





### What is a "multicultural society"?

It is a community where people of different nationalities and backgrounds live on equal terms, and display their abilities fully, showing mutual understanding of their cultural differences.



## Why is it important to promote a multicultural society?

Due to the progression of globalization, the population of foreign residents in Saitama Prefecture has increased to approximately 110,000, 1.7 times more than 10 years ago.



▲ Trend of foreign residents in Saitama Pref.



Many of these foreign residents cannot receive necessary information because of language difficulties, and they can become isolated in the community due to differences in culture and lifestyle.

To solve these problems, the prefectural government must create an environment where foreign residents can easily learn Japanese, receive counseling on various issues in their life in Saitama, and obtain information. By facilitating the independence of foreign residents, a multicultural society can be realized.



## The Saitama Prefectural Government has formulated the Saitama Multicultural Society Promotion Plan!

#### Effective period

#### **December 2007 to end of Fiscal Year 2011**

#### **Basic stance**

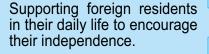
- Foreign residents will be encouraged to think of themselves as members of the community, and supported to enhance their independence.
- Japanese and foreign residents will be encouraged to continuously cooperate.
- Various organizations and groups throughout the prefecture will collaborate to implement the plan.

#### **Basic direction**

Providing communication support to foreign residents with language difficulties.



Creating a multicultural society through cooperation between Japanese and foreign residents.



#### 22 specific measures

- Encouraging and supporting foreign residents in learning Japanese
- Providing Japanese language training for foreign pupils and students
- Providing information on government and daily-life in a range of languages
- Upgrading consultation services for foreign residents
- · Teaching Japanese social etiquette
- Providing education on a multicultural society
- Expanding networking opportunities
- Listening to requests and comments from foreign residents
- · Liaising with 'key persons'
- Creating multicultural society promotion centers

#### 1 Education

- · Guidance on the Japanese education system and encouragement to attend school
- Upgrading the education of foreign pupils and students
- Reviewing the approval criteria for various types of schools

#### 2.Work

- · Providing education for companies
- Providing information and educating foreign workers on Japanese business practices
- Supporting foreign students in their search for employment

#### 3. Medical care, health, welfare

- · Providing information and educating about the public medical insurance system
- Providing medical care and health and welfare services in a range of languages

#### 4.Housing

- Providing information on housing and improving housing consultation services
- · Disseminating information within the real estate industry

#### 5.Disaster prevention

- Developing a foreign resident support system as part of the regional disaster prevention plan
- · Providing disaster information in a range of languages

Won't you help build a community where all residents in the prefecture, Japanese and non-Japanese, can live together happily?

# How can residents contribute to creating a multicultural society?



#### Japanese residents can:

- Say hello to foreign residents as the first step!
   An everyday greeting will be fine.
- · Learn about foreign cultures and lifestyles.
- · Invite foreign residents to festivals, sports meets and other local events.
- Engage in volunteer activities such as international exchanges and Japanese language lessons.



#### Foreign residents can:

- · Say hello to people as the first step!

  An everyday greeting will be fine.
- · Learn about Japanese culture and lifestyle.
- · Learn Japanese.
- · Join the neighborhood association (jichikai or chonaikai).



For inquiries regarding the Saitama Multicultural Society Promotion Plan, please contact:

International Division, Department of Public Services, Saitama Prefectural Government

The continued support of all residents is greatly appreciated

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URL http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/A12/BF00/index.htm

■ Saitama Information and Support (Consultation services and various information are available in 8 languages.)

TEL 048-835-2423 or 048-833-3296

Open Monday to Friday 9:00 to 16:00 (closed national holidays and December 29 to January 3) Languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Portuguese, Korean, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese URL http://www.pref.saitama.lg.jp/english/sis.html



Saitama Prefecture's mascot "Kobaton"