

Public Comments and Feedback on “Gifu Prefecture Multicultural Co-Existence Policy Promotion Guidelines (Provisional)” and the Prefecture’s Response  
(Public Comment Results)

	Page Number	Feedback (Overview)	Prefecture's Response
1	1	Revisions are currently made every five years, but if there’s a large change in the social landscape, then I think that would necessitate making additional revisions. Generally, once every five years is fine, but perhaps it would be good to make additional revisions depending on things that happen during that five year period.	In accordance with your feedback, we will make revisions if conditions necessitate them, even during the Guidelines’ five year period. Thus, we will make the following addendum.  < Revision(Underlined) > P 1 The applicable period of these guidelines shall be the five year period from 2017 to 2021. <u>However, revisions may be made within this period in response to arising needs.</u>
2	12	Changing “prefectural residents of foreign nationality (gaikokuseki kenmin)” to “foreign prefectural residents (gaikokujin kenmin)” means people can receive support regardless of nationality; I think this alteration is good and easy to understand.	As you stated, in order to make it easy to understand that we are pursuing multicultural co-existence not just with prefecture residents of foreign nationality, but people with a wide variety of foreign roots, we chose the term “foreign prefecture residents.”
3	13	(Provision of educational assistance, etc. in schools) Considering their future, I think children’s education must be carried out thoroughly and responsibly. It may not be appropriate to evaluate education based on numbers, but if possible I want the prefecture to consider designating a numeric goal.	At the Gifu Board of Education, we are making a curriculum to teach children who need Japanese instruction, as a part of the provision of educational assistance. In accordance with your feedback, we will designate the percentage of schools with a special curriculum in place to instruct beginner Japanese learners as our numeric goal.  < Revision(Underlined) > P 1 4 ○ Through means such as the propagation of a special curriculum made for foreign students, we will promote initiatives aimed at improving academic ability and accommodations for foreign students’ Japanese instruction and school life. <u>(Percent of Schools Equipped with Special Curriculum – 2021 Fiscal Year: 100%)</u>
4	13 14	(Children’s education) For children to be able to reside in Japan, I think there needs to be total support from elementary school enrollment through graduation of high school. I would definitely like to see the prefecture implement internships, etc. for high school students.	As you stated, we will move forward with initiatives such as internships for high school students.
5	16	(The strengthening of disaster-preparedness policies aimed at foreigners in the prefecture and municipalities) Please have the prefectural government urge municipal governments to enact more disaster preparedness measures.	As you request, we will continue to push for the strengthening of disaster-preparedness policies.

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6	16	<p>(Training foreign residents for disaster preparedness)</p> <p>I support this idea and want the prefecture to go ahead with it, so if possible please consider designating a numeric goal like other objectives have.</p>	<p>Training foreign volunteers for disaster preparedness is a new endeavor based in part on the empirical evidence gained from the recent Kumamoto earthquake. We believe that foreign prefecture residents must first understand our nation's way of thinking about disaster prevention, and then acquire disaster preparedness and prevention knowledge with that as a base.</p> <p>Thus, we are still at too early a stage to designate a numeric goal to this initiative. We will continue working steadily to establish personnel who can take charge of aiding foreigners in the event of a disaster, through training sessions for foreign prefecture residents, and other such means.</p>
7	17 19	<p>(The sufficient provision of information)</p> <p>(The creation of a multicultural regional society (1) Raising awareness of the development of a multicultural society)</p> <p>Even if information is provided in multiple languages and easy-to-understand Japanese, foreign prefecture residents won't necessarily start living their lives according to Japan's rules. This is because when the information is written from a Japanese point of view, its importance doesn't always get across to foreign prefecture residents.</p> <p>In other words, it's not enough to just make information readable; in order to make content which will lead to changes in people's actions, we must add the perspective of foreign prefecture residents to the information itself. To that end, I believe a "Foreign Prefecture Resident Information Conference" must be held in order to change information like the Prefecture PR's "Announcements from Gifu Prefecture" into content which is both easy to understand and attracts foreign prefecture residents' interest.</p> <p>In this conference, willing foreign prefecture residents would gather once a month and edit the expressions of, and add supplementary content to, the information which the government wants to communicate. Distributing information which is easy to understand and written in a captivating way would be likely to result in changes in foreign prefecture residents' behavior. Thus, as one aspect of efforts to provide thorough information, I propose holding a "Foreign Prefecture Resident Information Conference" as an additional measure for this plan.</p>	<p>We believe providing information from the viewpoint of foreign prefecture residents is important. Currently, we are making an effort to provide information while taking into consideration the input of Gifu International Center's Coordinators for International Relations, among others. In addition, Gifu Prefecture has the Conference of Prefecture Residents of Foreign Nationality, made up of foreign prefecture residents' key persons, in place in order to reflect the opinions of foreign prefecture residents in policy.</p> <p>In consideration of your feedback, we would first like to ask the members of this Conference for their input on providing easy to understand, captivating information, and thus we have made the following revision.</p> <p>&lt; Revision(Underlined) &gt; P 1 7</p> <p>(The sufficient provision of information)</p> <p>○ Along with the Monthly Announcements from Gifu Prefecture, we will collaborate with the municipalities to share information useful to everyday life, such as information on entering preschool, in multiple languages. <u>We will endeavor to improve how we provide information based on feedback from the members of the Conference of Prefecture Residents of Foreign Nationality and other foreign prefecture residents on our manners of expression and information services.</u></p>

