesive Prefecture	Number of prefectural residents who participated in Yasashii Nihongo/ Intercultural Cohesion programs	50 persons	250 persons (2024-2028 Total)
〃	Pillar 2: Support the Empowerment of Foreign Residents	Number of cities/ municipalities with no local Japanese language classes	10 cities/ municipalities	6 cities/ municipalities
〃	Pillar 3: Enrichment of Safe and Comfortable Living	Disaster-related information dissemination in Yasashii Nihongo	15	115 (2024-2028 Total)

Intercultural Cohesion Promotion Scheme

In order to steadily promote intercultural cohesion, it is essential that **all relevant stakeholders—including government bodies, local communities, businesses, and educational institutions—collaborate and work together, each fulfilling their respective roles.**

■ Promotion Scheme



We aim to build a platform where various stakeholders can participate and cooperate in the advancement of initiatives throughout the region.

While various stakeholders fulfill their respective roles, we will implement initiatives toward realizing an inclusive society where everyone can live with peace of mind.



Shizuoka Prefecture Basic Plan for the Promotion of Intercultural Cohesion

March 2026

Shizuoka Prefecture Strategic Planning Department Intercultural Affairs Division