



Yamaguchi Prefecture

Guidelines for Promoting Multicultural Coexistence

Towards the realization of a society where Japanese and non-Japanese residents living in Yamaguchi Prefecture can thrive together

December 2023



Outline

Purpose

The number of foreign residents living in Yamaguchi Prefecture (hereinafter referred to as “foreign residents”) is expected to continue to increase in the future, therefore, the idea of “basing regional development on principals of multicultural coexistence*” has become increasingly important.

In light of the declining population of Japan and the increase of globalization, it is more important than ever to promote acceptance of foreign laborers with international perspectives and specialized knowledge.

We have formulated the “Yamaguchi Prefecture Guidelines for Promoting Multicultural Coexistence” so Yamaguchi Prefecture, municipalities, and related organizations can work together to promote multicultural coexistence with the understanding and cooperation of all citizens of the prefecture.

*multicultural coexistence: people of different nationalities and ethnicities living together as members of the same community, recognizing each other’s cultural differences, and trying to build equal relationships with each other

Source: Report by the Council for the Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



International Students and Local Residents Participating in an Agricultural Experience(International Exchange Group “Hirokawa no Kaze-no-Kai”)

Protocol

These guidelines set forth the foundational ideas for “basing regional development on principals of multicultural coexistence” in Yamaguchi Prefecture and provide direction for creating measures to realize a truly multicultural society with the cooperation of municipalities and related organizations in the prefecture.

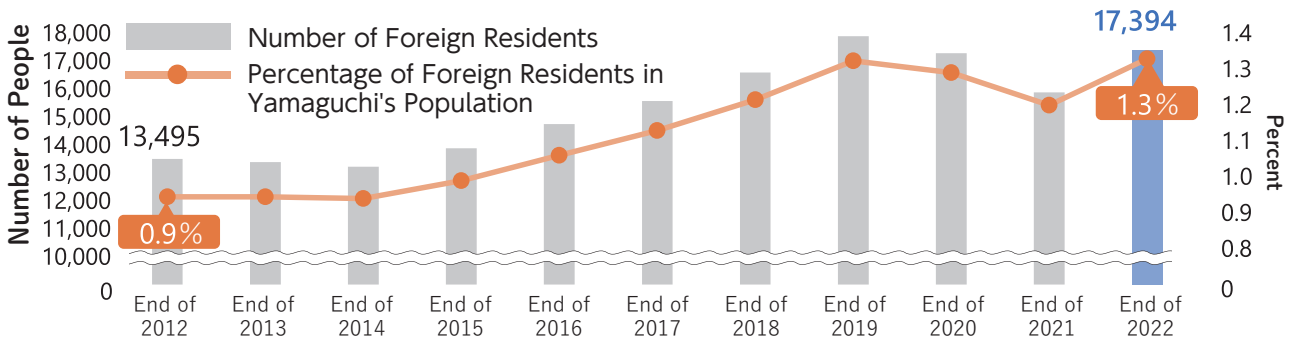
Period

For 4 years, from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2027

Current Situation & Challenges

Number of Foreign Residents in Yamaguchi Prefecture

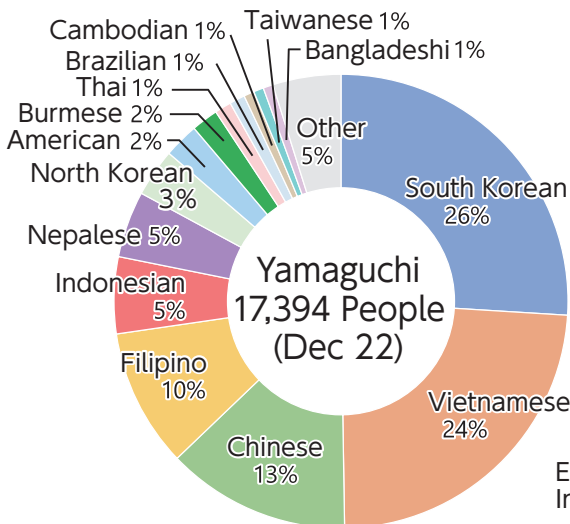
The number of foreign residents in Yamaguchi **has been increasing in recent years**. In the past ten years, the percentage of foreign residents has increased from 0.9% (December 2012) to 1.3% (December 2022).