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8	17	This may fall under the municipalities' jurisdiction, but in order to live in the region without trouble, I think we have to get foreigners to understand about aspects of Japanese life like how to dispose of garbage, etc.	<p>In consideration of your feedback, we will make the following revision regarding working with the municipalities towards the creation of a guidebook for foreign prefecture residents compiling basic information on everyday life.</p> <p>&lt; Revision(Underlined) &gt;  P 1 7  (The sufficient provision of information)  ○ Along with the Monthly Announcements from Gifu Prefecture, we will collaborate with the municipalities to <u>share information useful to everyday life</u>, such as information on entering preschool, in multiple languages. We will endeavor to improve how we provide information based on feedback from the members of the Conference of Prefecture Residents of Foreign Nationality and other foreign prefecture residents on our manners of expression and information services.</p>
9	17	(The sufficient provision of information) I think a guidebook of basic rules for living in Japan needs to be distributed in foreign languages. When foreigners don't follow the rules, people often end up thinking badly of all foreigners, so I think a rule guidebook is necessary for fostering a multicultural society.	See above.
10	17	Health care is a matter of life and death, so I would appreciate it if the prefecture increased the number of hospitals with medical interpreting as much as possible.	As you state, we will continue supporting medical institutions within the prefecture in employing medical interpreters, and working to secure and develop volunteer medical interpreters.
11	17	(The sufficient provision of information) I think it's wonderful that the prefecture's PR page is being made available in multiple languages.	As you state, we will continue our efforts to provide sufficient information to foreign prefecture residents through making the Prefectural PR's "Announcements from Gifu Prefecture" available in multiple languages, among other initiatives.

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12	19	Rather than just absorbing Japanese language and culture, foreign children could educate Japanese children about other nations' cultures and ways of thinking. So, I would like the prefecture to take a solid approach to multiculturalism by making time or a class in school for students to study each other's cultures, etc.	<p>As you state in your feedback, learning about one another's culture is important. In public elementary and middle schools, we have projects and lessons which teach about foreign and Japanese culture. For example, in the foreign language activities class in elementary school, we match class content with the region's conditions and students' development, and use the class time to deepen understanding of foreign cultures as well as foreign language itself. Likewise, in middle school English, we are careful in choosing educational materials which will deepen students' understanding of foreign nations' and Japan's lifestyle and culture.</p> <p>&lt; Revision(Underlined) &gt;  P 1 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We will promote students' international understanding and multicultural awareness through such means as dispatching Coordinators for International Relations to schools and <u>educational activities for understanding foreign and Japanese culture.</u></li> </ul>
13	20	(Conference of Prefecture Residents of Foreign Nationality) It says "Conference of Prefecture Residents of Foreign Nationality," but wouldn't it be correct to make it "Foreign Prefecture Resident Conference"?	After revising these Guidelines, we will amend the establishing guidelines of the Conference of Prefecture Residents of Foreign Nationality and plan on changing it to the Foreign Prefecture Resident Conference.
14	20	These guidelines say that the prefecture, municipalities (including municipal international associations), Gifu International Center, private organizations (such as NPOs), businesses, and prefecture residents must all be aware of their appropriate role and must cooperate in working together, but is it not also necessary to work together with the national government?	<p>As you state, we also believe it is necessary to continue steadfast cooperation with the national government, and are presently working with the nation (the Labor Bureau, etc.) to advance our goals. Thus, we will make the following revision.</p> <p>&lt; Revision(Underlined) &gt;  P 2 0</p> <p>The <u>nation</u>, prefecture, municipalities (including municipal international associations), Gifu International Center, private organizations (such as NPOs), businesses, and prefecture residents must all be aware of their appropriate role and cooperate in working together for the promotion of multicultural coexistence.</p>

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15		<p>(Overall) I want the prefecture to consider appealing to the national government to move these sorts of policies forward firmly so that they're not just limited to the prefectural level.</p>	<p>As you state, it is necessary to appeal to the nation with regard to the advancement of multicultural policies. At present, we are working with other prefectures in putting forward proposals and appeals to the national government. Thus, we will make the following revision.</p> <p>&lt; Revision(Underlined) &gt; P 2 1 ○ <u>With awareness of developments in the measures and policies for permanent foreign residents of Japanese ancestry, the acceptance of specialist personnel into Japan, and the expansion of employment of foreign students, we will make appeals and proposals to the national government in favor of initiatives which help develop a multicultural society. These initiatives include providing adequate education for foreign students, developing proper workplace environments, and establishing an environment properly furnished for accepting foreign patients.</u></p>
16		<p>(Overall) By taking in specialist personnel and exchange students, and relaxing restrictions, etc., the national government is moving forward with the acceptance of foreigners into the country, so please ask them to take the initiative in addressing support measures for foreigners.</p>	<p>See above.</p>
17		<p>(Overall) I think these guidelines are good because they list the specific details of planned projects. I would like for the prefecture to go ahead with these plans.</p>	<p>In accordance with your feedback, we will press forward with the promotion of multicultural coexistence in accordance with these guidelines.</p>

