

# Have You Heard about Saitama's Growing Multicultural Society?

There are about 110,000 foreign residents living in Saitama Prefecture. The Saitama Prefectural Government is encouraging the development of a community with more vitality where Japanese and foreign residents can live in peace as residents of the same prefecture.





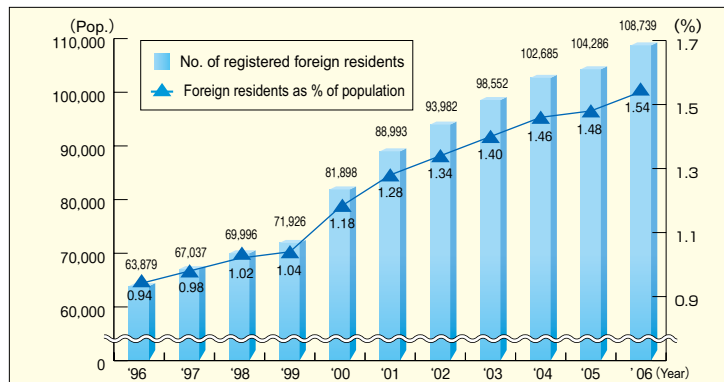
## What is a “multicultural society”?

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.



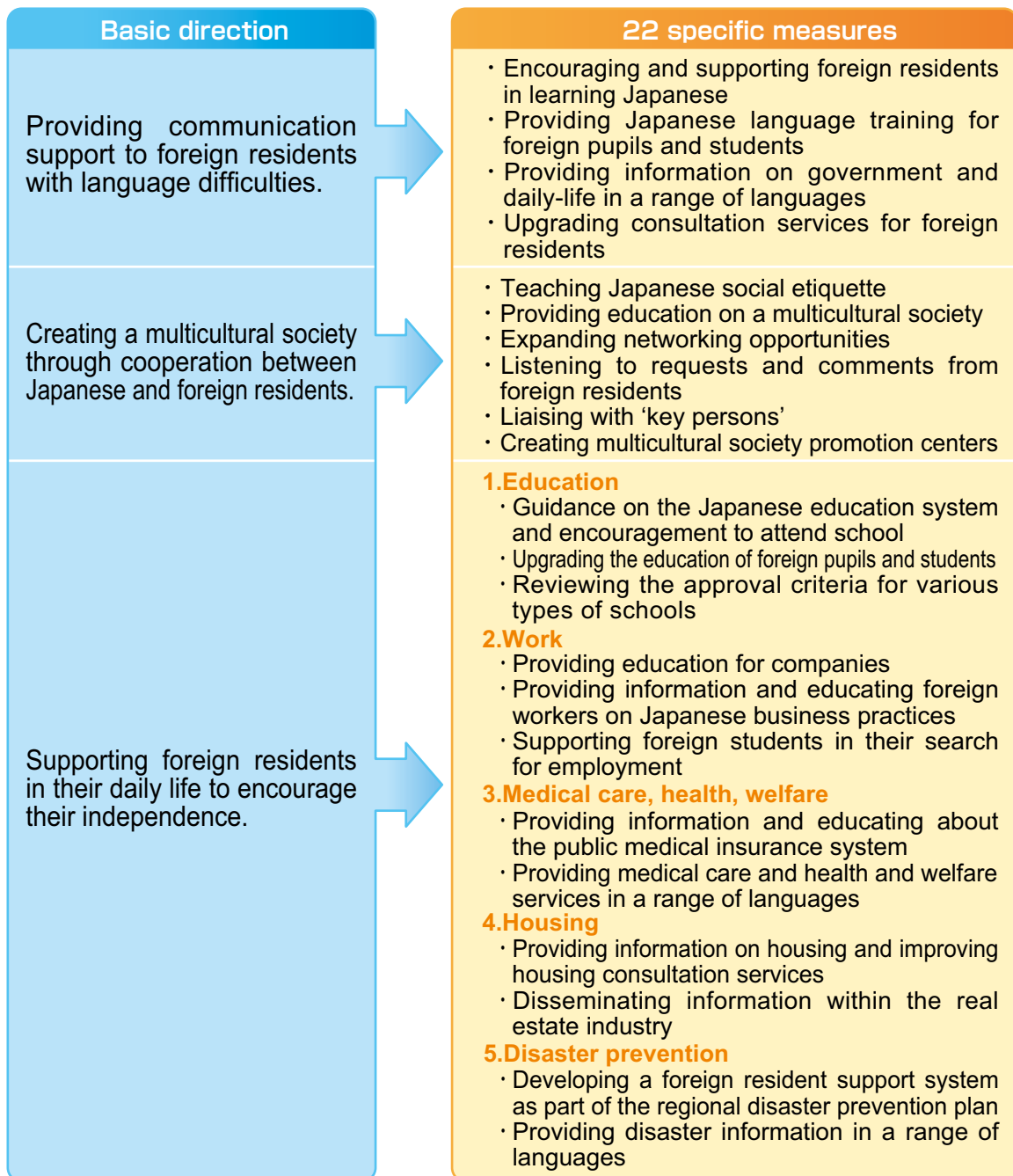
# The Saitama Prefectural Government has formulated the Saitama Multicultural Society Promotion Plan!

**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.



**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

**TEL 048-830-2705 FAX 048-830-4748**

E-mail [a2705@pref.saitama.lg.jp](mailto:a2705@pref.saitama.lg.jp)

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.)

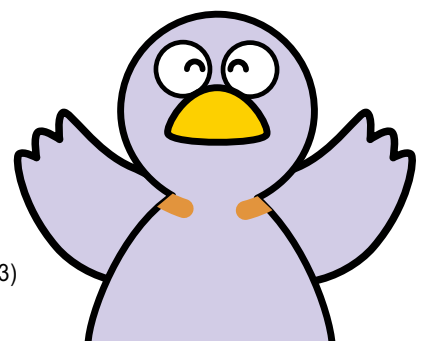
**TEL 048-835-2423 or 048-833-3296**

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>

The continued support of all residents is greatly appreciated



Saitama Prefecture's mascot  
"Kobaton"