Source: Created by Yamaguchi Prefecture using "Statistical Table of Foreign Resident Statistics" (Dec 2012 – Dec 2022), Ministry of Justice and "Yamaguchi Prefecture Population Movement Survey Results," Statistical Analysis Division, Yamaguchi Prefectural Government

By Nationality/Region

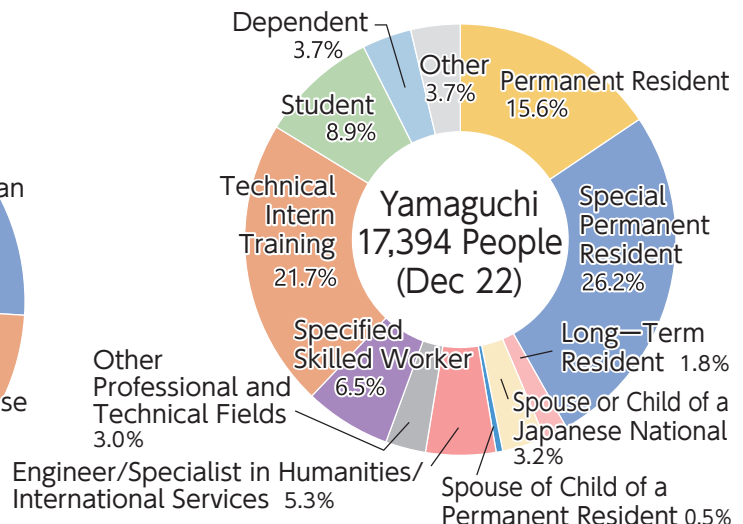
The most common nationalities/regionalities in Yamaguchi are South Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, and Nepalese. The total number of nationalities/regionalities increased from 83 ten years ago to 99 today, indicating the increasing multinationalism of Yamaguchi Prefecture.



Source: Created by Yamaguchi Prefecture using the "Statistical Table of Foreign Resident Statistics" (Dec 2022), Ministry of Justice

By Status of Residence

In Yamaguchi, there are many Special Permanent Residents, followed by Technical Intern Trainees and Permanent Residents. Permanent residents and those with statuses that allow for long-term stays (ex. Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services) are on the rise.



Source: Created by Yamaguchi Prefecture using the "Statistical Table of Foreign Resident Statistics" (Dec 2022), Ministry of Justice

Characteristics & Challenges

Many Technical Trainee

- The proportion of technical trainees is higher than the national level. (Yamaguchi Prefecture: 21.7%, Japan: 10.6%)
- In the future, it is expected that a large number of trainees will shift from technical trainees to specified skilled workers.

Few Professional/Technical Field* Workers

- The proportion of those in professional/technical fields is lower than the national level. (Yamaguchi Prefecture: 8.3%, Japan: 14.7%)
- Many of them plan to stay in Japan for a long period of time, so we must improve the conditions for welcoming them to Yamaguchi.

*Ex: Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services

Not Centrally Located

- Foreign residents are scattered throughout Yamaguchi, and the number of related organizations is small compared to our neighboring prefectures, which needs improving.
- It is very important for the prefecture, municipalities, and related organizations to cooperate with each other to meet the needs of foreign residents.

● Basic Concept

Vision

Yamaguchi Prefecture's vision of multicultural coexistence within the prefecture is based on the following basic principal.

For Japanese and foreign nationals to respect each other and work together as members of the community to create a Yamaguchi Prefecture where all residents can live successful and secure lives.

Strategies

To realize this vision, we have three basic strategies.

Strategy 1

Create Communities Where Smooth Communication is Possible

We will promote smooth communication, mutual respect, and understanding between Japanese and foreign residents of the prefecture to create a society where they can live together as members of the same communities.

Strategy 2

Create Communities Where Anyone Can Live a Successful and Secure Life

We will ensure that foreign residents do not have difficulties in various aspects of their lives, enhance the consultation and support system, and promote the creation of communities where everyone can continue to live in safety and security with a sense of affluence.

Strategy 3

Create Communities Where Japanese and Foreign Nationals Work Together

We will promote the creation of vibrant and diverse communities in which all residents of the prefecture, including foreign residents of various backgrounds, can participate in society, maximize their abilities, and play active roles as members of their local communities.