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18		<p>(Overall)</p> <p>When foreign residents increase in a region, problems arise from differences in living habits (such as noise and garbage sorting), and sometimes the foreign residents become bothersome neighbors for the Japanese residents. Not only do these differences in lifestyle not improve on their own, but because of language barriers, these problems tend to go unresolved. Thus, even if people come to understand the concept of multiculturalism through projects to raise awareness, communication with bothersome neighbors won't occur naturally.</p> <p>Also, even if the prefecture provides various opportunities for interaction, only the same group of residents with an interest in multiculturalism, and people coming from outside the region, end up participating, and it generally doesn't lead to interaction between different people living in the region. Further, many foreign residents already have their hands full with just carrying out their daily lives. Thus, even if they can get information about events and things in their native language, the reality of the matter is that limitations on time and language ability make it difficult to participate voluntarily. Therefore, projects and cultural exchange events for raising awareness only have an effect on a single group of people already interested in multiculturalism, and do not result in the expansion of</p> <p>Thus, a third party, who can ease problems like noise and garbage disposal, while also consciously connecting residents with each other, is necessary in regions with many foreign residents. In this plan, I understand that the Multiculturalism Promotion Officers will take on this role. However, since the Multiculturalism Promotion Officers are volunteers, their activities may be influenced by their personal circumstances, and they may not always function as desired.</p> <p>For these reasons, I propose designating a region with many foreign residents as a model area, and dispatching coordinators to community centers on a trial basis.</p> <p>As it is, even if all foreign residents are lumped together with one phrase, the fact of the matter is that they have various differences in background, be they economic circumstances, educational environment, or residency qualification. Therefore, a uniform policy tends not to work. Consequently, there need to be personnel who, while building relationships with both Japanese and foreign residents on a regular basis, will think up and enact response measures rooted in the current circumstances of regions where there are many foreign residents.</p> <p>Personnel who work in a place where they can build relationships with regional residents on a regular basis would be qualified to do this work – for example, employees of community centers, places which make “gathering, learning, and connecting” amongst regional residents their goal. However, because community centers are under the municipalities’ administrative jurisdiction, the prefectural government would have to implement a model project in order to test the potential benefits of coordinators.</p> <p>( Continues )</p>	<p>As you point out, Gifu Prefecture entrusts individuals recommended by the municipalities with the job of Multicultural Promotion Officer. These individuals shoulder the responsibility of bridging the gap between the region's foreign prefecture residents and the administration, and conduct activities which contribute to multicultural coexistence in the region.</p> <p>Therefore, we would first like to endeavor to promote multicultural coexistence in the region via the expansion of these Multicultural Promotion Officers, and the productive exchange of information between said Officers and the administration of the prefecture and the municipalities.</p> <p>Regarding the resolution of issues arising between residents, we currently implement community building initiatives including the dispatching of specialists for conflict resolution. We will continue our endeavors to make these community building initiatives a well-known resource such that they may be put to proper use by the region and local municipalities.</p>

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		<p>( Continuation )</p> <p>If coordinators placed in community centers, who would build trusting relationships with both Japanese and foreign residents, invited residents to events, then participants would increase regardless of if they had a prior interest in multiculturalism or not, and there is a high likelihood that this would facilitate interaction between regional residents. Also, if the coordinator kept track of regional residents' day-to-day complaints and responded accordingly, then it would lead to the easing of various problems.</p> <p>For example, in the Kawaguchi Shibazono apartment cluster in Kawaguchi City, Saitama Prefecture, where out of the 5,000 residents, half are foreign residents, a college student volunteer group "Shibazono Kakehashi Project" builds trusting relationships between the Japanese and foreign residents, and take charge of the type of role I described above. However, since these volunteer activities have their limits, a coordinator engages with them as part of the coordinator's job, allowing for a stable initiative which is not influenced by each individual's circumstances.</p> <p>In addition, the prefectural government's employees, as the supervisors of the coordinators and Multicultural Promotion Officers, share information and hold training sessions from an intersectional point of view. In this way, by aligning the longitudinal efforts of coordinators etc. conducting activities rooted in each region, and the lateral efforts which have effects throughout the entire prefecture, I believe it would be possible to develop tightly intertwined policies for multiculturalism. Thus, as measures for the creation of a multicultural society, I propose the following three additions: (1) the explicit establishment of a model project of dispatching coordinators to community centers of regions with many foreign residents, (2) the designation of the coordinator's functions (easing problems, building relationships between Japanese and foreign residents), and (3) the designation of a method of evaluating said project.</p>	