

I. Basic concept

- In light of acts violating Japan's laws and rules and inappropriate use of systems by some foreign nationals, it has become necessary to address Japanese citizens' concerns and sense of unfairness.
- A safe and secure society can be achieved through various initiatives, including the promotion of pre-entry Japanese language education and understanding of social norms, implementation of fair and strict measures against acts that break Japan's laws and rules, optimization of systems with an understanding to the facts and actual state, accurate and sufficient disclosure of information, as well as information sharing and mutual cooperation between relevant organizations.
- Moreover, it is necessary to aim for a society where citizens and foreign nationals can safely and securely live and prosper together under Japan's laws and rules.

II. Public Safety and Security Initiatives

Section 1. Initiatives to abide by existing rules and optimize various systems

1. Immigration / residence management optimization / acceptance of foreign nationals

(1) Immigration management optimization, including the promotion of its digital transformation

- Conduct rigorous examination through prechecks and achieve a significant reduction in the waiting time for immigration inspection by implementing the Japan Electronic System for Travel Authorization (JESTA) (FY2028).

(2) Further optimization of residence management

a) Strict implementation of residence status screening

(1) Promote the digital transformation of residence management, including further utilization of information coordination by relevant organizations using Individual Number

- Have relevant organizations provide the Immigration Services Agency with information on the payment of national health insurance and pension premiums, local taxation, and individuals covered by medical insurance, and have the Immigration Services Agency provide relevant organizations with information on nationality, residence status, and immigration (as of March 2027).

(2) Integration of residence cards and Individual Number Cards in principle

- Implement proactive measures to spread and promote specified residence cards after they come into use (June 2026)
- Consider measures to ensure all foreign nationals obtain specified residence cards in principle while taking into account the implementation and digital transformation status.

b) Consideration of residence status framework and stricter naturalization requirements

(1) Appropriate acceptance through the Specified Skilled Worker System and the Employment for Skill Development Program

- In the fields under the Specified Skilled Worker System and the Employment for Skill Development Program, makes efforts to achieve labor saving through further improvements in productivity and promotion of securing domestic human resources, while continuing to consider the suspension of acceptance and the redetermination of the expected number of acceptance, depending on the situation.

(2) Optimization of the status of residence of “Business Manager”

- Regarding the status of residence of “Business Manager”, from now on, try to understand the actual state of business operations of residents while taking into account fact-finding investigations and the payment status of taxes and public dues, and consider further improvement measures based on the implementation status. Furthermore, taking into account the implementation status after the revision of permission criteria, consider further improvement measures to ensure acceptance in line with the purpose of the system.

(3) Optimization of the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”

- Regarding the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services, investigate the activity status of accepting organizations and host companies that are suspected of having foreign nationals engage in work not corresponding to their residence status, implement rigorous inspection, and review the permission framework.

(4) Optimization of the student residence status

- While taking into account the actual state of student engagement in activities outside the permitted scope of the residence status, consider giving permissions for such activities and a framework to manage these permissions.

(5) Reviewing the framework of the permanent resident residence status

- Regarding the permanent resident status, implement more rigorous inspection and consider the permission framework. Additionally, regarding the cancellation of the permanent resident status, promote the necessary preparations for implementation, including the formulation of a guideline (2027).
- Regarding the permanent residence permission criteria, take into account the purpose of the permanent residence permission and revise the independent livelihood requirements and national interest requirements, consider adding a requirement that mandates taking a program that teaches Japanese and Japan's systems and rules, and promote further consideration, including the expansion of the cancellation grounds based on the implementation status of the revised act (2027).

(6) Consideration of stricter naturalization requirements

- To ensure consistency between naturalization screening and permanent residence screening, promote consideration of a stricter naturalization screening framework, such as requiring, in principle, a 10-year residence period to verify integration into Japanese society.

II. Public Safety and Security Initiatives

Section 1. Initiatives to abide by existing rules and optimize various systems

1. Immigration / residence management optimization / acceptance of foreign nationals

(3) Strong promotion of the zero illegal residents plan

a) Strong promotion of the zero illegal residents plan

- Through steadily implementing initiatives to accelerate the examination of applications for recognition of refugee status and establishing a framework to further expedite the examination procedures of applications for recognition of refugee status while considering the use of digital technologies such as AI, an immediate target is set to shorten the average processing time for applications for recognition of refugee status to six months by 2030.
- Following the zero illegal residents mission, the short-term goal is to halve the number of foreign nationals subject to confirmed deportation orders by the end of 2030 by doubling the number of government-funded deportations with escort officers (249 cases as of 2024) by 2027.
- Consider expanding the grounds for deportation taking into account cases in other countries (broadening the range of applicable offenses).

b) Strong promotion of measures against illegal employment

(1) Implementing measures against forged or altered residence cards and controlling those who promote illegal employment

- Regarding those who promote illegal employment, actively take deportation procedures by receiving information from the police, regardless of the details of the criminal penalty.
- Promote the spread of residence card-reading application and expiration information verification, and enhance their functionality to promote measures against illegal employment as well as forged and altered residence cards.

(2) Improving the implementation of the foreign national employment status notification system

- To thoroughly implement the obligation of notifying foreign national employment status, enhance collaboration with prefectural labor bureaus, Hello Work, the police, and other relevant organizations, as they handle cases of unsubmitted notifications, false notification, and employer misconduct. Furthermore, enhance collaboration with the Immigration Services Agency and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and tighten checks on the usage of residence card-reading application by employers.

c) Appropriately responding to crimes committed by foreign nationals

- To address illegal acts, such as organized theft, promote close collaboration between relevant national organizations, and enhance collaboration with overseas investigative agencies.

d) Sharing information on Provisional releasees and Sponsored person

- Aim to start push-based provision of information on Provisional releasees and Sponsored person by the Immigration Services Agency to local governments (FY2026).

e) Strictly implementing foreign license exchange

- On the subject of traffic violations and accidents, discussions were held with the National Police Agency and the Immigration Services Agency regarding the provision of information on the breach of terms by Provisional releasees and Sponsored person from the police to the Immigration Services Agency, and implementation has started in FY2025.
- Continue strict application of procedures for foreign license exchange and license renewal (as of 2025), and, in light of overseas studies and the actual state of traffic accidents, consider further strategies to ensure appropriate driving by foreign nationals.

II. Public Safety and Security Initiatives

Section 1. Initiatives to abide by existing rules and optimize various systems

1. Immigration / residence management optimization / acceptance of foreign nationals

(4) Development of an environment for accepting foreign nationals to realize a Society of Well-Ordered and Harmonious Coexistence

- Consider creating a program for learning the Japanese language and Japan's systems and rules to foreign nationals living in Japan (including accompanying family members). In creating this system, conduct research and examination of the necessary content (initiatives) at each stage (pre-entry, the initial period after entry, the medium term, and the long term) and according to life stage and country or region of origin. Following carefully reviewing initiatives implemented by relevant ministries and agencies, cross-ministerial implementation should be considered. Furthermore, consider the completion of the program and understanding of its content as a condition in residence status examinations, and determine which residence statuses are applicable.

(5) Revision of residence permission fees and visa fees

- After making the necessary revisions to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, increase the residence permission fees and reinforce and expand various measures related to foreign nationals and the residence management system (FY2026).

(6) Considering the basic framework of accepting foreign nationals

- After organizing the challenges that are related to foreign nationals (including social security, education, culture, and religion) and clarifying the issues that require study and consideration in detail, promote coordination between relevant ministries and agencies and consideration across the entire government, and consider a basic approach to acceptance.
- When considering the previous point, consider a comprehensive framework of foreign nationals, including the division of roles between the national government, local governments, and accepting organizations when accepting foreign nationals, as well as relevant future projections.

II. Public Safety and Security Initiatives

Section 1. Initiatives to abide by existing rules and optimize various systems

2. Optimization of the systems related to foreign nationals

(1) Further utilization of information coordination using Individual Number

- Have relevant organizations provide the Immigration Services Agency with information on the payment of national health insurance and pension premiums, local taxation, and individuals covered by medical insurance, and have the Immigration Services Agency provide relevant organizations with information on nationality, residence status, and immigration (as of March 2027). (Repeated)

(2) Optimization of systems related to taxes, social security, and medical care

a) Consideration of measures for collecting national health insurance premiums and the framework of insurance coverage

- Implement information coordination using Individual Number related to health insurance (health insurance societies and the Japan Health Insurance Association) to obtain information, such as nationality (2027).

b) Handling unpaid medical charges

- Lower the standard amount of the system that provides information on foreign nationals visiting Japan who have outstanding unpaid medical expenses (2026), and expand the scope to include medium-to-long-term residents (2027).
- Consider institutional initiatives for requiring foreign nationals visiting Japan to take out private medical insurance before entry.

c) Handling the childbirth and childcare lump-sum grants (overseas medical expenses)

- Disseminate measures for optimizing childbirth and childcare lump-sum grants and overseas medical expenses.

d) Prevention of infectious diseases and medical examinations

- After studying the situation in other countries, consider setting the submission of vaccination records and medical examination results as an entry requirement for foreign nationals who plan to stay for a medium-to-long period.

e) Lump-sum withdrawal payments and social security agreements

- Promote the conclusion of social security agreements, including negotiations with countries that have a large number of foreign residents.

f) Optimization of the public assistance system operations

- Coordinate information using nationality and residence status Individual Number, and collaborate with immigration authorities to ensure proper use of the system by foreign nationals.

g) Review of tax conventions

- We will engage with those countries to amend the tax conventions containing a provision on tax exemption for remuneration foreign students, etc., and appropriately review them.

(3) Sufficient Japanese language education

a) Japanese language education before coming to Japan

- In preparation for starting the Employment for Skill Development Program, support overseas Japanese language education activities. For example, support the development of local Japanese language education curriculum and teaching materials, and train Japanese language teachers.

b) Japanese language education for adults (workers)

- Develop and promote a model curriculum for Japanese language courses for the Employment for Skill Development Program.
- Utilize it to ensure Japanese language courses are carried out smoothly by accredited Japanese language education organizations and registered Japanese language instructors in supervising and support organizations and implementing organization for Employment for Skill Development.

c) Japanese language education for adults (residents)

- Enhance online Japanese language learning materials and expanding financial support for local governments to establish comprehensive systems for regional Japanese language education.
- Consider establishing a guideline for regional Japanese language education.

d) Japanese language education for children

- Consider creating a preschool (provisional name) plan (early support), provide a guideline for education content and method, including the utilization of ICT and generative AI, expand support to Japanese language teaching assistants, and enhance financial support for local governments.

e) Training Japanese language teachers and improving their social status

- Consider measures to utilize Nationally Accredited Japanese Language Educational Institutions and Nationally Registered Japanese Language Teachers in contexts beyond the acceptance of foreign students, such as a program to teach the Japanese language and Japan's rules and systems to foreign nationals living in Japan (including accompanying family members). Additionally, promote improving the working conditions of Nationally Registered Japanese language Teachers.

II. Public Safety and Security Initiatives

Section 1. Initiatives to abide by existing rules and optimize various systems

2. Optimization of the systems related to foreign nationals

(4) Optimization of welfare, education, and residence systems

a) Optimization of child allowance

- To ensure the proper payment of the Child Allowance by accurately ascertaining actual residence and custody status, immigration-related information will be linked through the Individual Number system (from March 2027).

b) Review and optimization of the implementation of financial aid for educational expenses systems

- Regarding financial aid for educational expenses, consider a framework for coordinating information held by relevant ministries and agencies, such as the Immigration Services Agency, on foreign nationals to ensure appropriate payments after identifying their residence status.

c) Optimization of operations related to support for foreign students

- In light of the objectives of programs that mainly help Japanese people advance to doctoral programs, make revisions to stop providing foreign students with an amount equivalent to their living expenses. In addition, designate and publicly announce higher education institutions with improper international student enrollment management, and strengthen guidance for universities facing management challenges, with close attention to the international student enrollment management.

d) Optimization of operations related to support for international schools

- Ensure the appropriate and transparent use of each subsidy in light of its purpose and objective.

e) Foreign nationals occupying public housing and Urban Renaissance Agency (UR) rental housing

- Verify the nationality of new tenants of public housing and UR rental housing, and consider additional measures.

f) Arrangement and review of burial

- Conduct a fact-finding investigation on the permission procedures for cemetery management, including burial (FY2025).
- From the perspective of enabling local governments to carry out administrative procedures smoothly in accordance with regional circumstances, make the necessary arrangements and considerations, such as disseminating reference ordinances from other regions, as necessary.

g) Reinforcing regulations related to forecasting services provided by foreign corporations etc.

- Implement measures such as requiring the designation of a domestic representative or a domestic agent for foreign corporations etc. when applying for a license, and making public the names of those providing forecasting services without obtaining a license.

(5) Addressing private lodging facilities and overtourism

a) Ensure proper management of all private lodging facilities

- Promote strict enforcement and deterrence against unregistered private lodging facilities through the dissemination of examples of orders and penalties, and spread the concept of certain regulations aimed at preventing adverse effects on the living environment.
- Ensure the removal of illegal private lodging facilities from intermediary websites through the unified management of various private lodging data, and consider revisions to guidelines for the formulation of ordinances tailored to local circumstances.
- Consider strict enforcement and regulatory measures for inappropriate private lodging facilities, coordination measures with immigration control authorities, measures to promote digital transformation among operators, and measures to address discrepancies across the systems of private lodging facilities.

b) Reinforce measures against overtourism

- Provide support for measures that address congestion on local roads, overcrowding in public transportation, and violations of manners in various regions.
- Intensively implement and substantially reinforce measures against overtourism and promote easing overconcentration in specific cities and regions, and evenly dispersing tourists.

(In addition, utilize the financial resources obtained by increasing the international tourist tax rate after making the necessary law revisions based on the fundamental principles of the FY2026 tax revisions.)

- In addition to overtourism-specific initiatives, structurally transform the inbound flow by attracting local visitors.

II. Public Safety and Security Initiatives

Section 2. Initiatives for the proper use and management of national land, including considerations of the framework for land acquisition rules and related matters

1. Enhancing the transparency of land ownership information

- Identify the nationality of owners in land-related registries, including the real property registration and the Forest Act.
- In light of reports of real estate acquisitions involving large amounts of cash, strengthen measures to prevent money laundering in real estate transactions.
- Consider identifying (estimating based on the registered holder) the nationalities of owners of lands with no transactions (stock).
- Consider an enhanced framework to identify beneficial owners of legal persons, in coordination with efforts to address FATF's (Financial Action Task Force) mutual evaluation process of Japan.

2. Ensuring the public availability of land ownership information

- Establish a real estate base registry as a database that compiles land ownership information, and consider establishing a system that enables appropriate access by administrative bodies and citizens. (Implementation is scheduled for FY2027.)

3. Identifying the actual state of apartment transactions

- Conduct a fact-finding investigation on short-term transactions and acquisitions from overseas, focusing on newly built apartments in metropolitan areas.
- Based on the nationality identification through real estate registers, identify the actual state of apartment acquisitions by foreign nationals, including domestic residents.

4. Understanding the actual state of groundwater extraction

- Conduct an investigation on ordinances that regulate groundwater extraction and cases of groundwater extraction by foreign nationals.
- Gather information and confirm the facts related to the actual concerns regarding groundwater extraction by foreign nationals posted on media and social media, and consider measures as necessary. (Implementation is scheduled for FY2025.)
- To understand the actual state and appropriately manage groundwater across the entire country, start considering an effective system for understanding the actual state of groundwater extraction and preserving and using groundwater through a unified approach, including nationality information. (Implementation is scheduled for FY2025.)
- Consider identifying the beneficial owners of corporations that extract groundwater.

5. The framework of rules for land acquisition and related matters by foreign nationals

- From a national security perspective, organize the legislative facts and refer to examples in other countries to determine the subject persons (whether to include both Japanese people and foreign nationals or foreign nationals only), the regulatory approach (permission system, prior notification and screening system, on-site inspection, etc.), and subject land and related matters, and develop a framework for a land acquisition rules. This includes a detailed and close examination of the relationship with international agreements (Summer 2026).
 - (Reference) Examples of framework for land acquisition in other countries
 - (1) Cases in which the acquisition and use of real estate are regulated on from a national security perspective, regardless of nationality of subject persons (UK, France, Italy)
 - (2) Cases in which the acquisition of real estate by foreign nationals is regulated from a national security perspective (USA, Australia, South Korea)
 - (3) Cases in which the acquisition of houses by foreign nationals is regulated (Canada, Australia, South Korea, Singapore)
- If the actual state of apartment acquisitions by foreign nationals, including domestic residents, becomes clear, consider the necessary measures with reference to approaches by other countries.
- Consider measures such as nationalizing ownerless remote islands, and if necessary from a national security perspective, establish rules for transactions related to land on remote islands.

III. Initiatives to ensure the smooth adaptation of foreign nationals to Japanese society

1. Sufficient Japanese language education (Repeated)

2. Development of an environment for accepting foreign nationals to realize a Society of Well-Ordered and Harmonious Coexistence (Repeated)

3. Strengthening of information dissemination and consultation systems

(1) Enhancement of information dissemination from the perspective of foreign nationals

- Create the “Guidebook on Living and Working,” which contains the basic information required for safe and secure living and working conditions, and post it on “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals.”

(2) Strengthening the consultation system to help foreign nationals with their problems

- Further enhance the consultation system by expanding the consultation counters of the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) to more regions.

(3) Further promoting the use of plain Japanese in providing information and counseling services

- Implement training and other measures to spread plain Japanese.

4. Support for each life stage and life cycle

(1) Support for foreign nationals in infancy and school age, etc.

- Implement community-based programs that provide opportunities for parents and their children to meet up and consult about their concerns and problems encountered when parenting.

(2) Support for foreign nationals in the early stage of adolescence and adulthood

- Publicize and disseminate examples of special education curricula designed and implemented for Japanese language guidance.

(3) Support for foreign nationals in adolescence and adulthood, etc.

- Promote employment and the successful work life of foreign students through consortiums for promoting employment of highly-skilled foreign professionals in regional areas.
- Disseminate and promote the utilization of bi-directional educational video training materials and guidebooks in workplaces for Japanese employees and foreign employees.
- Implement initiatives for the Well-Ordered and Harmonious Coexistence with foreign nationals in the land, infrastructure, transport, and tourism sectors.

(4) Support for senior foreign nationals, etc.

- Continue publicity and public relations concerning the pension system for foreign nationals, and consider enhancing it.

(5) Initiatives common to all life stages

- Strive to prevent foreign nationals from becoming victims of crime, and make efforts to prevent the penetration of criminal organizations into the foreign national communities.
- Make efforts to improve the convenience of financial services for foreign nationals at financial institutions such as opening accounts (including remittances, credit transfers, and use of debit cards).

5. Others

(1) Raising awareness of Japanese society to realize a Society of Well-Ordered and Harmonious Coexistence .

- To raise public awareness of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, promote an awareness month and implement various events.

(2) Information collection and cooperation among relevant organizations for foreign national support and residence management

- Enhance and strengthen information dissemination by implementing projects to support the efforts of private support groups to provide outreach support to foreign nationals.

(3) Expansion of support measures by local governments, including the review of the framework for grants

- Conduct trials using an outreach approach by having counselors at one-stop consultation counters visit local apartment complexes and community centers and use the “Videos for the Daily life orientation” and “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” to disseminate information on Japan’s systems and manners.
- To further enhance support for local governments working to improve the acceptance environment, the national and local governments will collaborate to address issues by, for example, reviewing the foreign national acceptance environment improvement subsidies based on feedback and requests from local governments, taking into account the implementation status of the above-mentioned orientation trials using an outreach approach, and considering measures to improve one-stop consultation counters.

(4) Improvement of government statistics to investigate the actual living conditions of foreign nationals

- Based on the results of a needs survey regarding the utilization of administrative records held by the Immigration Services Agency, statistical tables that can be feasibly produced will be created and published sequentially.
- Implement statistical surveys to identify the actual conditions of the employment management including working conditions of foreign workers and of labor transitions, etc.