Promoting the Strategies

Key Areas Requiring Action

Create Communities Where Smooth Communication is Possible

1 Enhancement of Japanese Language Education Necessary for Daily Life

We will enhance opportunities for foreign residents to learn Japanese so that they will not have difficulties using it in various aspects of their daily lives. We will also enhance efforts so that local Japanese language classes will function as a base for deepening mutual understanding, respect, and support, enriching the lives of both Japanese and foreign residents.

- Provide opportunities to learn Japanese
- Create opportunities for exchange in Japanese language classes
- Promote the creation of a comprehensive system for Japanese language education



Local Japanese Class (Nagato Nihongo Club)

2 Spreading Awareness of “Simple Japanese”

“Simple Japanese” refers to easy-to-understand Japanese that takes into consideration the needs of others, such as rephrasing difficult words. We will promote and educate as many Japanese people as possible about “simple Japanese” in order to facilitate communication.

- Spread awareness of “simple Japanese”
- Transition to simple Japanese for information provided by the government and related organizations



Example of “Simple Japanese”

3 Raising Awareness of Multicultural Coexistence and Promoting Mutual Understanding

We will promote the creation of opportunities for mutual exchange to deepen the understanding of multicultural coexistence, eliminate prejudice and discrimination, accept diversity, and foster awareness of multiculturalism coexistence among all residents of the prefecture.

- Raise awareness of multicultural coexistence
- Enhance opportunities to deepen understanding of multicultural coexistence



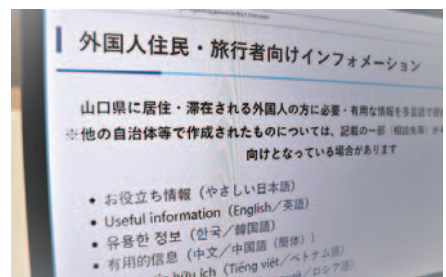
Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Leader Training Course (Yamaguchi City)

Create Communities Where Anyone Can Live a Successful and Secure Life

4 Providing Multilingual Administrative Information

As the number of foreign residents and multinationalism continues to rise, we will create an environment in which administrative information (information necessary for daily life) is provided in multiple languages so that all foreign residents can utilize administrative services.

- Enhance effective statements regarding multilingualization of information
- Promote the multilingualization of administrative offices
- Implement orientation programs regarding daily life practices and procedures



Information for Foreign National Residents (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

5 Improving the Consultation System

We will establish and operate a centralized consultation service where foreign residents and those involved with them can consult with each other in various languages regarding problems in their daily lives, and work to create a community where foreign residents can live with peace of mind.

- Operate and disseminate information about consultation centers
- Reinforce cooperation among related organizations



Yamaguchi Multilingual Consultation Center (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

6 Improving the Work Environment for Foreign Residents

In order for foreign residents to want to continue living in Yamaguchi Prefecture, it is important to create an environment where they can work with peace of mind. For this reason, we will provide the necessary support to companies that accept foreign residents, as well as improve the consultation system for foreign workers to create a comfortable working environment.

- Support for companies employing foreign residents
- Expand employment consultation system
- Enhance support for learning Japanese for employment



Foreign National Employment Advisor (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

7 Enhancement of Disaster Response and Prevention Efforts

In order to ensure that foreign residents can take appropriate actions (such as evacuation) in the event of an emergency, we will disseminate disaster prevention knowledge before disaster strikes, communicate disaster response information, and provide smooth evacuation guidance in times of emergency.

- Disseminate disaster prevention knowledge before disaster strikes
- Reliably communicate disaster information during emergencies
- Smoothly communicate during evacuation



Foreign Language Copies of Emergency Handbook (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

8 Enhancement of Educational Opportunities for Children of Foreign Nationals

With the increase in the number of foreign residents, the number of children who need Japanese language instruction is increasing. We will improve the educational environment for foreign children and students, and provide support for their admission to and advancement through the education system.

- Support improving education
- Support admission to and advancement through the education system
- Promote education based on the concept of multicultural coexistence



Online Lesson
©YuichiMori/YSC Global School

9 Improvement of Support for Daily Life (Medical Treatment, Preventative Care, Childcare, Welfare, Housing)

In order for foreign residents to live with peace of mind, we will implement multilingualization and other measures so that they can utilize administrative services (such as medical treatment, preventative care, childcare, welfare, and housing).

- Create an environment where people can receive medical and health services with peace of mind
- Create an environment where people can raise children with peace of mind and receive welfare support
- Support foreign residents procuring and moving into housing



Hospital English Conversation Cards (Yamaguchi University)

Create Communities Where Japanese and Foreign Nationals Work Together

10 Promotion of Foreign Nationals Establishing Themselves at Companies in Yamaguchi

We will promote the acceptance and retention of foreign national laborers so Yamaguchi Prefecture can be the prefecture of choice for foreign nationals in professional/technical fields (such as: Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services) and specified skills, which are essential for maintaining and further developing the vitality of the local economy.

- Develop a system for accepting foreign national laborers
- Support the retention of foreign employees at companies in Yamaguchi



Foreign Nationals Working Together

11 Promotion of Employment and Retention of Foreign National Students in Companies in Yamaguchi

In order for companies in Yamaguchi Prefecture to further develop and respond to the rapid progress of globalization, improving technology, and expanding into overseas markets, we will promote initiatives to enable international students with specialized knowledge, technical skills, and global perspectives to find employment at companies in Yamaguchi Prefecture, and to settle and play active roles in the prefecture.

- Enhance the system for accepting international students
- Support for foreign students settling in Yamaguchi



Industry Research Fair for International Students (Yamaguchi Prefecture)

12 Promotion of Foreign Residents' Participation in Society

We will promote the creation of communities where Japanese and foreign residents can interact with and play active roles in their communities together. In addition, by encouraging the social participation of foreign residents, we will create a region that is rich in diversity, vitality, and sustainability.

- Promote regional exchange activities
- Support foreign residents' participation in their communities and in society
- Discover and retain foreign nationals who can become leaders in their communities



"Wakuwaku Animal World Tour" (Shunan International Exchange Salon)

Main Indicators

Indicators	Current	Goal (2026)
Japanese nationals who think it is important to promote the acceptance of and coexistence with foreign residents	82%	90%
Foreign residents who have experienced some form of discrimination	42.4%	0%
Foreign residents who answered that they have not prepared for disasters	38.1%	0%
Children that require Japanese language education currently receiving it	93.3%	100%
Foreign residents who answered that they have never had any particular problems at hospitals	48.8%	60%
Growth rate of professional/technical field of residence status (compared to Dec 2022 growth rate)	—	Exceed national average

Promotion Structure

1 Structure and Progress Management

The prefecture will promote each initiative in cooperation with municipalities and related organizations.

In addition, the “Yamaguchi Prefectural Council for the Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence” will be established to manage progress.

2 Role of Each Entity

【Prefecture】

- Working in cooperation with municipalities and other related organizations, we will strive to raise awareness of multicultural coexistence
- We will steadily promote necessary measures and monitor the progress of each entity’s measures based on these guidelines
- As a wide-area local public entity, we will provide necessary support to municipalities and promote their efforts

【Municipalities】

- As the administrative body closest to foreign residents, municipalities will reliably promote any necessary measures
- Develop guidelines and plans for the promotion of multicultural coexistence according to the actual conditions in their area
- Strive to understand the living conditions of foreign residents in their region and implement measures based on the needs of those residents

【Yamaguchi International Exchange Association】

- Promote multicultural coexistence in the prefecture in cooperation with the prefecture, municipalities, and other related organizations

【Companies】

- Comply with labor-related laws and regulations requiring them to create a comfortable working environment that respects human rights
- Promote the retention of foreign workers and provide those employees with enhanced support in their daily lives and opportunities to learn Japanese

【Related Institutions, Organizations, Universities Schools, etc.】

- Taking into account national trends, they will work with the prefecture, municipalities, the Yamaguchi International Exchange Association, companies, and communities to promote multicultural coexistence

【Prefectural Residents】

- By participating in exchanges with foreign residents at companies, schools, and in their communities, they will recognize each other’s cultural differences and understand and respect each other
- To promote exchange and the active participation of foreign residents in their local community, they will build face-to-face relationships and create a community where Japanese and foreign residents help each other

December 2023

International Division, Tourism, Sports and Culture Department, Yamaguchi Prefecture
1-1 Takimachi, Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture 753-8501

TEL: 083-933-2340 FAX: 083-933-2358



This pamphlet was created with a grant from the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR)