

Provisional translation

Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Annual Report)

June 30, 2023

**Council for the Promotion of Measures to
Combat Trafficking in Persons**

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1 Introduction

Trafficking in persons is a severe violation of human rights, and requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective as trafficking in persons causes serious psychological and physical pain for the victims and recovery from such damage is very difficult. In addition, trafficking in persons is a grave crime that often crosses borders, and the strengthening of prevention and countermeasures against trafficking in persons is an urgent and common issue that should be addressed by the international community.

The government formulated the “2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons” (hereinafter referred to as the “2022 Action Plan”) in December 2022 in order to take appropriate actions to deal with the situation regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for the government to collectively tackle trafficking in persons in a comprehensive and holistic manner. To this end, the government is taking measures in line with the 2022 Action Plan.

In tandem with social and economic changes, methods of trafficking are expected to become more sophisticated, and the situation for trafficking in persons is expected to undergo changes. Amidst this situation, in order to produce positive results in measures to combat trafficking in persons in the future, it is vital to gain information about the latest trafficking situation, and to confirm and verify the progress for various policy measures. In view of that, the 2022 Action Plan specified that an annual report will be prepared to summarize Japan’s efforts in the area of trafficking in persons, including the implementation of trafficking policy measures and the crackdown of trafficking offenses.

This annual report mainly summarizes the measures taken by relevant ministries and agencies to combat trafficking in persons in 2022 (Therefore, the report is mainly based on the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (hereinafter referred to as the “2014 Action Plan”). It would be a pleasure to create opportunities to widely inform the citizens the real picture of the trafficking situation as well as to raise concern of measures to combat trafficking in persons through this report.

(1) Definition of “Trafficking in Persons”

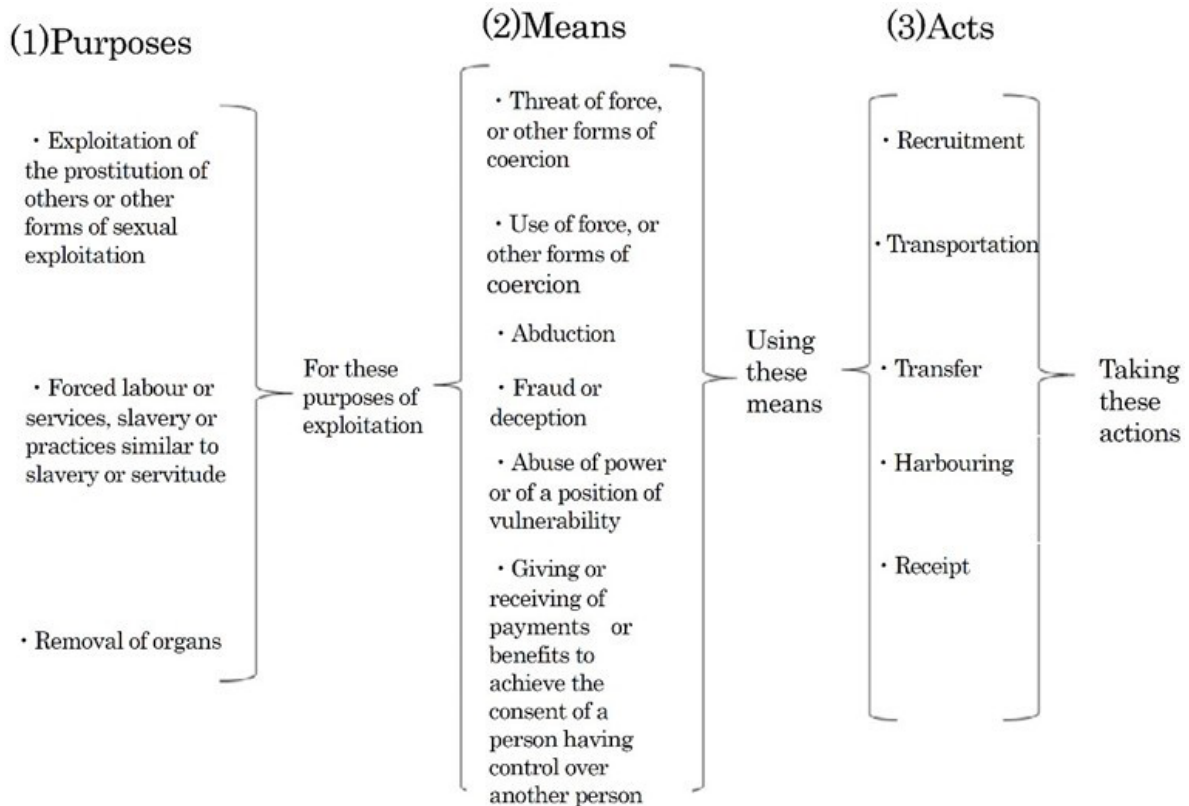
Trafficking in persons is defined as follows, according to Article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (hereinafter referred to as the “Trafficking in Persons Protocol”).

Article 3

- (a) **“Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;**
- (b) **The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;**
- (c) **The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;**
- (d) **“Child” shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.**

This can be summarized briefly in the following figure 1.

[Figure 1] Definition of trafficking in persons (Article 3 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol)



※ When a victim is a child under 18 years of age, it will be considered to be an act of trafficking in persons even if the means mentioned in (2) are not employed.

Although many of the victims are women and children, as laid out in this definition, trafficking in persons will include not only sexual exploitation such as prostitution, but also trafficking for purposes such as labor exploitation and the removal of organs. Therefore, regardless of sex or nationality, anyone could become a victim of trafficking in persons. Furthermore, the act of trafficking in persons is not limited to the “buying and selling” of persons, but also includes acts such as deceiving victims for the purpose of exploitation, or taking advantage of those in a vulnerable position and placing the victims under one’s control. In cases where methods such as force, threats, and fraud are employed, the act is considered as trafficking in persons regardless of whether or not the victim has consented to the exploitation. In addition, when a child under 18 years of age is placed under control for the purpose of exploitation, it is considered to be an act of trafficking in persons even if the above-mentioned means are not employed. Hence, trafficking in persons can take various forms.

All the acts that fall under the definition of trafficking in persons laid out in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol are stipulated as criminal offenses in Japan since 2005 when the revisions were made to the Penal Code to codify the acts that were previously not punishable under domestic law (such as Crime of Buying or Selling of Human Beings).

Furthermore, on June 15, 2017 the Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Crime Proceeds, etc. (Act No. 67 of 2017), an implementing legislation which was necessary to conclude the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (hereinafter referred to as the “Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”), was passed in the 193rd Diet session, and the Act entered into force on July 11, 2017. Consequently, on that day, Japan concluded the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, a supplementary protocol to the Convention, etc., and thus became a State party to the Convention and the Protocol, etc.

(2) Framework of Japan’s measures to combat trafficking in persons

In order to prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons and protect the victims, the government seeks to work closely with the relevant ministries and agencies, and in cooperation with the international community, put in place measures steadily and expeditiously. To that end, the government established the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons under the Cabinet in April 2004, which has since worked on establishing and implementing countermeasures.

However, the international community remains strongly concerned about measures to combat trafficking in persons, and Japan’s efforts in this area have also drawn the attention of the international community. Hence, the 2014 Action Plan was developed at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime held on December 16, 2014. At the same time, during the Ministerial Meeting held on the same day, it was approved that the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, comprising Cabinet Ministers of relevant ministries, will be convened as necessary.

The first Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons was held in May 2015. The session was primarily focused on approving the annual report “Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” which compiled information regarding victims of trafficking in 2014 and the initiatives of relevant ministries and agencies related to combating trafficking. It was also confirmed at the Council that efforts aimed at eliminating trafficking will continue and that initiatives based on the 2014 Action Plan will be steadily implemented. Since 2016, “Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” has been held every year.

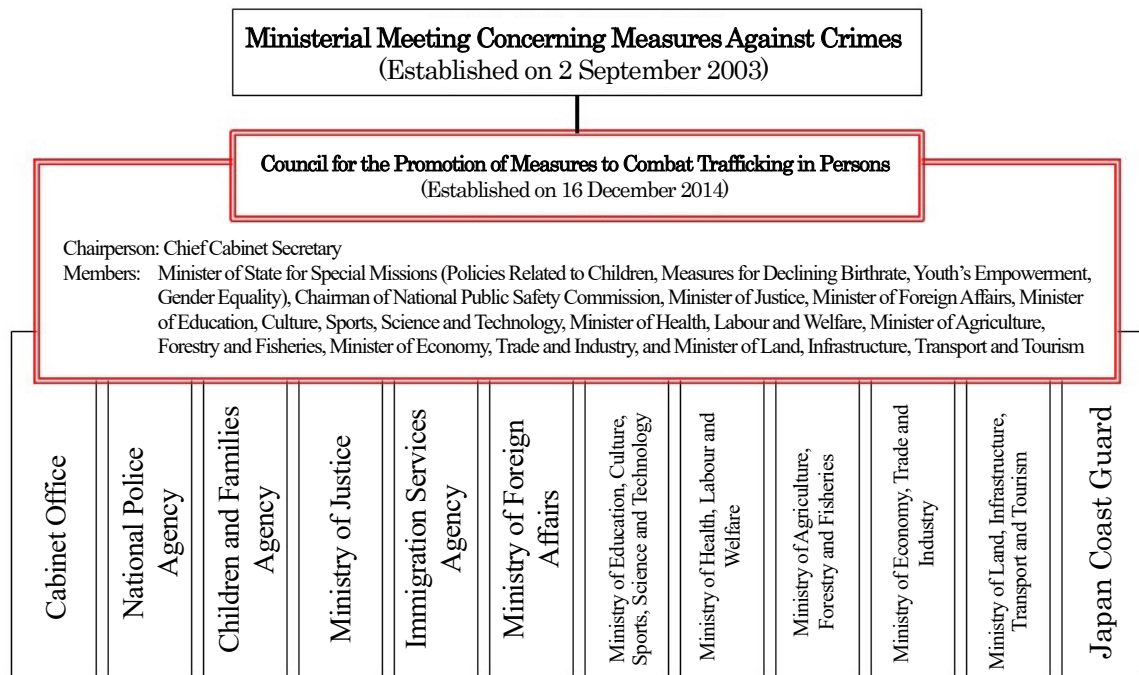
In December 2022, the government decided on the 2022 Action Plan in order to appropriately address the situation regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons and for the government to collectively tackle trafficking in persons in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

Placing the “Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” at the core of these efforts, under the coordination of the Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet Office, the National Police Agency, the Children and Families Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Immigration Services Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and the Japan Coast Guard have been taking respective measures according to their own jurisdictions to eliminate trafficking in persons.

[Table 1] Main initiatives from 2004 to 2022

April 2004	Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons established
December 2004	Development of the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons
December 2009	Positioning of the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime Development of the 2009 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime
June 2010	Agreement on “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Identification of Victims)” at the Liaison Committee
July 2011	Agreement on “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Protection of Victims)” at the Liaison Committee
December 2014	Development of the 2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime Agreement at the Ministerial Meeting that the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons will be convened as necessary under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime
May 2015	The First Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons held Annual report “Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” approved and published
May 2016 May 2017 May 2018 May 2019 May 2020 June 2021 June 2022	The Second – Eighth Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons held Annual report “Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” approved and published
December 2022	Development of the 2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime

[Figure 2] Japan’s structure on measures to combat trafficking in persons



2 Gaining a thorough understanding of trafficking in persons

(1) Incidence of trafficking in persons in Japan

i) Data relating to victims of trafficking in persons

- The number of victims of trafficking in persons who were put under protection in 2022 was 46 (one less than in 2021).

With regard to the gender of the victims, 44 were female (three less than in 2021), and two were male (two more than in 2021).

- With regard to the nationality or region of the victims, 44 were Japanese (13 more than in 2021), accounting for approximately 95%.

The nationalities of the two non-Japanese victims were one Philippine national (nine less than in 2021), and one Thai national (one more than in 2021).

- With regard to the status of residence of the two foreign victims, one was the “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” (one more than in 2021) and the other was a “Temporary Visitor” (the same as in 2021).

The number of non-Japanese victims who were put under protection by the Immigration Services Agency in 2022 was two. Of these victims, one victim, who possessed the status of residence was permitted to change the status of residence. The other victim, who had illegally overstayed and was therefore in violation of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Cabinet Order No. 319 of 1951), was granted special permission to stay.

Regarding non-Japanese victims, there are two cases; namely the case in which they are put under protection by one of the police, the Immigration Services Agency, or the Organization for Technical Intern Training and so on, and the case in which they are put under protection by all the organizations in accordance with their protection processes. The two foreign victims mentioned above were protected by both the police and the Immigration Services Agency.

- Of the 46 victims, 33 were minors (under 18 years of age) (15 more than in 2021). By nationality or region of the victims, all were Japanese nationals.

- With regard to the forms of trafficking, 44 were victims of sexual exploitation (13 more than in 2021), one was forced to work as a nightclub hostess (ten less than in 2021), and one was a victim of labor exploitation other than nightclub hostess (four less than in 2021).

Notable cases pertaining to Japanese victims were as follows: the case in which a victim was

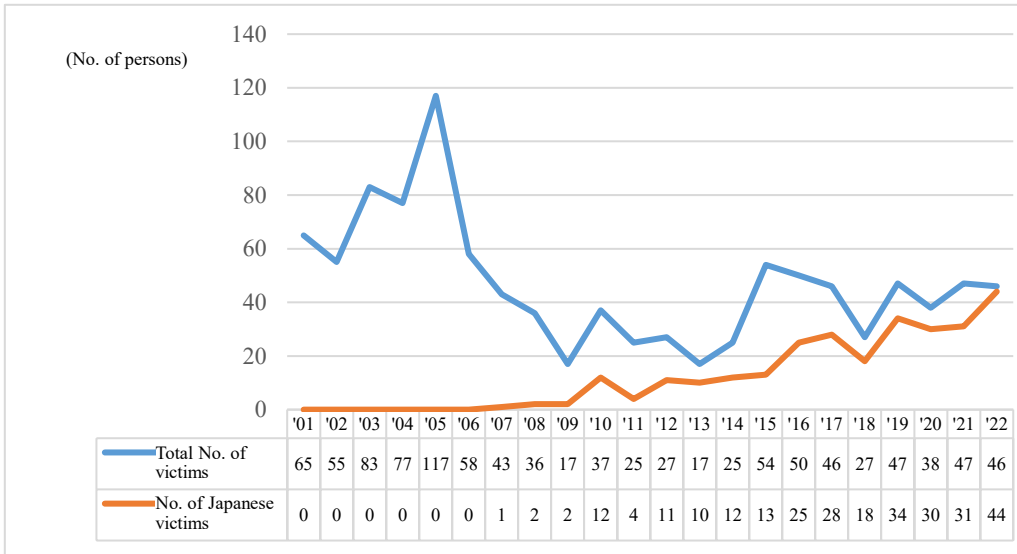
kidnapped and forced to have sexual intercourse, etc., with suspects she met via the Internet such as social media and in which a victim was demanded money under the pretext of living expenses and forced into prostitution by housemates, while foreign victims were forced to work as a hostess at low wages with restriction on leaving their residences after entering Japan or were forced to work under conditions different from those promised at the time of solicitation.

- The number of victims who were put under protection temporarily at Women's Consulting Offices in 2022 was two. By nationality or region, one was a Japanese national, the other was a Philippine national.

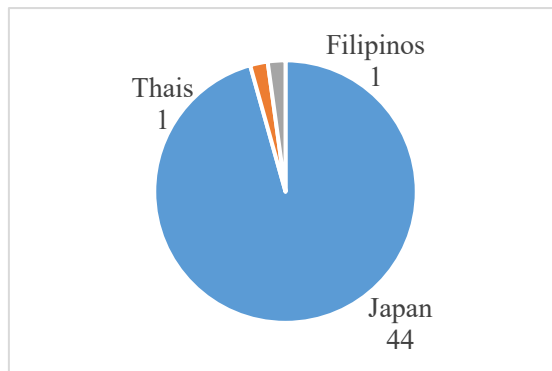
All the victims were provided living support, and medical care, etc.

- In 2022, one foreign victim was voluntarily repatriated and was provided with temporary shelter through support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Since there were concerns about the victim's safety, such as the recruiter's uninvited contact to the family of the victim, safety measures were taken after the victim's return to the home country. IOM also provided advice on administrative procedures for the cancellation of fake marriage. As a social reintegration and economic self-reliance support project, IOM provided assistance to the victim to launch a transportation business. Japan contributes funds to the above IOM activities.

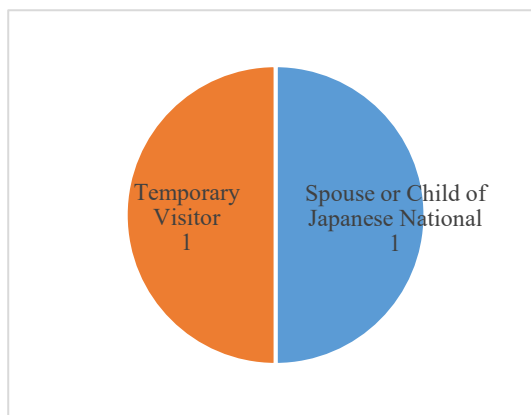
[Figure 3] Trends in the number of victims of trafficking in persons (2001 to 2022)



[Figure 4] Nationalities or regions of the 46 victims



[Figure 5] Status of residence of the 2 foreign victims



ii) Data relating to those accused of trafficking in persons

- In 2022, 83 cases of trafficking in persons pertaining to victims of trafficking in persons put under protection by Japan were cleared (21 more than in 2021) and 37 persons were arrested for trafficking in persons (seven less than in 2021).
With regard to the gender of the suspects, 32 were male (four less than in 2021), and five were female (three less than in 2021).

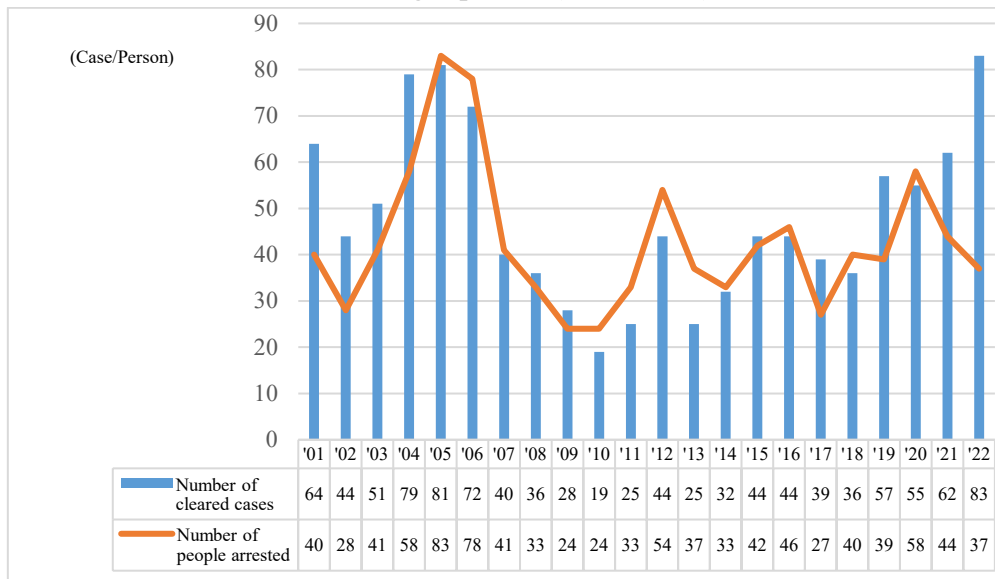
- With regard to the nationalities of the suspects, all were Japanese nationals.

- There were no brokers and no members of organized crime groups, etc.

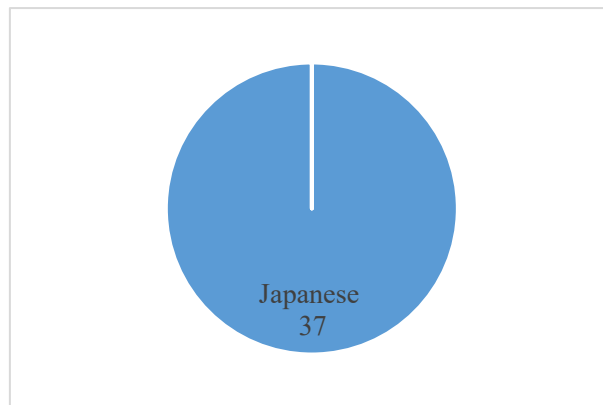
- With regard to punishments, 34 of the suspects were prosecuted (including those who were sent to the family court, the same applies hereinafter), two were not prosecuted due to problems with evidence, etc., and one was under investigation. Of the 34 suspects that have been prosecuted, 28 have been found guilty, four are still pending, and two were sent to the family court (as of March 31, 2023).
Note that of the six persons who were said in the annual report approved in 2022 to be awaiting trial, five have been found guilty, and one continues to be awaiting trial (as of March 31, 2023).
In addition, all the three persons who were said in the annual report approved in 2021 to be awaiting trial and continued to be awaiting trial in the annual report approved in 2022 continues to be awaiting trial (as of March 31, 2023).

- The Immigration Services Agency issued deportation orders against zero perpetrators in 2022.

[Figure 6] Trends in the number of cleared cases and number of cleared suspects for the crime of trafficking in persons (2001 to 2022)



[Figure 7] Nationalities or regions of 37 suspects



[Table 2] Charges imposed on the 34 prosecuted persons and their trial results (as of March 31, 2023)

	Offense	Results of trial
1	Violation of the Shizuoka Prefectural Ordinance for Developing Favorable Environment for the Youth, violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act, violation of the Act on Control and Improvement of Amusement Business.	1,000,000 yen fine
2	Violation of the Child Welfare Act, violation of the	1 year imprisonment, 3 years 6 months

	Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	imprisonment
3	Violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	2 years 6 months imprisonment, suspension of 4 years, 300,000 yen fine
4	Violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	2 years 6 months imprisonment, suspension of 4 years, 300,000 yen fine
5	Violation of the Employment Security Act	1 year imprisonment, suspension of 3 years
6	Violation of the Child Welfare Act, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	1 year 6 months imprisonment
7	Kidnapping of minors, violation of the Nara Prefectural Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	2 years imprisonment, suspension of 3 years
8	Kidnapping of minors	2 years imprisonment, suspension of 3 years
9	Violation of the Child Welfare Act	2 years 6 months imprisonment, suspended for 5 years
10	Violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children, violation of the Gunma Prefectural Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	700,000 yen fine
11	Violation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance of Juvenile Protection, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children, violation of the Child Welfare Act, display of an obscene electronic or magnetic recording media	2 years 6 months imprisonment, suspended for 5 years, 500,000 yen fine
12	Violation of the Child Welfare Act, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	2 years 6 months imprisonment
13	Violation of the Child Welfare Act, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child	3 years imprisonment

	Pornography, and the Protection of Children	
14	Kidnapping for indecency, confinement, constructive forcible sexual intercourse	6 years 6 months imprisonment
15	Kidnapping for indecency, violation of the Kagawa Prefectural Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	1 year 6 months imprisonment, suspension of 4 years
16	Violation of the Child Welfare Act, kidnapping of minors, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	Pending trial
17	Constructive indecency through compulsion violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	Pending trial
18	Indecency through compulsion	2 years imprisonment, suspended for 4 years
19	Violation of the Child Welfare Act	300,000 yen fine
20	Violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	2 years imprisonment, suspension of 4 years, 200,000 yen fine
21	Violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	2 years 6 months imprisonment, suspension of 4 years, 300,000 yen fine
22	Violation of the Hokkaido Prefectural Ordinance of Juvenile Protection, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	600,000 yen fine
23	Violation of the Employment Security Act	2 years imprisonment, suspension of 3 years
24	Violation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	500,000 yen fine
25	Violation of the Tokyo Metropolitan Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	1 year 2 months imprisonment, suspension of 3 years, 200,000 yen fine
26	Kidnapping of minors	1 year 6 months imprisonment, suspension of 3 years
27	Violation of the Child Welfare Act	Pending trial
28	Violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution	2 years 6 months imprisonment, suspended for 5 years

	and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	
29	Violation of Hiroshima Prefectural Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	400,000 yen fine
30	Compulsion attempt, violation of the Child Welfare Act, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	2 years 6 months imprisonment
31	Aiding public indecency	100,000 yen fine
32	Violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	Pending trial
33	Violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	Being sent to the family court
34	Aiding violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	Being sent to the family court

[Table 3] Charges imposed on the six persons reported as awaiting trial in the 2022 annual report and the results of their trials (as of March 31, 2023)

	Offense	Results of trial
1	Injury, extortion attempt, violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	3 years imprisonment, 200,000 yen
2	Indecency through compulsion, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	8 years imprisonment
3	Violation of the Stimulants Control Act, fraud, violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act	4 years 6 months imprisonment, 300,000 yen fine
4	Violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children, violation of the Kanagawa Prefectural Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	5 years imprisonment
5	Violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of	2 years 4 months imprisonment, suspended for 4 years

	Children, violation of the Kanagawa Prefectural Ordinance of Juvenile Protection	
6	Rape	Pending trial

[Table 4] Charges imposed on the three persons reported as awaiting trial in the 2021 annual report and continued to be awaiting trial in the 2022 and the results of their trials (as of March 31, 2023)

	Offense	Results of trial
1	Violation of the Child Welfare Act, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	Pending trial
2	Unlawful capture and confinement, forcible sexual intercourse, kidnapping for indecency, violation of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children	Pending trial
3	Theft, robbery, violation of the Act on Punishment of Physical Violence and Others	Pending trial

iii) Cases

[Case 1]

The suspects had a female acquaintance live in their house, who had trouble finding a place to live, demanded money under the pretext of living expenses, and coerced her to engage in prostitution with an unspecified number of men.

The suspects were arrested for violating the Anti-Prostitution Act (Act No. 118 of 1956).

[Case 2]

The suspect employed a child at a store based sex-related business store that call themselves “mens esthe” and coerced to engage in prostitution with an unspecified number of men.

The suspect was arrested for violating the acts including the Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164 of 1947) ,and the Anti-Prostitution Act, etc.

[Case 3]

The suspect entered into a fake marriage with a female victim who was asked to enter Japan with the status of residence as “Spouse or Child of Japanese National.” After entering Japan with that status, she

was coerced to work as a hostess for low wages with no days off, being restricted from going out of her residence.

The suspect was arrested for false recording and use of the original of electronic or magnetic notarized deeds.

(2) Information sharing with governments of other countries

- Since FY2004, the Government of Japan has dispatched a Government Delegation on Anti-Human Trafficking Measures headed by a senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprised of officials from relevant ministries and agencies to a total of 27 countries and regions. Most recently in March 2020, the Government Delegation on Anti-Human Trafficking Measures was dispatched to the United States (Washington D.C. and Miami in the State of Florida). The Delegation exchanged views with US federal government officials on strengthening cooperation between the two countries. In the State of Florida, which is reported to have a large number of human trafficking cases, the Delegation collected information such as the state of anti-human trafficking measures in recent years, good practices and issues, and ways of collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors, from local police stations, academic experts and NGOs specializing in anti-human trafficking measures in the area.

- In FY2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to support the ASEAN-Japan Workshop on Technology-based Approach to Tackle Trafficking of Children proposed by Viet Nam through the Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF) 2.0. The workshop was held in FY2022. At the workshop, participants from relevant organizations, including ASEAN countries, and Japan's National Police Agency (experts on child sexual exploitation), shared the situation of trafficking of children in ASEAN countries as well as the importance of the use of technology and best practices in tackling the problem, and discussed the enhancement of cooperation among the ASEAN countries as well as each country's execution capability

3 Prevention of Trafficking in persons

(1) Prevention of trafficking in persons by thorough immigration control

i) Thoroughly strict immigration control

- In order to conduct strict landing examination at air and sea ports of entry, the Immigration Services Agency has been utilizing Advance Passenger Information (API), biometric information, and ICPO's database on Stolen and Lost Travel Documents. It has also begun acquiring Passenger Name Record (PNR) since January 2015, the receipt of which via electronic means became possible in January 2016. Moreover, electronic report of API and PNR was made mandatory for airlines and others in June 2021. The department specialized in information gathering and analysis plays a core role in gathering and analyzing the above-mentioned information. By utilizing the results of this analysis on the front lines at borders, strict border policies were promoted including identifying foreigners with suspicious purposes of entry into Japan, etc.
- Since October 2016, the Immigration Services Agency has implemented the cross-checking of the facial photographs provided by foreign nationals at the time of landing examination against the facial images of terrorists, etc.
- The Immigration Services Agency has been deploying immigration control officers to proactively and continuously implement systematic monitoring of transit areas at major airports and port areas and work on finding any suspicious persons and brokers, etc.

ii) Strict examination of visa applications

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducts careful examinations of visa applications in order to prevent in advance the entry into Japan of potential victims of trafficking in persons.

The website “Japan’s Visa Policy in Accordance with Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons” is calling for in five languages (Japanese, English, Spanish, Thai, and Indonesian) for understanding and cooperation regarding examination of visa applications in a rigid and appropriate manner to eradicate trafficking in persons.

In particular, Japanese Embassies, Consulates General and Consular Offices, located in regions where victims of trafficking in persons tend to hail, carry out strict examination of visa applications for “Entertainer”, “Temporary Visitor”, and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” that are likely to be easily misused in trafficking in persons.

For example, they conduct face-to-face interviews where necessary. Through this process, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs denies visa issuance to people who are suspected to be likely to become victims of trafficking in persons based on the results of the examination, after consultations with relevant

ministries and agencies.

iii) Information sharing through visa system

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established a visa information sharing system among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 235 Japanese Embassies, Consulates General and Consular Offices (as of March 2023), and relevant ministries and agencies, to share visa- related information.

iv) Strengthening of measures against forged documents

- The Immigration Services Agency conducts strict examinations for forged or altered documents at the document examination office established at each airport district immigration office. The Agency also carries out training for its officials at air and sea ports, etc., in order to improve their ability to detect document forgery.
- In addition to establishing specifications for new visa seals with advanced anti-forgery features, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continues to conduct reviews towards improving Japanese passports by researching the trends for the international standardization of ePassport (passport with IC chips) as well as other international standards related to passports, such as IC chips. At the same time, the Ministry started to issue newly designed passports from February 2020 with enhanced IC security functions and a different design for every visa page (Thirty-six Views of Mount. Fuji by Katsushika Hokusai).

(2) Prevention of trafficking in persons through residence management

i) Prevention of trafficking in persons involving disguised or illegal stays through strict residence management

- The National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Immigration Services Agency and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare intensify their efforts to combat crimes pertaining to trafficking in persons and boost protection and support for identified victims, based on the Policy regarding the Promotion of the Measures against Illegal Employment of Foreign Nationals which is agreed among the four ministries and agencies.
- The police make efforts to uncover crimes related to trafficking in persons by continuously employing the cross-cutting frameworks that have been built up to date to deal with the globalization of crime, as well as the systems for the comprehensive promotion of countermeasures against criminal infrastructure that is used as means of illegal residents' living or disguising of qualifications and identities, etc., and by strengthening crackdown on cases of disguised stays including fake marriages, cases of illegal stays, and the brokers related to these cases.

- The Immigration Services Agency is proactively collaborating with other relevant organizations and carrying out investigations, analysis to clarify the situation relating to cases of imposter residence such as those whose marriages are the subject of suspicion. In addition, through joint detection, the Immigration Services Agency strives to share information with the police and other relevant organizations. Then, if it is necessary, information is provided to the police and other related organizations in order to facilitate the implementation of the punishment of perpetrators. As for the victims, responses are taken in an appropriate manner taking into consideration of their physical and mental condition and whether or not they need to be put under protection.

ii) Strict control of illegal employment

- The National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Immigration Services Agency, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare collaborate in requesting employers' associations in the council on illegal employment of foreign nationals to prevent illegal employment and share information about the latest cases.
- The police, the Immigration Services Agency and the Japan Coast Guard strive to discover cases of trafficking in persons through proactively cracking down on cases of illegal employment.
- In 2022, the Immigration Services Agency cracked down on 136 workplaces suspected of illegal employment. In addition, based on the policy concerning the "Promotion of the Measures against Illegal Employment of Foreign Nationals" agreed between the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (see i)), the Immigration Services Agency has been proactively reporting malicious employers and brokers to the police and bringing charges against them.

iii) Promotion of active public relations and raising awareness for the prevention of illegal employment

- The National Police Agency, the Immigration Services Agency, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare have requested employers' associations to enhance their understanding of the current illegal employment situation. The associations have also been requested to implement guidance and education for affiliated employers on the appropriate employment of foreign nationals.
- Every June, the Immigration Services Agency conducts public relations of "Illegal Work Prevention Campaign" in line with the government's "Foreign Workers Issues Awareness Month" for making the employment of foreign nationals appropriate and preventing illegal employment. In FY2022, with the theme of "Cooperation for Proper Employment of Foreign Nationals for the Realization of a Society of

Harmonious Coexistence,” the Agency distributed leaflets to citizens, and businesses that employ foreign nationals and relevant organizations, with the cooperation of relevant ministries and agencies and local authorities, and provided awareness videos for the large screen in front of stations, etc., to raise awareness about the prevention of illegal work and points to keep in mind when employing foreign nationals.

- For foreign cruise ship tourists who were granted permission to land in Japan, the Japan Coast Guard conducted awareness activities to prevent illegal employment by showing a crime prevention video that says “landing for a purpose other than sightseeing is not permitted” on the digital signage of CIQ at the cruise ship terminal, etc.

(3) Prevention of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labor exploitation

i) Improvement of Technical Intern Training Program

- Figure 8 provides an outline of the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees (Act No. 89 of 2016, hereinafter the “Technical Intern Training Act”), which was enforced on November 1, 2017. In particular, the Act establishes regulations prohibiting acts such as infringing the human rights of technical intern trainees, and penalties for violations, and puts in place measures for protecting technical intern trainees including appropriately addressing issues reported by technical intern trainees and coordinating transfers/relocations of technical intern trainees. The Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT), which engages in the administrative work related to the above-mentioned, was also incorporated as a legal entity on January 25, 2017 and started operation.

[Figure 8] Outline of the Technical Intern Training Act

(Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees (Outline)

In order to ensure **proper acquisition of skills through technical training** and **protection of Technical Intern Trainees**, MOJ and MHLW will take necessary steps such as establishing authorization process for implementing or supervising organizations and technical intern training plan, as well as establishing “Organization on Technical Intern Training” which engages in these activities.

<p>Outline of the Act * Jointly submitted by MOJ and MHLW</p>	
<p>1. Proper Control of Technical Intern Training This Act,</p>	
<p>(1) Sets the basic idea of the Technical Intern Training, prescribes responsibilities for those who are concerned, and settles the Principle of the Program [Related to Articles 3 to 7]</p> <p>(2) Requires every technical intern training plan drafted for trainees to be accredited, and prescribes criteria for accreditation (such as assessment on acquisition of skills), collection of reports, correction order, or revocation of accreditation [Related to Articles 8 to 16]</p> <p>(3) Requires Implementing organizations to be registered [Related to Articles 17 to 18]</p> <p>(4) Requires Supervising organizations to be licensed and prescribes criteria for license, compliance matters, collection of reports, correction order, or revocation of license [Related to Articles 23 to 45]</p> <p>(5) With regards to human rights violations against trainees, defines prohibited acts and criminal sanctions for their violations, sets necessary measures for protection of trainees, including consultation service, information provision, and arrangement for transferring [Related to Articles 46 to 51]</p> <p>(6) Enables the competent minister to request cooperation to other ministers in charge of businesses and establishes ‘Regional Council on TITP’ consisting of related agencies for each region [Related to Articles 53 to 56]</p>	<p>(7) Establishes Organization for Technical Intern Training as an authorized legal entity which is in charge of the duties below: [Related to Chapter 3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to accredit technical intern training plans set forth in (2) [Related to Article 12] • to request reports from implementing organizations and supervising organizations set forth in (2) as well as to carry out on-site inspections [Related to Article 14] • to accept registration set forth in (3) [Related to Article 18] • to carry out investigations regarding the license of supervising organizations set forth in (4) [Related to Article 24] • to consult with and give assistance to trainees [Related to Article 87] <p>2. Expansion of Technical Intern Training Program The Act enables limited high-quality implementing/supervising organizations to accept third level trainees (4th and 5th year’s training) [Related to Articles 2, 9, 23, and 25]</p> <p>3. Other matters Other related amendments including that to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which defines status of residence for technical intern training will be made.</p>
<p>Effective date November 1, 2017</p> <p>The date prescribed by Cabinet Order within a period of no more than one year counting from the date of promulgation. However, the provisions on the establishment of the Organization on Technical Intern Training will be effective on the day of promulgation.</p>	<p>Enactment date : November 18, 2016 Promulgation date : November 28, 2016</p>

- Regarding the supervising organizations, 3,632 organizations have received permits (as of March 31, 2023). In addition, 1,493,156 technical intern training plans have received accreditation (as of March 31, 2023; preliminary figures). The OTIT conducts on-site inspections of supervising organizations once a year, and of implementing organizations once every three years. The OTIT conducted on-site inspections of 4,633 supervising organizations (preliminary figures) and of 22,032 implementing organizations (preliminary figures) in FY2022.
- In the case that the OTIT ascertains a fact that violates the Technical Intern Training Act, immigration laws and regulations or labor-related laws and regulations, it reports, provides information, etc. to immigration services organizations and labor standards supervisory bodies, etc., and carries out joint investigations with the Regional Immigration Services Bureau, etc. and on-site inspections by itself. Upon on-site inspection, depending on the type of violation, the government takes disciplinary actions such as administrative actions against the supervising organization and the implementing organization. In FY2022, government revoked the authorization of 12 supervising organizations and the accreditation of technical intern training plans made by 114 implementing organizations.
- The police and the OTIT have established a system for sharing information on matters such as violations

of the Technical Intern Training Act that may constitute human trafficking offenses.

- In Article 54, Paragraph 1 of the Technical Intern Training Act, the minister with jurisdiction over the business may organize a business council. The members of the council include organizations of the implementing organizations or the supervising organizations.

In order to make the collaboration of the members closer and to hold discussions about initiatives that take into account the actual conditions in each industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries established the Fishing Industry Technical Intern Training Business Council on December 13, 2017, the Agricultural Industry Technical Intern Training Business Council on June 5, 2018, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism established the Foreign Technical Intern Training Program Automobile Repair Business Council on February 19, 2018 and the Business Council on Construction Sector Technical Intern Training on March 26, 2018, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry established the Textile Industry Technical Intern Training Business Council on March 23, 2018. Each council held meetings respectively when the occasion calls for it.

- In Article 56, Paragraph 1 of the Technical Intern Training Act, in order to achieve collaboration of the related administrative organizations at the regional level, the national organizations related to the technical intern training in each region may organize regional councils with other organizations including local governments.

Such councils were held in eight regional blocks by August 2022.

- With the objectives of eliminating improper sending organizations as well as collaborating to carry out technical intern training properly and smoothly, Japan has signed the memorandums of cooperation (MOCs) with 14 countries that are sending technical intern trainees (Viet Nam, Cambodia, India, Philippines, Laos, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Thailand, and Indonesia) (as of March 31, 2023).

If a sending organization is recognized as improper, based on the MOC, the relevant state government will be informed and requested to investigate, and if needed, the relevant state government will be requested to supervise the organization or revoke its authorization. In FY2022, 93 sending organizations were reported to each state government.

- In conjunction with the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act, the long-term care profession was added to the professions covered by the Technical Intern Training Program. In technical intern training for the long-term care profession, in order to respond to the variety of concerns based on the nature of long-term care services, the requirements unique to long-term care are specified in the “Standards stipulated by the minister having jurisdiction over the business regarding the long-term care

profession in light of the unique circumstances of the specified profession and work provided for in the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees, etc.”

- It is required to review the ideal form of the program in the Article 2 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees if deemed necessary. The former Minister of Justice Mr. Furukawa held the “Minister of Justice Study Session concerning the Specified Skilled Worker System and Technical Intern Training Program” from February to July 2022, to identify issues. The Advisory Panel of Experts on the Ideal Form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System was established on November 22, 2022 under the Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals, which is co-chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of Justice. The discussions such as on measures to prevent human rights violations have been made at the Panel since December of the same year. Going forward, the government as a whole will discuss the ideal form of the program with regard to discussions at the Panel.

ii) Provision of information on legal protection to foreign technical intern trainees

- Since the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act in November 2017, OTIT has been producing the Technical Intern Trainee Handbook¹. This handbook is handed directly to all technical intern trainees by immigration officers at all points of entry when they arrive in Japan, and clearly states information regarding consultations and support offered by the OTIT, as well as the following content, etc.
 - Reporting can be done in the native language through the local offices of the OTIT or the native language consultation counters (telephone, email, etc.) run by the OTIT.
 - In the case where continuing the technical intern training has become difficult due to unavoidable circumstances but you wish to continue the technical intern training, support for changing the training site is offered by the OTIT, so please consult with the OTIT or with the native language consultation counters.
 - In the case where you are required to return to your home country against your will, you can consult with or report the issue to the OTIT, and ultimately you can make a statement to that effect to the immigration officers at the time of the embarkation procedures at air and sea ports.

With the increase of the number of technical intern trainees, the OTIT has added available languages for the handbook, and at present the handbook is provided in nine most popular languages spoken by technical intern trainees as their native language (English, Chinese, Thai, Filipino, Vietnamese,

¹ Contains information about consultation counters at the Immigration Services Agency, etc., contact information for the embassies of each country, Japanese labor-related laws, information necessary for everyday life, declarations to the Labor Standards Inspection Offices, and information on leave allowances, etc.

Indonesian, Burmese, Cambodian, and Mongolian).

- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has produced a leaflet titled “To all Foreign Technical Intern Trainees - About the Labor Standards-related Laws and Regulations in Japan -” in 10 languages (Japanese, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Thai, Burmese, Cambodian, Mongolian, English and Indonesian), and made it available online. In addition, when visiting workplaces employing technical intern trainees, the ministry distributes the leaflet to technical intern trainees, presents examples of cases with a possibility of violating labor standards-related laws and regulations, and disseminate them the information that labor standards-related laws and regulations apply to them, and that the same working conditions as for Japanese workers are ensured.

- The OTIT has been providing the native language consultation counters available in eight languages (English, Chinese, Thai, Filipino, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Burmese, and Cambodian) by email and telephone.

In addition, since April 2021, the OTIT has provided consultation for technical intern trainees by establishing “Technical Intern Trainee’s SOS and Dedicated Consultation Desk” as a dedicated consultation desk for urgent cases like violence and threats.

- To be able to provide consultation services for foreigners regarding working conditions, etc., the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has established Foreign Workers Consultation Corner in 14 languages (in addition to Japanese, and depending on the location, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Nepalese, Burmese, Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian (Nepalese and Burmese were added in April 2019, while Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian were added in April 2020)) at Prefectural Labor Bureaus and Labor Standards Inspection Offices.

The ministry has also produced a leaflet titled “For All Foreign Nationals Working in Japan – Working Conditions Handbook” in 14 languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Burmese, Nepalese, Thai, Cambodian, Mongolian, and Indonesian), and made it available online. In addition, when visiting workplaces employing technical intern trainees, the ministry distributes the leaflet to technical intern trainees and calls on them to consult with the Advisory Services for Foreign Workers, etc.

Furthermore, the Telephone Consultation Service for Foreign Workers was established in June 2015. Those who call the service are connected to the staff at the section for this service, making it easier for people to access the service from anywhere in the country. From April 2019, during outside office hours of the Prefectural Labor Bureau and the Labor Standards Inspection Office, the “Labor standards Advice Hotline” (consignment business: 17:00 to 22:00 on weekdays, 9:00 to 21:00 on

weekends and holidays) accepts consultation in 14 languages (in addition to Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Burmese, Nepalese, Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian (Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian were added in April 2020)).

- Based on improvement measures compiled by the Project Team on the Operation of the Technical Intern Training Program, the Ministry of Justice has revised the ministerial ordinance, and in April 2020, introduced measures to suspend the acceptance of new technical intern trainees for a certain period of time, for supervising organizations that are at fault for disappearances of technical intern trainees, and measures to request for the payment of remuneration through bank transfer to the technical intern trainee's account.
In addition, in November 2019, with a view to reducing the number of missing technical intern trainees, policies with further enhanced improvement measures were compiled and from August 2021 the Ministry has suspended acceptance of new technical intern trainees from five Vietnamese organizations that were at fault for disappearances of a significant number of technical intern trainees.
- When the Immigration Services Agency identifies inappropriate expressions contrary to the intent of the Technical Intern Training Program on the websites of supervising organizations, etc., the Agency issues guidance in order for them to correct such expression in coordination with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the OTIT.
- The Immigration Services Agency introduced a new policy in September 2016 to prevent so-called compulsory repatriations. When technical intern trainees leave Japan before the end of their training period, immigration officers at air and sea ports use documents written in the native language (eight languages of Indonesian, Cambodian, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Burmese, English, and Chinese) of the technical intern trainees to confirm that the technical intern trainees are not leaving against their wills. This interview is conducted with an interpreter when necessary.

[Figure 9] Technical Intern Trainee Handbook (prepared by OTIT) (excerpt)



[Figure 10] To all Foreign Technical Intern Trainees (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) (excerpt)
(in Japanese)

外国人技能実習生のみなさんへ
～日本における労働基準関係法令について～

外国人技能実習生のみなさんにも労働基準関係法令が適用され、労働者として日本人と同様に労働条件が守られます。

以下のような事案は日本の労働基準関係法令に違反するおそれがあります。

- ① 会社の備品を壊したら、罰金として5万円支払うことになっています。 → 1. (5)へ
- ② 賃金の一部を強制的に貯蓄させられ、預金通帳は使用者が持っています。 → 1. (6)へ
- ③ 賃金支払日を過ぎても賃金が支払われていません。 → 1. (9)へ
- ④ 1日8時間を超えて労働しましたが、その分の賃金が時給350円しか支払われません。 → 1. (12)へ
- ⑤ 寄宿舎から外出する際、使用者の承認を受けなければならない、不自由です。 → 1. (15)へ
- ⑥ 最低と決められた賃金額は時間額1,000円なのですが、実際には時間額600円で計算して賃金が支払われています。 → 2.へ
- ⑦ 技能実習生として働き始めて1年以上経ちましたが、健康診断を受診していません。 → 3. (4)へ
- ⑧ 仕事中にケガをしたのですが、治療費や休業の補償がなされません。 → 4.へ

厚生労働省・都道府県労働局・労働基準監督署

iii) Strict enforcement of labor standards-related laws and regulations

- In 2022, Prefectural Labor Bureaus and Labor Standards Inspection Offices conducted inspections on 9,829 implementing organizations (preliminary figures).
Of these, 7,247 implementing organizations (preliminary figures) were found to be in violation of labor standards-related laws and regulations and were issued correction orders. Among these cases, 21 cases (preliminary figures) were referred to prosecutors. These cases involved serious/heinous violations of labor standards-related laws and regulations in relation to technical intern trainees, such as illegal overtime work/working on days off, and lower extra pay for overtime work than legal extra pay.

- In 2022, Prefectural Labor Bureaus, Labor Standards Inspection Offices, and the OTIT strengthened their cooperation based on the notification released in 2021 and carried out joint inspections or investigation on 41 implementing organizations (preliminary figures).
As a result, Prefectural Labor Bureaus and Labor Standards Inspection Offices issued correction orders to 30 cases (preliminary figures) where violations of labor standards-related laws and regulations were identified. In addition, the OTIT issued correction orders to 31 cases (preliminary figures) where violations of the Technical Intern Training Act were identified.

- The officials in charge of addressing trafficking in persons at the Prefectural Labor Bureaus take the lead in uncovering suspected cases of labor trafficking against technical intern trainees. When they identify such cases, they instruct the Labor Standards Inspection Offices to conduct joint inspection and investigation with the OTIT.

(4) Measures in the program aimed at greater utilization of foreign human resources

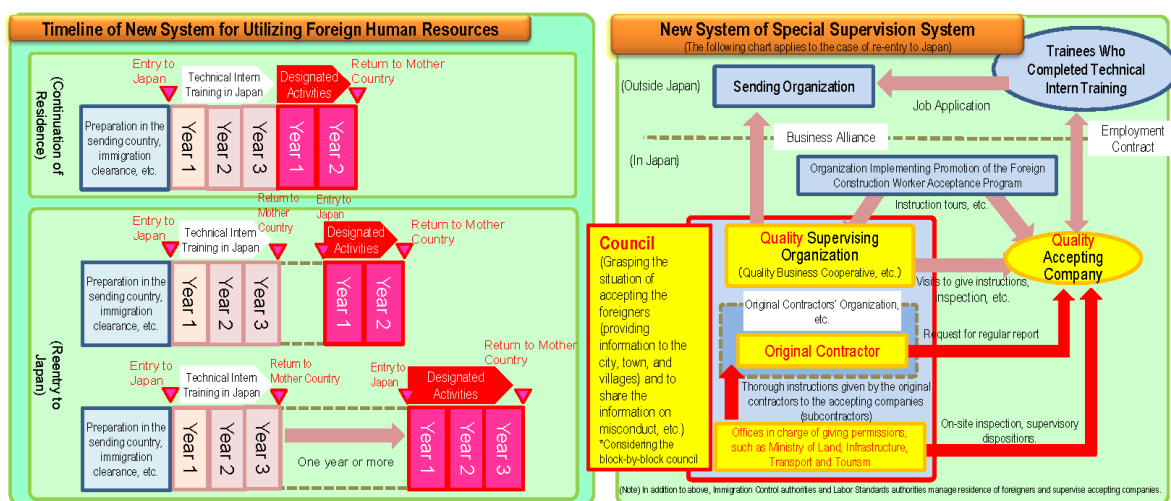
i) The Foreign Construction Worker Acceptance Program

- Approximately 800 foreign construction workers have entered Japan (as of December 31, 2022) under the Foreign Construction Worker Acceptance Program, which was launched in April 2015 as a fixed-term and urgent measure targeted at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and disaster recovery projects.

- In order to prevent problems associated with the acceptance of foreign construction workers such as nonpayment of wages and illegal employment, a supervisory framework limits supervision and acceptance of the workers to qualified companies and Designated Supervising Organizations and so on. Other measures are also being taken, such as appointing counselors for foreign construction workers at Designated Supervising Organizations, screening the companies by Designated Supervising Organizations with face-to-face interviews with the workers, and reporting the results of these interviews to the Council for the Promotion of Appropriate Supervision, etc.

- This program stipulates required measures such as that the Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport requests corrective measures from the relevant Designated Supervising Organizations, etc., when claims of rights infringements are received from foreign construction workers, and if any corrective measures are not taken, their Appropriate Supervision Plan accreditation will be canceled. If problematic cases arise, the relevant ministries and agencies cooperate to take necessary measures.

**[Figure 11] The Foreign Construction Worker Acceptance Program
(Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)**



ii) Project to Accept Foreigners Conducting Housekeeping Services in National Strategic Special Zones

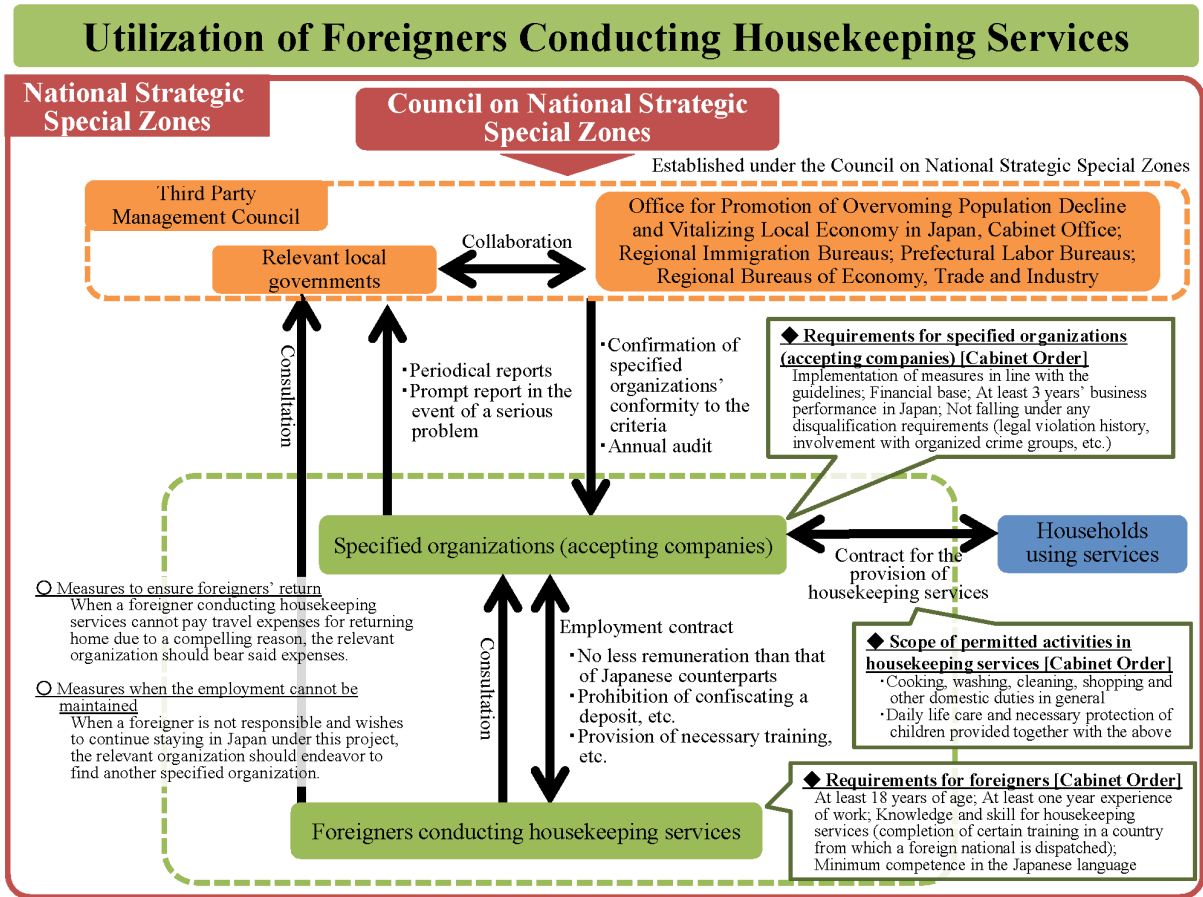
- The Project to Accept Foreigners Conducting Housekeeping Services in National Strategic Special Zones stipulated in Article 16-4, Paragraph 1 of the Act on National Strategic Special Zones (Act No. 107 of 2013) is a project in which designated organizations (host companies) take in foreign nationals who conduct housekeeping services based on employment contracts within the National Strategic Special Zones on a trial basis from the perspectives of responding to the advancement of women's participation in workforce and meeting housekeeping support needs, and of facilitating mid- to long-term economic growth. This Project has been implemented in Tokyo Metropolis, Kanagawa Prefecture, Osaka Prefecture, Hyogo Prefecture, Aichi Prefecture, and Chiba City since March 2017, and approximately 1,000 foreign nationals who conduct housekeeping services have entered Japan (as of March 31, 2023).
- The Guidelines on Specified Organizations for the Project to Accept Foreigners Conducting Housekeeping Services in National Strategic Special Zones (September 9, 2015 decision by the Prime

Minister; revised on March 19, 2020) stipulate the measures that designated organizations need to take including stipulating that foreign nationals accepted under the project are to be paid at least the equivalent amount to the amount Japanese people engaging in similar housekeeping support activities receive, that management by designated organizations of the money, etc., of the foreign nationals is prohibited, that designated organizations establish complaint/consultation desks and that the foreign nationals are informed about these support systems during training. The guidelines also stipulate that a third-party management council consisting of officials from the central government and local governments will confirm whether or not designated organizations meet the required standards such as by implementing the above-mentioned measures.

- After accepting foreign housekeeping support personnel, designated organizations will be subjected to an audit by the third-party management council, and where necessary, the council will request that corrective actions be taken. When problematic issues arise, local governments will coordinate with relevant ministries and agencies to respond to those issues. For example, relevant local governments will establish complaints and consultation desks for foreign housekeepers in their native language and other languages.

The third-party management council has prepared a portable card with the contact details of local government complaint/consultation services and other consultation services listed on it, and requests designated organizations to distribute these cards to the foreign housekeeping support personnel that they employ.

[Figure 12] Utilization of foreigners conducting housekeeping services(Cabinet Office)



[Figure 13] Portable card with list of complaint/consultation services (English template)

(Cabinet Office)

<p>Contact points for Foreigners conducting housekeeping services (If you need any help, . . .)</p> <p>Please contact first. TEL 03-1234-5678</p> <p>●●Co.,Ltd. The General Affairs Department Welfare Division</p> <p>If you do not want to talk with employer, please contact to the following;</p> <p>▶ Duties relating to the protection of foreigners conducting housekeeping services (The third party management council secretariat of ○○ Prefecture) ○○Prefecture○○affairs division TEL○○○-○○○-○○○ (Weekdays (except National Holidays) 8:30~17:15) <i>Generally in Japanese but in English is also acceptable</i></p> <p>Emergencies (Toll-Free) Police TEL110 Fire and Ambulance TEL119</p>	<p>▶ Human rights counseling ((District) Legal Affairs Bureaus) Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline TEL0570-090-911 (Weekdays (except National Holidays) 9:00~12:00, 13:00~16:00) <i>In English</i> (If your iPhone etc. cannot be connected, please call to ○○-○○○-○○○) (Weekdays (except National Holidays) 8:30~17:15) <i>In Japanese; English service will be announced</i></p> <p>▶ Procedures for "Status of Residence" and "Entry and Departure" Immigration Information Center TEL0570-013-904 (If your iPhone etc. cannot be connected, please call to 03-5796-7112) (Weekdays (except National Holidays) 8:30~17:15) <i>In English</i></p> <p>▶ Working conditions Advisor for Foreign Workers Section TEL○○-○○○-○○○ (Mon/Fri 9:00~12:00, 13:00~16:00) <i>In English</i></p> <p>○○○○ Embassy TEL○○-○○○-○○○ (Weekdays (except National Holidays) 9:00~18:00)</p>
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iii) New foreign human resources acceptance system pertaining to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker

- Taking into consideration the “Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2018” (Cabinet decision on June 15, 2018), the Ministry of Justice submitted the “Bill for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice” to the 197th Diet on November 2, 2018.

The Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice (Act No. 102 of 2018) (hereinafter referred to as the “Amended Immigration Control Act”) was passed by the Diet on December 8, 2018, promulgated on December 14 the same year, and enforced by April 1, 2019.

- The new system for acceptance of foreign human resources intends to build a framework for acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals, who have a certain degree of expertise and skills in the industrial fields where it is difficult to secure human resources even after efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources. Thus, the Amended Immigration Control Act stipulates new status of residence, “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii),” and requires necessary measures such as establishing the basic policy on operation of the system as well as a field-specific operation policy.
- Outline of the system pertaining to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker is shown in the Figure 14. To accept foreign nationals as Specified Skilled Workers, certain criteria must be met. For example, with regard to the employment contracts for specified skilled workers², there must be no discriminatory treatment with regard to the decisions on remuneration, the implementation of education and training, the use of welfare facilities, and other treatment on the grounds that the worker is a foreign national. On top of that, public and private organizations in Japan, which are the other party to the employment contracts for specified skilled workers (i.e. the accepting organization) must not have conducted a wrongful or seriously unjust act in relation to the laws and regulations on immigration or labor within five years before the date of entering into employment contract for specified skilled workers, etc. Furthermore, those who wish to be registered by the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency as a contractor entrusted with support works³, by the accepting organization by contract (Registered Support Organization) are required to fulfil certain criteria. For example, they must not have committed a wrongful or extremely unjust act in relation to laws and regulations on immigration or labor, their business activities must not be controlled by members of

² A contract for the employment of a foreigner who intends to engage in the activities of "Specified Skilled Worker (i)" or "Specified Skilled Worker (ii)," to be concluded with a public or private organization in Japan.

³ All support measures in the plan to implement support for vocational lives, daily lives, and social lives of foreigners who stay in Japan with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i).”

organized crime groups, and they must have established the necessary systems to ensure the appropriate performance of support works.

In this way, the necessary criteria, etc., have been established for accepting organizations and registered support organizations to conform to in order to ensure that foreigners (specified skilled workers) who stay in Japan with the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” can reside in Japan appropriately and smoothly. The Immigration Services Agency strictly examines their conformity to the criteria, etc., at the time of application for the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker to prevent any illegal or unjust acts, including the infringement of the human rights of foreigners.

- The Amended Immigration Control Act requires that accepting organizations submit notification to the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency on the job contents that foreign “Specified Skilled Workers” are engaged in, the status of payment to these workers, and the implementation status of the support works related to foreign “Specified Skilled Workers.” It also requires registered support organizations notify the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency on the implementation status of support works. Under the Amended Immigration Control Act, the Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency may provide accepting organizations and registered support organizations with necessary guidance and advice, request reports, etc., and issue orders to accepting organizations to implement improvement measures (improvement order). In addition, the Act provides for penalties in the event that an accepting organization breaches the obligation to submit notifications, makes a false report, or violates an improvement order, etc. Registered support organizations are also subject to the cancellation of registration if they breach the obligation to submit notifications or make a false report. In this way, the Immigration Services Agency shall ensure the proper operation of the system pertaining to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker after receiving foreign specified skilled workers.

- In the construction field, in addition to the cross-industrial standards, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism established the standards for an organization to which specified skilled workers belong (accepting organizations) that is authorized by its Minister based on the characteristics of the construction field. The standards require accepting organizations to provide specified skilled workers with the same or higher wage level than that of Japanese workers, monthly pay, and workers’ promotion depending on their skill proficiency. The Ministry works to secure an appropriate working environment for foreign skilled workers through the Minister’s authorization of the accepting plan and on-site guidance.

[Figure 14] Outline of the system pertaining to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker (Immigration Services Agency)

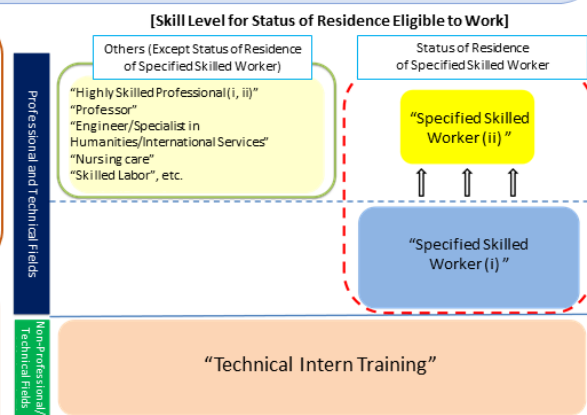
Outline of the System (1) Status of Residence

- In order to cope with the worsening labor shortages, the statuses of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)” were established for the acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals who have a certain degree of expertise and skills in the industrial fields where it is still difficult to secure human resources even if efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources. (Started on April 1, 2019)
- **Specified Skilled Worker (i):** Status of Residence for foreign nationals engaging in work requiring skills which need considerable degree of knowledge or experience belonging to a specific industrial field.
- **Specified Skilled Worker (ii):** Status of Residence for foreign nationals engaging in work requiring proficient skills belonging to a specified field

Specified Industry Fields (12 Fields): “Nursing care”, “Building cleaning management”, “Machine parts and tooling/Industrial machinery/Electric, electronics and information industries”, “Construction industry”, “Shipbuilding and ship machinery industry”, “Automobile repair and maintenance”, “Aviation industry”, “Accommodation industry”, “Agriculture, Fishery & aquaculture”, “Manufacture of food and beverages”, “Food service industry” (Specified skilled workers (ii) can be accepted only in the two underlined fields.)

- Major Points for Specified Skilled Worker (i)**
- Period of stay: A term individually designated by the Minister of Justice (1 year or less), which can be renewed up to 5 years in total
 - Skill Standards: Confirmed by exams, etc. (those who have completed Technical Intern Training (ii) are exempted from exams, etc.)
 - Japanese language level: Proficiency in Japanese language required in daily life and at the workplace needs to be confirmed by exams, etc. (those who have completed Technical Intern Training (ii) are exempted from exams, etc.)
 - Accompanied by family members: basically not permitted
 - Eligible for support by Accepting Organizations or Registered Support Organizations

- Major Points for Specified Skilled Worker (ii)**
- Period of stay: Renewed every 3 years, 1 year or 6 months
 - Skill Standards: Confirmed by exams, etc.
 - Japanese language level: No need for confirmation by exams, etc.
 - Accompanied by family members: Possible if requirements are met (spouse, children)
 - Not eligible for support by Accepting Organizations or Registered Support Organizations



Outline of the system (2) accepting organizations and registered support organizations

About the accepting organizations

- 1. Criteria for accepting organizations to accept foreign nationals**
- ① Employment contract entered into with the foreign national is appropriate (e.g., the amount of remuneration is equivalent to or greater than that a Japanese national would receive for the same kind of work)
 - ② The organization itself is appropriate (e.g., no violation of the immigration or labor-related laws within the past 5 years)
 - ③ There is a system in place to support foreign nationals (e.g., able to offer support in a language understood by foreign nationals)
 - ④ The plan to support foreign nationals is appropriate (e.g., includes general living orientation, etc.)

- 2. Obligations of the accepting organization**
- ① Reliable fulfillment of the employment contract entered into with the foreign national (e.g., payment of appropriate remuneration)
 - ② Provision of appropriate support for foreign nationals → possible to outsource support to a registered support organization
 - ③ Submission of various notifications to the Immigration Services Agency
- Note. Failure to do ① to ③ will result in permission being denied for acceptance of foreign nationals, and the organization may be subject to guidance and improvement orders from the Immigration Services Agency.

About the registered support organizations

- 1. Criteria for registration**
- ① The organization itself is appropriate (e.g., no violation of the immigration or labor-related laws within the past 5 years)
 - ② There is a system in place to support foreign nationals (e.g., able to offer support in a language understood by foreign nationals)
- 2. Obligations of the registered support organization**
- ① Implementation of appropriate support for foreign nationals
 - ② Submission of various notifications to the Immigration Services Agency
- Note. Failure to do ① and ② may result in registration being revoked.



- Furthermore, based on the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (decided by the Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals on December 25, 2018), the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the National Police Agency drew up bilateral intergovernmental documents to establish a framework for sharing information with the aim of eliminating malicious intermediary organizations, with the Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Thailand, India, Malaysia, and Laos (as of March 31, 2023).

- With regard to the Specified Skilled Worker System, it is required to review the ideal form of the system including its relationship with the Technical Intern Training Program in the Article 18(2) of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control Act and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice. The former Minister of Justice Mr. Furukawa held the “Minister of Justice Study Session concerning the Specified Skilled Worker System and Technical Intern Training Program” from February to July 2022, to identify issues of both programs. The Advisory Panel of Experts on the Ideal Form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System was established on November 22, 2022 under the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals,” which is co-chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary and the Minister of Justice. The discussions have been held at meetings of the Panel since December of the same year. Going forward, the government will discuss the ideal form of the programs with regard to discussions at the Panel.

(5) Efforts against the demand side for trafficking in persons

i) Educating people on the demand side of sexual exploitation

- Every fiscal year since FY2004, the Cabinet Office has produced a poster and leaflet for raising awareness of the measures against trafficking in persons and posted it on its website. In FY2021, the Cabinet Office produced about 50,000 posters and leaflets for users titled “That is human trafficking (sexual service or forced labor), too!” and about 50,000 posters and leaflets for victims titled “Human trafficking (sexual service or forced labor) could happen to you!” and distributed these to about 4,600 places including local governments, airports and sea ports, universities and technical colleges, the Japan Association of Travel Agents, IOM, and other relevant organizations. The Cabinet Office also displayed the posters in train stations and conducted public relations and awareness activities using means such as social media. In addition, awareness videos focusing on users of sexual exploitation were disseminated on social media. In order to raise greater awareness of the measures for cases that are often known to the police and for which arrests are made in Japan, such as coercion to provide sexual services, and cases involving the

use of not only physical restraint but also psychological restraint, publicity that uses the terminology “Trafficking in persons (sexual service or forced labor)” is promoted.

The posters, leaflets, and videos for users clearly state that trafficking in persons is a serious crime and subject to penalties of specific imprisonment for violating the relevant Act by presenting some cases, calling on people “What the person close to you does could be trafficking in persons. Report to the nearest Police Station or Regional Immigration Services Bureau if you find an offender or a person who maybe a victim.”

- Every fiscal year since FY2002, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has produced a booklet titled “A Handbook of Safety Tips in Foreign Countries” for Japanese nationals travelling overseas, which has been distributed at the counter of Center for Consular Services of the Ministry and at the overseas safety seminars for companies, as well as at passport centers in each prefecture and to the organizations of travel-related industry. In conjunction with this, the Ministry posted the PDF format of the booklet available on the overseas safety hp and made it also available for viewing in the overseas safety app and on smartphones, etc.

From FY2016, the distribution has been expanded to relevant facilities at international airports.

Leaflets regarding the overseas safety app were also printed and distributed mainly to prefectural passports centers. In FY2022, 205,000 copies of the booklet and 838,000 copies of the leaflet were printed.

In the section under “Case Studies: Examples of Problems and Countermeasures,” the booklet cites involvement in acts of prostitution as an example of a case where Japanese nationals become criminals. It also explains that prostitution is illegal in many countries and can be treated as a serious crime, and that offenses relating to the child prostitution and possessing child pornography is subjected to punishment under the relevant Japanese law as the crime committed outside Japan, therefore calls on the public to refrain from engaging in inappropriate activities.

- The National Police Agency has set up a page titled “STOP! Child Sexual Exploitation” on its website, which provides the information that child prostitution is a malicious crime and that child prostitution in foreign countries is also severely punished, lists examples of laws that punish child prostitution in Southeast Asian countries, and provides the information that strong crackdowns are being carried out by the police in each country, etc.

In FY2022, the National Police Agency continued to post posters in both Japanese and English on its website for public relations and awareness raising to inform the public that child sexual exploitation, such as child prostitution and child pornography, is a vicious crime that violates the human rights of children. In addition, about 90,000 Japanese posters were produced and distributed to prefectural police departments.

ii) Raising awareness of employers

- The police are putting effort into publicity and awareness-raising among employers, etc., through activities that include site inspections of places of adult entertainment business facilities, etc., and posting of cases of trafficking in persons in the handbook used for awareness lectures for adult entertainment business employers.

- Prefectural Labor Bureaus and Labor Standards Inspection Offices provide inspection and guidance to implementing organizations of technical intern training programs (see (3) iii)). They also organize briefing sessions for implementing organizations aimed at making them better understand the labor standards-related laws and regulations.
In addition, in October 2022, they prepared a new leaflet to distribute to implementing organizations on opportunities such as labor consultation and inspection guidance in order to make them be aware of activities of potential trafficking in persons and recognize the importance of combatting trafficking in persons.

- In the Technical Intern Training Business Council, which is established by the ministry and agency in charge of the technical intern training program, the Immigration Services Agency raises awareness about human rights violations and trafficking in persons of technical intern trainees, besides taking measures to reduce the number of disappearing technical intern trainees and such cases.

- In the Specified Skilled Worker-System, a council set up by the ministry and agency responsible for each specified industrial fields raises awareness of compliance with laws and regulations among the member organizations and industry associations of each council.

[Figure 15] Poster for Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, etc. (Cabinet Office)

These acts are Trafficking in Persons

We are intensifying the crackdown on Trafficking in Persons.

These acts are examples of Trafficking in Persons that damages both one's dignity and human rights. The following laws can be applied and, if found in violation, penalties will be imposed.

Forcing or coercing someone to appear in pornographic videos.

~10 Years in prison

(Employment Security Act, Article 58)
Imprisonment for not less than 1 year but not more than 10 years or a fine of not less than 500,000 yen but not more than 3,000,000 yen.

Exploiting children for prostitution by causing them to commit obscene acts.

~10 Years in prison

(Child Welfare Act, Article 54-1 & 54-2)
Imprisonment for not less than 1 year but not more than 10 years or a fine of not less than 500,000 yen or both.

Harboring runaway children for obscene purposes.

~10 Years in prison

(Child Care Act, Article 22)
Imprisonment for not less than 1 year but not more than 10 years.

Forced labor.

~10 Years in prison

(Labor Standards Act, Articles 8 & 117)
Imprisonment for not less than 1 year but not more than 10 years or a fine of not less than 500,000 yen but not more than 3,000,000 yen.

Any person who commits Child Prostitution
Add-on legislation and modification of Act Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children, Article 4
Imprisonment for not less than 3 years or a fine of not more than 3,000,000 yen.

The actions of a person close to you might be related to human trafficking.
If you notice perpetrators or victims, please contact the nearest **police station (or call #8110)** or **Regional Immigration Bureau (0570-013904).**

Provide information or assist anonymously
Anonymous reporting hotline
0120-924-839

For more information and counseling opportunities on TIP

<https://www.tokuma24.jp>
—Japanese text only—

Provide information or assist anonymously
Anonymous reporting hotline
0120-924-839

For more information and counseling opportunities on TIP

<https://www.gov-online.go.jp/useful/article/20111123.html>
—Japanese text only—

Trafficking in Persons

It can happen to anybody!

in Japan
in 2021

More than **30%** of the victims were non-Japanese citizens!



More than **35%** of the victims were under 18!



You're just not aware - You or someone close to you might be a victim.

Something feels wrong after signing a contract as a fashion model.



They might be forced or coerced and suffer from performing in sexually explicit video productions.

Persons looking for a "sugar daddy" or offering prostitution service on social media.



Children might be forced or lured to engage in sexual acts.

Persons offering accommodation for runaways on social media.



They might be targeted as victims of obscene acts.

A foreign worker saying "my passport has been taken away."



They might be forced to do unreasonably heavy work.

If you recognize yourself or someone else as a victim, or if you're asked for help, please contact the nearest police station (or call #8110) or Regional Immigration Bureau (0570-013904).

Provide information or assist anonymously
Anonymous reporting hotline
0120-924-839

For more information and counseling opportunities on TIP

<https://www.tokuma24.jp>
—Japanese text only—

Provide information or assist anonymously
Anonymous reporting hotline
0120-924-839

For more information and counseling opportunities on TIP

<https://www.gov-online.go.jp/useful/article/20111123.html>
—Japanese text only—

Cabinet Secretariat/Cabinet Office/National Police Agency/Ministry of Justice/Investigation Service Agency/Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology/Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare/Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries/Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry/Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism/Japan Coast Guard

あなたが望まない性的な行為は、性暴力です



話すことで、 力をもらえる 場所がある。

性犯罪・性暴力の相談窓口は、あなたの声を何よりも尊重し、あなたの意思を守ることに全力を尽くします。

「自分も悪いかも」と自分に言い聞かせて、性暴力がなかったことになってしまう前に。


まずは、あなたの声を聴かせてください。

性犯罪・性暴力で悩んでいる方へ、一人で悩まず、相談してください

電話で相談 **#8891** **#8103** SNSで相談 **Cure time**

11月12日～25日は「女性に対する暴力をなくす運動」期間です

怖いくらい、やさしい人だった。 会ってみたら、ほんとに怖かった。



今日はゲーム参加ありがとね♡

こちらこそいつも助けてくれてありがと!

こんどリアルで会わない? ご飯おこるよ

えー、どうしょ!

写真送ってよ 顔だけでも見たいな

えー、はずかしいなあ。だけどいっつ! 送るね♡

まさかあの人が...そんなつもりなかったのに...

あなたが望まない性的な行為はどんな理由・相手でも性暴力です!

10代・20代に対する性暴力の件数が増加しています。よくなりました相手から、言葉巧みに誘惑され、自分の顔写真を送渡させられたり、SNSで知り合った相手に誘い出され、わいせつな行為を求めたりする、SNSを利用した性被害が起きています。あなたが望まない性的な行為は、どんな理由・相手でも性暴力です。性暴力に親する防犯をみんなで共有して、社会全体で性暴力をなくしていきましょう。

18歳になったら契約は慎重に!

2022年4月1日から成年年齢が引き下げられます

18歳・19歳の方は、未成年であることを理由とした契約の取り消しができなくなります。アゲアゲで子どもに出現するよう認識がないまま契約し、出演を要される用語が送られてより一層の注意が必要です。一人で悩まず相談してください。

性暴力の悩み、ひとりでは抱え込まないで、ためらわずに、ご相談ください。

電話で相談 **#8891** **#8103** SNSで相談 **Cure time** キュアタイム

4月「若年層の性暴力被害予防月間」
性暴力をなくそう

[Figure 16] Poster titled “STOP! Child Sexual Exploitation” (in English) (National Police Agency)



[Figure 17] Overseas Safety “Guidance Book” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) (Excerpt)



[Figure 18] Leaflet titled “the act against the technical intern is trafficking in persons”
(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

技能実習生を受け入れている事業者の皆さま

技能実習生に対するその行為は 人身取引です

人身取引[※]は、重大な人権侵害であり、犯罪です
技能実習生に対する「強制労働」や「中間搾取」などは、人身取引に該当する可能性があります。**絶対にやめましょう。**

※ 労働搾取目的の人身取引に該当する事業とは、
①法人または個人が財産上の利益を得る目的で、
②暴力の行使、脅迫、監禁、罰則、権力の濫用またはせい弱な立場に果するなどの手段を用いて、
③加害者の影響下から離脱することを困難な状態に置いた上で、労働者の意思に反して働かせる
の3つの特徴を満たすものです。

<p>強制労働</p>  <p>労働者の意思に反して働かせる行為</p>	<p>中間搾取</p>  <p>第三者が労働者の賃金の一部を不当に得る（いわゆる「ピンハネ」）行為</p>
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以下の行為も「人身取引」となる可能性があります
以下の手段で、技能実習生を従わざるを得ない状況にして、労働基準関係法令に違反して働かせる行為も人身取引に該当する可能性があります。

<p>暴力、脅迫、監禁 その他の強制力</p>  <p>暴力、脅迫、監禁のほか、怒鳴る、殴りかかるとうとする など</p> <p><small>以下のような行為で技能実習生に恐怖を与え、働かせると、この手段に該当する可能性があります。</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ・頭を小突いたり肩を叩く ・住居から無断で外出を禁じ、勝手に外出すると罰金を取ると脅す ・話尾に「アホ」などの言葉を付けて強い口調で注意する など 	<p>権力の濫用または せい弱な立場に乗ずる</p>  <p>職場内の上下関係を利用して、相手の弱い立場につけ込む など</p> <p><small>解雇されたら行くところがないといった技能実習生の弱い立場につけ込み、「解雇する」「帰国させる」などと言って働かせることも、この手段に該当する可能性があります。</small></p>
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厚生労働省 都道府県労働局 法務省出入国在留管理庁 外国人技能実習機構

4 Promotion of identification of trafficking victims

(1) Promotion of efforts based on “Measures for Identification of Victims”

- Relevant ministries and agencies inform relevant administrative bodies about the “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Identification of Victims)” (agreed by the June 23, 2010 Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons), and based on this the relevant administrative bodies appropriately take measures for identification of victims.

- Through contact points such as dedicated police consultation phone lines and an Anonymous-Report Hot Line, the police are making efforts to respond to consultation requests and reports to the police in such a way as to ensure that crimes related to trafficking in persons are not overlooked.

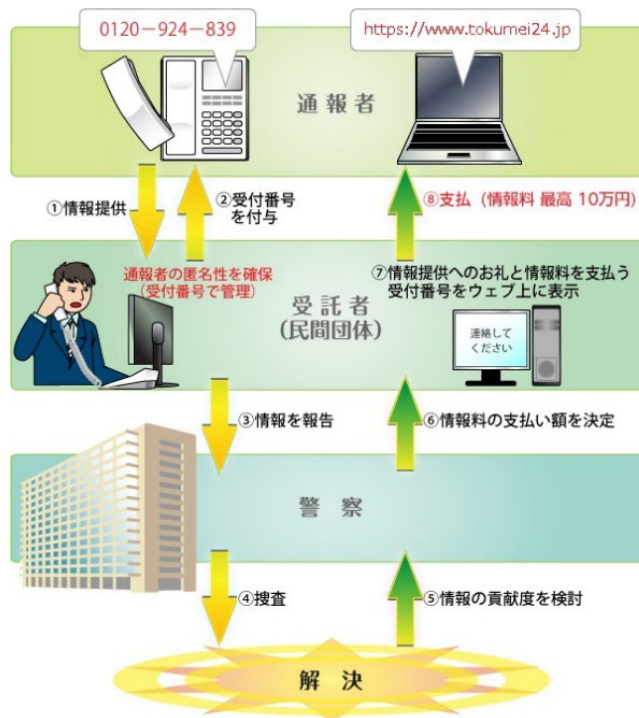
- A private organization commissioned by the National Police Agency operates the Anonymous-Report Hot Line, which receives anonymous reports concerning cases of trafficking in persons and offenses suspected to be related to such cases (hereinafter referred to as “cases of trafficking in persons, etc.”), child welfare crimes, child abuse cases, and other such cases and crimes from citizens by telephone and through the website and pays rewards for information depending on the value of contribution which clears the case and protects victims. It is making efforts to call for reports using the website, posters, etc., and to achieve the early identification of these crimes, which often remain hidden.

When a report regarding a case of trafficking in persons, etc., is received, the information is shared with the relevant prefectural police department, which conducts an investigation. In FY2019, 156 reports regarding cases of trafficking in persons, etc. were received, while 61 and 127 reports were received in FY2020 and FY2021 respectively.

[Figure 19] Anonymous-Report Hot Line poster (in Japanese) (National Police Agency)



[Figure 20] Anonymous-Report Hot Line procedure (in Japanese) (National Police Agency)



- When the police receive consultation, consideration is given to the consultation place so that the consuler does not feel any psychological pressure, such as a consultation room. If the consuler is female, a female officer will interview her if she wishes, and if the consuler is non-Japanese, an officer who can speak his or her native language will interview him or her as far as possible.
- The Immigration Services Agency has established trafficking in persons countermeasure secretariats within the General Affairs Divisions of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus to collect information relating to trafficking in persons. The secretariat also strives to increase identification of cases of trafficking in persons acting as a contact point for related organizations and the general public to provide trafficking-related information.
- When Japanese Embassies and Consulates come into contact with information pertaining to the victims of trafficking in persons, the information is provided swiftly to the relevant ministries and agencies through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

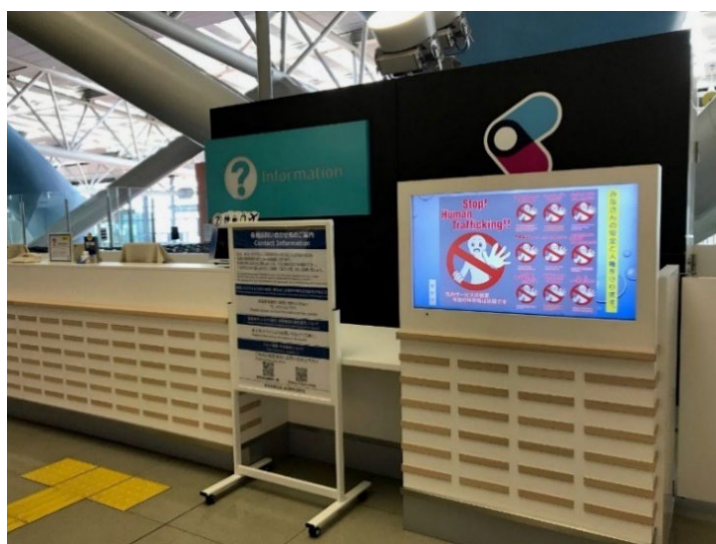
(2) Informing latent victims about agencies to which they can report the crime and the measures for protecting them

- Every year since 2005, the National Police Agency has produced leaflets in several languages calling for people to report cases of trafficking in persons to the police, with the aim of discovering latent victims. These leaflets are distributed to the relevant ministries and agencies, embassies in Tokyo, and NGOs, and also placed in places that can easily catch the eyes of the victims and made available online. The leaflet was revised throughout from the perspective of victims in a significantly compact form for portability and an understandable design with key words and illustrations, reflecting feedback from NGOs and foreign embassies in Tokyo. In FY2022, about 228,000 leaflets in ten languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Russian, Thai, Tagalog, Indonesian, and Vietnamese) were prepared and distributed.
In addition, digital signage using the leaflet data is displayed at multiple international airports in Japan.

[Figure 21] Leaflet for measures to combat trafficking in persons (National Police Agency)

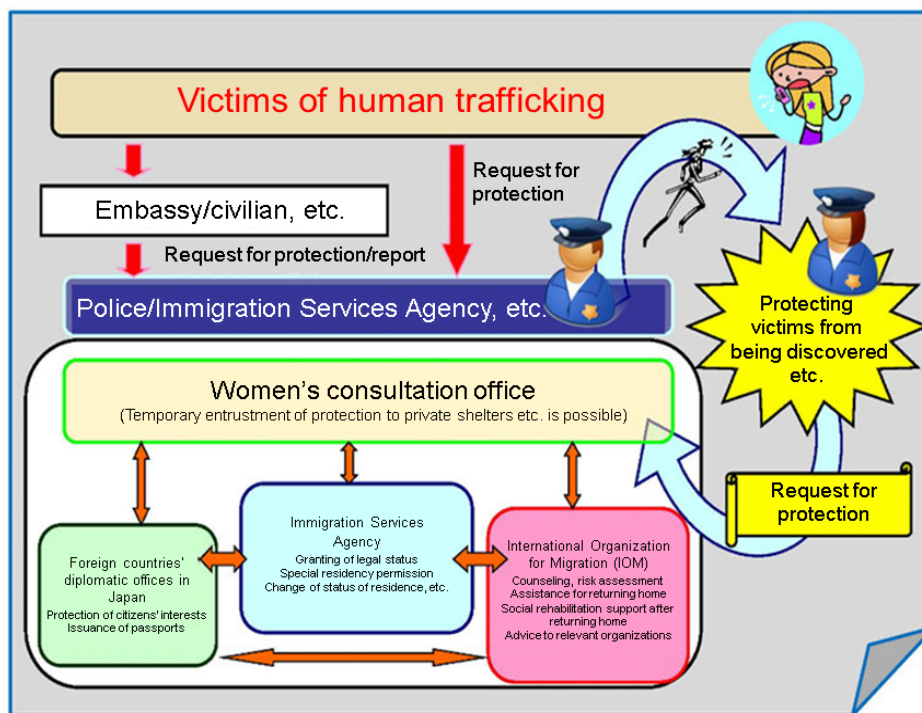


[Figure 22] Digital signage displayed at an international airport (National Police Agency)



- The Immigration Services Agency has listed on its automatically translated multi-language website the contact points for consultation and providing information relating to trafficking in persons, and its policies and processes relating to victim protection measures. In addition, efforts have also been made to make leaflets produced by the National Police Agency readily available to trafficking victims by, for example, placing them at regional immigration services bureau examination counters and airport landing examination counters.

[Figure 23] The process for putting victims under protection (Immigration Services Agency)



(3) Strengthening of counseling in foreign languages

- In order to respond quickly and accurately to Dial 110 calls from non-Japanese speakers, the prefectural police operate a “three way calling system” in which the caller, personnel of the Communications and Command Center, and personnel of the Interpretation Center, etc., communicate at the same time and receive a report from the caller. In addition, in order to respond to reports concerning urgent cases from non-Japanese speakers, the prefectural police utilize materials and equipment with multilingual translation functions, assign staff members who can respond in foreign languages, and conduct language training, etc., for them.
- The Immigration Services Agency has established the “Immigration Information Center,” which provides consultation services concerning procedures of immigration control and residency and advice how to fill out the required forms for such procedures for foreign nationals and their related parties in multiple languages with a single telephone number usable nationwide. The Immigration Information Center also provides information and consultation services relating to trafficking in persons. Each Regional Immigration Services Bureau and District Immigration Services Office (excluding Airport District Immigration Offices) has consultants who provide consultation for visitors.
- Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus have established “Human Rights Counseling

Centers for Foreigners” (available in about 80 languages) as well as the “Foreign-Language Human Rights Hotline” which is a telephone counseling service (provided in ten foreign languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino, Portuguese, Nepalese, Spanish, Indonesian, and Thai)).

In addition, in March 2016, Foreign Language Human Rights Counseling Service on the Internet was established in two foreign languages (English and Chinese) and the number of languages increased to ten in March 2021 (the same as for the Foreign-Language Human Rights Hotline).

These contact points have been publicized on the website and in a leaflet produced in each available language.

[Figure 24] Foreign-Language Human Rights Counseling Leaflet (in English) (Ministry of Justice)
(Excerpt)



- To be able to provide consultation services for foreigners regarding working conditions, etc., the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has established Foreign Workers Consultation Corner in 14 languages (in addition to Japanese, and depending on the location, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Nepalese, Burmese, Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian (Nepalese and Burmese were added in April 2019, while Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian were added in April 2020)) at Prefectural Labor Bureaus and Labor Standards Inspection Offices.

The ministry has also produced a leaflet titled “For All Foreign Nationals Working in Japan – Working Conditions Handbook” in 14 languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Burmese, Nepalese, Thai, Cambodian, Mongolian, and Indonesian), and made it available online. In addition, when visiting workplaces employing technical intern trainees, the ministry distributes the leaflet to technical intern trainees and calls on them to consult with the Advisory Services for Foreign Workers, etc.

Furthermore, the Telephone Consultation Service for Foreign Workers was established in June 2015. Those who call the service are connected to the staff at the section for this service, making it easier for people to access the service from anywhere in the country. From April 2019, during outside office hours of the Prefectural Labor Bureaus and the Labor Standards Inspection Offices, the “Labor standards Advice Hotline” (consignment business: 17:00 to 22:00 on weekdays, 9:00 to 21:00 on weekends and holidays) accepts consultation in 14 languages (in addition to Japanese, English, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Burmese, Nepalese, Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian (Korean, Thai, Indonesian, Cambodian, and Mongolian were added in April 2020)).

[Repeated from 3 (3) ii)]

- Since the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act in November 2017, the OTIT has been providing the native language consultation counters available in eight languages (English, Chinese, Thai, Filipino, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Burmese, and Cambodian) by email and telephone. In addition, since April 2021, the OTIT has provided consultation for technical intern trainees by establishing “Technical Intern Trainee’s SOS and Dedicated Consultation Desk” as a dedicated consultation desk for urgent cases like violence and threats.

[Repeated from 3 (3) ii)]

(4) Coordination with embassies in Tokyo

- In light of the fact that some foreign victims of trafficking in persons seek protection from the embassies of their country of origin, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs encourages embassies in Tokyo to establish consultation service points for victims of trafficking in persons and calls for their cooperation in raising awareness by distributing leaflets on measures against trafficking in persons.

(5) Promotion of calling the attention of potential victims of trafficking in persons through overseas diplomatic missions

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributes leaflets produced by the National Police Agency (see (2)) and leaflets and posters produced by the Cabinet Office (see 3 (5) i)) to overseas diplomatic missions, etc.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs raises awareness on trafficking in persons by providing visa applicants

with leaflets during the application process at the Embassies and Consulates. In countries where accredited agencies handle visa applications and issuance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also requests those agencies for their cooperation to alert visa applicants of the risks and issues pertaining to trafficking in persons.

(6) Operation of the Internet Hotline Center (IHC)

- The National Police Agency entrusts the private sector with operation of the Internet Hotline Center (IHC), which receives reports from Internet users, etc., about illegal information such as inducements for the purpose of prostitution or public displays of child pornography, and report the information to the police and requests the website administrator to delete the information.

From February 2023, the scope of information handled by the IHC includes information closely related to a grave crime that is likely to cause harm to an individual's life or body, strengthening measures against information on the Internet related to contracting human trafficking, organ trafficking, kidnapping, arrest, and confinement.

[Figure 25] Consultation and provision of information on trafficking in persons

[Prefectural police]	
Emergency call (Tel): 110 Police consultation counter (Tel): # 9110	
[Anonymous Report Hot Line] (National Police Agency)	
Tel: 0120-924-839 website: https://www.tokumei24.jp/	
[Internet Hotline Center (IHC)] (National Police Agency)	
Website: https://www.internethotline.jp	
[Immigration Services Agency]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Immigration Information Center Tel: 0570-013904 (IP, overseas: 03-5796-7112) ● Regional Immigration Services Bureau List: https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/about/region/index.html 	*Foreign language support
[Human rights counseling] (Ministry of Justice)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Rights Hotline Tel: 0570-003-110 ● Human Rights Counseling Centers for Foreigners Website: https://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken21.html ● Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline Tel: 0570-090911 ● Foreign Language Human Rights Counseling Service Website: https://www.moj.go.jp/JINKEN/jinken21.html#01 	*Foreign language support *Foreign language support *Foreign language support
Other related contacts	
[Human rights issues for women]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women's Rights Hotline (Ministry of Justice) Tel: 0570-070-810 ● Women's Consultation Offices (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) List: https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/001141247.pdf 	
[Human rights issues for children]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Children's Rights Hotline (Ministry of Justice) Tel: 0120-007-110 ● Child Guidance Centers (Children and Families Agency) List: https://www.cfa.go.jp/policies/jidougyakutai/jisou-ichiran/ 	
[Problems related to technical intern trainees]	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● General Labor Consultation Service (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) List: http://www.mhlw.go.jp/general/seido/chihou/kaiketu/soudan.html 	*Foreign language support

● **Advisory Services for Foreign Workers, Telephone Consultation Service for Foreign Workers**

(Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

*Foreign language support

List: <http://www.check-roudou.mhlw.go.jp/soudan/foreigner.html>

● **Labor Standards Advice Hotline** (Commissioned project of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

List: <https://www.check-roudou.mhlw.go.jp/lp/hotline/>

*Foreign language support

● **Native Language Consultation, Technical Intern Trainee's SOS and Dedicated Consultation Desk**

(Organization for Technical Intern Training: OTIT)

*Foreign language support

List: <https://www.otit.go.jp/notebook/>

[Consultation on sex crimes and sexual violence]

● **One-Stop Support Center for Victims of Sex Crimes and Sexual Violence**

Tel: Nation-wide common number #8891

List: https://www.gender.go.jp/policy/no_violence/seibouryoku/consult.html

● **Consultation phone for victims of sex crimes (connected to the counseling phone of the prefectural police for victims of sex crime, which has jurisdiction over the location of the caller)**

Tel: Nation-wide common number #8103

[Other]

● **Multilingual Information Service** (Houterasu)

*Foreign language support

Tel: 0570-078377 (IP: 050-3754-5430)

● **Yorisoi Hotline** (General Incorporated Association Social Inclusion Support Center)

*Foreign language support

Tel: 0120-279-338

5 Eradication of trafficking in persons

(1) Thorough control

- Each of the relevant organizations takes thorough steps to crackdown on trafficking in persons, and at the same time, responds actively to other related issues (offenses related to trafficking in persons) that may be connected with undetected trafficking in persons (see 2 (1) ii) for more information on the crackdown on trafficking in persons).

- In June 2014, the Law Enforcement Task Force against Trafficking in Persons was established, comprising members from the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Japan Coast Guard. In addition to cooperating and sharing information about offenses related to trafficking in persons, in September 2014, the Task Force produced “Handbook on Measures against Trafficking in Persons,” which summarizes information such as the laws and regulations applicable to trafficking in persons and concrete cases of application of these laws. In February 2022, it was revised by updating to the latest application and is actively utilized by the police, the Immigration Services Agency, the Public Prosecutors Office, the Labor Standards Inspection Offices, and the Japan Coast Guard in conducting investigation and other activities.

i) Thorough control of prostitution

- In 2022, the police arrested 366 people in connection with 467 cases of violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act.

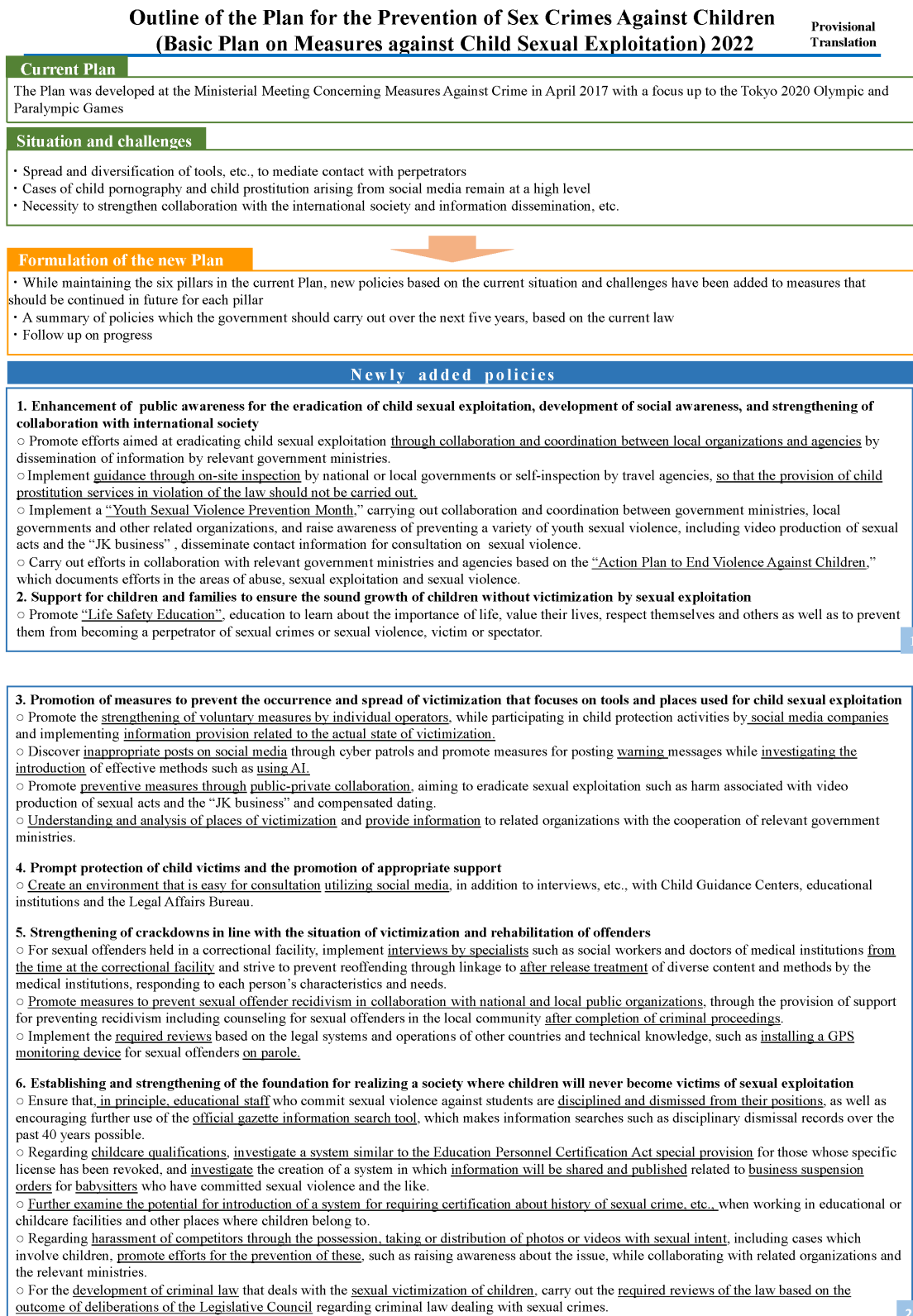
ii) Rigorous response to child sexual exploitation

- The police are working closely together with the relevant ministries and authorities on measures to crackdown on child prostitution and pornography-related crimes, measures to prevent the distribution and viewing of child pornography, and the early detection and support of child victims. In 2022, 516 people were arrested in connection with 630 cases of child prostitution crimes, while 2,053 people were arrested in connection with 3,035 cases of child pornography crimes.

- With the intent of confirming the policy to date of strictly responding to cases of trafficking in persons, in March 2018 the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office notified public prosecutors nationwide that when applying the Child Welfare Act to cases of trafficking in persons they should take care to ensure the imposition of strict sentences, primarily imprisonment with labor. Most of the cases of applying the Child Welfare Act to trafficking offences after this notification were sentenced imprisonment.

- As part of efforts to eradicate the sexual victimization of children resulting from child prostitution and production of child pornography, etc., and advocate the rights of child victims, on March 29, 2016, a cabinet decision was made on “Regarding the Basic Policy for Practices Relating to Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation.” According to this decision, the National Public Safety Commission has been designated to govern the overall coordination of measures against child sexual exploitation. In April 2017, the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation (Plan for the Prevention of Sex Crimes against Children)” was formulated, and the entire government has been working on preventive measures in close coordination with relevant ministries and agencies. However, looking at the current situation in Japan, with the spread among children of smartphones and other devices connected to the Internet, the number of children victimized by violations of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children (Act No. 52 of 1999) attributable to social media has remained at a high level. In order to respond to the current situation and challenges, on May 20, 2022, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime approved the “Plan for the Prevention of Sex Crimes against Children (Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation) 2022” with additional measures. The plan maps out the policies and measures that need to be implemented to realize the eradication of crimes relating to child prostitution and child pornography, which are offenses related to trafficking in persons. Since the plan also includes direct measures against trafficking in persons such as implementation of public relations and awareness-raising activities for the eradication of trafficking in persons, and promotion of the protection of trafficking victims, etc., the implementation of policies based on this basic plan is expected to contribute to the prevention of trafficking in persons. When the Children and Families Agency was established on April 1, 2023, the overall coordination of the prevention of sexual abuse of children was transferred to the Agency, which also took over the overall coordination of the promotion of the plan.

[Figure 26] Outline of the Plan for the Prevention of Sex Crimes against Children (Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation) 2022 (National Police Agency)



iii) Thorough control of vicious employers and brokers

- In 2022, with regard to crimes relating to the employment of foreign workers, in 283 people, including employers and brokers, were arrested in connection with 248 cases.

- In 2022, the Immigration Services Agency cracked down on 136 workplaces suspected of illegal employment. In addition, based on the policy concerning the “Promotion of the Measures against Illegal Employment of Foreign Nationals” agreed between the National Police Agency and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (see 3 (2) i)), the Immigration Services Agency has been proactively reporting malicious employers and brokers to the police and bringing charges against them.
[Repeated from 3 (2) ii)]

- In 2022, Prefectural Labor Bureaus and Labor Standards Inspection Offices conducted inspections on 9,829 implementing organizations (preliminary figures). Of these, 7,247 implementing organizations (preliminary figures) were found to be in violation of labor standards-related laws and regulations and were issued correction orders. Among these cases, 21 cases (preliminary figures) were referred to prosecutors. These cases involved serious/ heinous violations of labor standards-related laws and regulations in relation to technical intern trainees, such as illegal overtime work/working on days off, and lower extra pay for overtime work than legal extra pay.
[Repeated from 3 (3) iii)]

- In 2022, Prefectural Labor Bureaus, Labor Standards Inspection Offices, and the OTIT strengthened their cooperation based on the notification released in 2021 and carried out joint inspections or investigations on 41 implementing organizations (preliminary figures). As a result, Prefectural Labor Bureaus and Labor Standards Inspection Offices issued correction orders to 30 cases (preliminary figures) where violations of labor standards-related laws and regulations were identified. In addition, the OTIT issued correction orders to 31 cases (preliminary figures) where violations of the Technical Intern Training Act were identified.
[Repeated from 3 (3) iii)]

iv) Rigorous response to the problem of harm associated with performing in porn videos

- Since 2017, the government has been tackling the problem of victims performing in porn videos as an offense related to trafficking in persons, toward its eradication. “The Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality” (approved by a cabinet decision on December 25, 2020) has set April as “The Youth Sexual Violence Prevention Month,” starting from 2021. Being the month of school enrollment or new school year, April is suitable for raising awareness of youth sexual violence issues. The awareness raising includes preventing a various forms of youth sexual violence,

such as child appearing in porn videos and JK business, dissemination of contact information of consultation service for sexual violence, and promoting to reach out to those who need assistance, ensuring to raise awareness that no young people become perpetrators, victims, or spectators of sexual violence.

Furthermore, on June 15, 2022, as a legislation proposed by lawmakers, “Act Establishing Special Provisions on Performance Agreements That Are Meant to Help Prevent the Harm Associated with Performing in Sexually Explicit Videos and to Contribute to Remedies for Performers in Order to Contribute to the Formation of a Society in Which Individuals' Sexual Dignity Is Respected” (Act No. 78 of 2022, hereinafter referred to as the Act on Prevention and Remedy of Harm Associated with Performing in Porn Videos) was enacted. The Act stipulates special provisions on the rescission or cancellation of performance contracts to perform in porn videos, and the right to demand an injunction to stop the publication of such videos, regardless of the performer’s age and gender.

- Regarding the problem of victims appearing in pornographic videos, the police has promoted a crackdown with a view to the application of various laws and regulations such as the Act on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Saving Victims Appearing in Pornographic Materials, and responded appropriately to consultations.

(2) Crime control across borders

i) Strengthening of cooperation with relevant foreign organizations

- The National Police Agency has convened Contact Point Meetings on trafficking in persons once every year since 2004, at which officials from embassies in Tokyo, relevant ministries and agencies, prefectural governments, NGOs, IOM, and so on discuss issues and share information online. In 2022, the conference was held October 3.

- Annually from 2002 to 2016, the National Police Agency held the Conference of Investigators on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Southeast Asia annually, inviting overseas investigation organizations based in Southeast Asia and Tokyo to the Conference to expand and strengthen cooperation on investigations related to crimes committed abroad.

From 2017, in order to further strengthen measures to prevent child sexual exploitation, the Conference was developed into a form that enables international organizations and private organizations taking measures to prevent child sexual exploitation to participate in addition to officials in charge from relevant ministries, foreign organizations, and prefectural police. The title of the Conference has been changed to “Specialist Group Meeting on Child Sexual Exploitation.” In addition to the efforts of the government and the police, the activities of the private organizations and foreign organizations are also introduced to promote understanding of the situation by Japanese people and the international community and to work on exchanging information and strengthening collaboration with related organizations and groups.

At the same conference (online) held in February 2023 private organizations, NPOs, Aichi Prefectural Police, and the National Police Agency gave presentations.

- The police share necessary information on trafficking techniques through INTERPOL with investigative organizations in countries from which victims of trafficking in persons came.
- Since November 2004, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been providing information on lost and stolen passports (such as passport numbers) to INTERPOL through the National Police Agency. Since March 2022, the Ministry has been providing such information directly to INTERPOL in a prompt manner and this information is utilized in immigration screening conducted by Interpol member countries.

ii) Enhancement of international mutual legal assistance

- Japan promptly and appropriately makes request for or provides mutual legal assistance related to trafficking in persons cases based on its domestic laws (such as the Act on International Assistance in Investigation and Other Related Matters (Act No. 69 of 1980)) and treaties, agreements, etc. on mutual

legal assistance in criminal matters concluded with other countries or regions.

- Japan has concluded treaties and agreements on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with the United States (effective from July 2006), the Republic of Korea (effective from January 2007), China (effective from November 2008), Hong Kong (effective from September 2009), the EU (effective from January 2011), Russia (effective from February 2011), and Viet Nam (effective from August 2022), and is proactively considering the possibility of concluding such treaties with other countries.

- As a result of concluding the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in July 2017 (see 7 (1) i)), for the crimes stipulated in Article 3 of the Convention, it is now possible to provide mutual legal assistance promptly with the States Parties and regions of the Convention through the central authority rather than through diplomatic channels.

6 Protection and support of trafficking victims

(1) Promotion of efforts based on “Measures for Protection of Victims”

- Relevant ministries and agencies provide information to relevant administrative organizations regarding the “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Protection of Victims)” (agreed by the July 1, 2011 Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee Regarding Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons), and based on this the relevant administrative organizations collaborate with each other to appropriately take measures related to the protection of victims.

- With regard to victims of trafficking in persons, in full consideration of their standpoints and based on their wishes, the Immigration Services Agency makes efforts to stabilize the legal status of victims by permitting extension of the period of stay or change of the status of residence, or by granting them special permission to stay.

The number of non-Japanese victims who were put under protection by the Immigration Services Agency in 2022 was two. One victim who possessed the status of residence was permitted to change the status of residence. The other victim who had illegally overstayed and was therefore in violation of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, was granted special permission to stay.

[Repeated from 2 (1) i)]

With regard to victims who wish to stay in Japan and victims who are unable to return to their countries, the Immigration Services Agency considers the situation of each individual while respecting their wishes, and where necessary, permits them to change their statuses of residence to ones that allow them to work in Japan.

- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has placed consultation and interpretation staff at Hello Work offices (employment service centers) mainly in regions with a large number of foreign workers in order to provide advice and support with a view to realizing stable employment for foreign nationals, including victims of trafficking in persons.

Training Courses for Promoting Stable Employment of Foreign Residents are also held with the aim of promoting stable employment by enhancing participants’ communication skills in the workplace and assisting them to acquire knowledge about Japan’s labor laws and regulations, etc.

(2) Strengthening of protection

- As part of the remedy procedures, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice launched a system to provide trafficking victims, including male victims, with temporary accommodation as an emergency refuge in October 2015.

- The Technical Intern Training Act, which was enforced on November 1, 2017 establishes, in particular, regulations prohibiting acts such as infringing the human rights of technical intern trainees and penalties for violations, and puts in place measures for protecting technical intern trainees including appropriately addressing issues reported by technical intern trainees and coordinating transfers/relocations of technical intern trainees. The OTIT, which engages in the administrative work related to the above-mentioned, was also incorporated as a legal entity on January 25, 2017 and started operation

[Repeated from 3 (3) i)]

(3) Provision of support to victims

i) Further improvement of temporary protection and assistance at Women’s Consulting Offices

- Women’s Consulting Offices work together with various relevant organizations to protect female victims of trafficking in persons, regardless of nationality and age. The offices provide them with food, clothing, and shelter that respects their religious beliefs and dietary habits, gives consideration to their accommodations, bath, and meals, and deploys security personnel as part of its night-time security system. These offices are putting effort into improving these systems.

The victims who were put under protection temporarily at Women’s Consulting Offices in 2022 were provided living support, interpretation support, medical care, etc.

[Repeated from 2 (1) i)]

- Women’s Consulting Offices have also put in place budgetary provisions to supply funding for commissioning the temporary protection of victims of trafficking in persons to shelters in the private sector when provision of appropriate protection is expected for the victims concerned.
- In cases where the victims are children, Women’s Consulting Offices provide the required protective measures in coordination with Child Guidance Centers where necessary.

ii) Enhancing support for victims of sex crimes and sexual violence, including the development of the One-Stop Support Center

- In order to reduce the mental and physical burden on victims of sex crimes and sexual violence, the Cabinet Office has provided subsidies to stabilize and enhance the operation of the One-Stop Support Center for Victims of Sex Crimes and Sexual Violence (hereinafter referred to as the “One-Stop Support Center”), which provides consultation immediately after victimization, prescribing emergency contraceptives, and providing medical support such as evidence collection, psychological support, and legal support at one-stop service to the extent possible. In addition, the Cabinet Office has developed the support system such as by establishing and operating a “Night-time and Holiday Call Center for Victims of Sexual Violence,” which can respond to night and holiday calls, and publicizing the

nationwide number for One-Stop Support Centers (# 8891). Furthermore, the Cabinet Office has implemented an easy-to-use social media consultation service called “Cure time” for young people.

iii) Provision of information to victims during the process of investigation

- The police disseminate information about protective measures and provide victims with full explanations about legal procedures, including procedures for obtaining special permission to stay in Japan. The police also provide as much information as they can about perspective of investigations, and put effort to respond by fully considering the victims’ situation.

- At the Public Prosecutors Office, the pamphlet, “For Victims of Crime” (Japanese and English versions are available) produced by the Ministry of Justice, is handed to victims, etc., when they are to be questioned. In addition, this pamphlet is also available on the website of the Ministry of Justice and the website of the Public Prosecutors Office.

This pamphlet provides easy-to-understand explanations about various systems that provide support and protection to victims of crimes. These include the Victim Support Officer system, which responds to various consultations by victims and provides support on matters such as guidance to the courts, and various systems that put in place measures to shield victims when they are required to testify in court as witnesses, in cases deemed necessary by the court.

In particular, the section “Protection for victims of human trafficking” in this pamphlet clearly states that the Public Prosecutors Office responds strictly to incidents of human trafficking and illustrates the process of protection of the victims of human trafficking in an easy-to-understand way.

[Figure 27] For Victims of Crime (Public Prosecutor's Office) (excerpt)

5 Protection for victims of human trafficking

Human trafficking is a serious crime which violates the human rights of the victims. In Japan, all of the relevant organizations are working on prevention and elimination of human trafficking, and identification and protection of victims, based on the anti-human trafficking action plan. The Public Prosecutors Office deals with such crimes aggressively. Please see the following diagram to find out about the identification and protection of the victims of human trafficking.

Process of Protection of the Victims of Human Trafficking

The diagram illustrates the process of protection for victims of human trafficking, starting with the identification of victims and leading to a trial. Key steps include:

- Identification of victims** by counseling services or regulatory crackdowns.
- Counseling** and **Requests for protection from victims etc.** (e.g. seeking shelter at police stations, etc.).
- Protection** involving:
 - Temporary protection at Women Consultative Centers (Counseling advice, etc.; Stabilization of the legal status of victims (foreigners) (change of the status of the residence, special permission to stay in Japan, etc.); Securing victims' safety).
 - Temporary protection at private shelters.
- Referral** to the **Public Prosecutors Office** for **Prosecution** and **Trial**.
- Investigations** by the **Police** and **Immigration Bureau**.
- Repatriation support** (Co-operation with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other related agencies).
- Support victims returning to society in their home countries** (Support victims returning to society through provision of shelters, vocational training, etc. by international organizations).

Contacts:

- ① Police: 110
- ② Immigration Bureau Immigration information center: 0570-019004
- Sapporo: 011-261-7542 Sendai: 022-296-0078
- Tokyo: 03-5196-7112 Yokohama: 045-769-1720
- Nagoya: 052-559-2150 Osaka: 06-4703-2100
- Kobe: 078-901-6277 Hiroshima: 082-221-4411
- Tokushima: 087-822-5862 Fukuoka: 092-717-5420
- Naha: 096-932-4186
- ③ NGO Women's Advice Center for Human Trafficking Victims (Monday to Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.): 03-3358-8655
- ④ Women's Consultative Centers
- ⑤ Embassies and Consulates

8 Other Forms of Victim Support

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- The Japan Coast Guard explains to victims of crime including victims of trafficking matters such as outlines of criminal proceedings, the status of investigations, the status of the arrest/send of perpetrators, the rescue of victims, and other matters that are thought to contribute to relieving the anxiety of victims. The Japan Coast Guard also publicizes initiatives relating to the provision of support for victims of crime on its website and on leaflets entitled “Regarding support for victims of crime.”

iv) Provision of legal support to victims and dissemination of legal support

- The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) cooperates with victim support organizations and groups nationwide, collects information about support contact points, and provides victims with the information they require based on their specific circumstances.

While paying careful attention to preventing the whereabouts of victims from being revealed, Houterasu refers victims requiring legal support to attorneys with experience and understanding of crime victim support, and provides Legal Consultation Aid for the Victims of Specific Acts of Trespass Against the Person (Meaning Spousal Violence, Stalking and Child Abuse). In addition, it provides victims who are not financially capable with support through Civil Legal Aid or through Aid Services Entrusted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

Legal Consultation Aid for the Victims of Specific Acts of Trespass Against the Person (Meaning

Spousal Violence, Stalking and Child Abuse) is legal aid for persons who are found to be suspected to suffer from spousal violence, stalking, and child abuse at the time in question.

Civil Legal Aid involves free legal consultations and lending money to pay for representative's remuneration and necessary actual costs, etc., for Japanese citizens and foreign nationals lawfully residing in Japan (hereinafter collectively referred to as "citizens and legal foreign residents") who lack the financial means to pay the necessary expenses incurred in preparing to exercise and exercising their own rights in civil, family, and administrative court proceedings (including negotiations that are found to be necessary to settle a dispute in advance of civil, family, and administrative court proceedings), or who would experience serious financial difficulties if they were to pay those expenses themselves. (reference: the main paragraph of Article 30 (1) ii) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act (Act No. 74 of 2004)).

Aid Services Entrusted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations involve provision of legal support by attorneys and grants for legal fees, etc. from the perspective of help relating to human rights to people who are not covered by Civil Legal Aid or the court-appointed attorney system for victims participating in criminal trials.

- Houterasu disseminates information of various support systems intended for victims, etc., by publishing leaflets and showing them on its website, and distributing them to Women's Consulting Offices, etc.

- Houterasu has been operating "Multilingual Information Service" that provides foreign nationals with information on laws and justice systems and relevant organizations or authorities to ask for consultation in multiple languages. In FY2022, the number of cases as of March 31, 2023 was 1,457 in Portuguese, 1,455 in English, 1,081 in Chinese, 783 in Tagalog, 533 in Spanish, 387 in Vietnamese, 87 in Thai, 65 in Nepalese, 59 in Korean, and 38 in Indonesian.

[Figure 28] Multilingual Information Service (Houterasu)



Multilingual Information Service
多言語情報提供サービス

0570-078377

Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm

* Not available on holidays and weekends
* Calls will be charged at your standard network rate

For those living outside of Japan:
with the exception of The Hague Convention,
Houterasu does not have any information on
consultation services within Japan that users who
live abroad can use to consult about general legal
issue.

If you are calling from a VoIP phone
or a prepaid mobile phone,
please contact us on the following number instead:
050-3754-5430.

- Houterasu cooperates with the General Incorporated Association Social Inclusion Support Center, which provides the telephone consultation service called the “Yoriso Hotline” that offers advice on issues faced in everyday life including sexual violence.

The Yoriso Hotline project is subsidized by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and provides services in ten languages (English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Nepalese and Indonesia) as of the end of FY2022.

v) Return and reintegration assistance to foreign trafficking victims

- Since 2005, the Government of Japan has been continuously rendering assistance to the project to provide repatriation and reintegration support (e.g. employment and vocational support, and provision of medical expenses) to foreign victims of trafficking in persons identified in Japan through the IOM. In 2022, Japan contributed US\$142,000 to the IOM. Since 2005, this project has provided support to 355 victims to return to their home countries (as of March 31, 2023).

In 2022, one victim was voluntary repatriated and was provided with temporary accommodation through support from the IOM. However, since there were concerns about the victim’s safety, such as the recruiter’s uninvited contact to the family of the victim, safety measures were taken after the victim’s return to the home country. IMO also provided advice on administrative procedures for the cancellation of fake marriage. As a social reintegration and economic self-reliance support programs, IOM provided assistance to the victim to launch a transportation business.

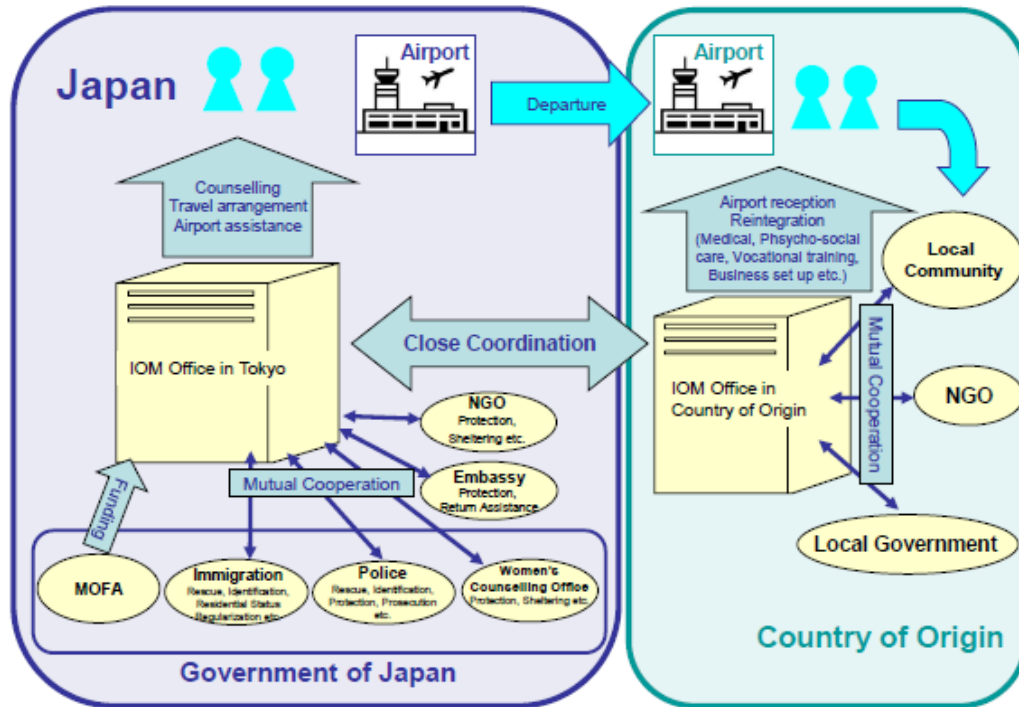
[Repeated from 2 (1) i)]

- The Immigration Services Agency coordinates closely with the IOM office in Japan and embassies in Tokyo while also working to provide protection for victims and support for them to return to their countries, and engaging in a sustained exchange of information and communication through meetings, training, and everyday works.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives regular reports from the IOM on the performance of the victim repatriation project. With regard to this project, the IOM office in Japan has conducted a follow-up survey between 2017 and 2018 and released the results in March 2019. To make improvements on areas found in the report of this survey, the IOM interviewed victims who encountered unexpected events such as the pandemic of COVID-19 and a typhoon and needed support in FY2020 and at the end of FY2021, and provided them with additional reintegration assistance as necessary. In addition, for former victims who wish to work abroad again, the IOM created a handbook to provide information on safe and regular migration that lowers the risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. Further, three victims who were pregnant between FY2020 and FY2021 when they were taken care of in Japan received additional assistance after their return to their countries in FY2022. In March 2023, a workshop for mental health and psychosocial support was held for 18 victims who returned to the Philippines between 2020 and 2021.

[Figure 29] Procedure of voluntary return and reintegration assistance for identified victim in Japan (IOM)

Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance for Identified Victim in Japan



[Figure 30] An example of reintegration assistance after returning home through a project sponsored by Japan (a store opened by a victim with the support from IOM) (IOM)



[Figure 31] Monitoring and interviewing of a victim by an IOM staff member in Manila (IOM)



7 Establishment of foundations for promotion of measures against trafficking in persons

(1) Strengthening of cooperation with other countries concerned and international organizations

i) Conclusion of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

- Japan obtained approval from the Diet in June 2005 for the conclusion of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. Furthermore, on June 15, 2017 the Act for Partial Revision of the Act on Punishment of Organized Crimes and Control of Proceeds of Crime, an implementing legislation which was necessary to conclude the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the parent Convention to the said Protocol, was passed in the 193rd Diet session, and the Act entered into force on July 11, 2017. Consequently, on that day, Japan became a State party to the Convention and the Protocol, etc.

[Repeated from 1 (1)]

[Figure 32] Deposit of the instruments of acceptance of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, etc.
(Ministry of Foreign Affairs)



ii) Strengthening of cooperation with other countries concerned and international organizations

a) Coordination with G7 member countries

- Every year Japan participates in Migration Experts Sub-Group Meetings (MESG), a sub-group of the G7 Roma Lyon Group, to discuss with delegates from member countries enhancements of protection programs for the prevention of trafficking, tracking down the sources of falsified travel documents, and other matters.

Japan sent delegates to each of the meetings held in March 2016 in Tokyo, November 2016 in Hiroshima Prefecture, April and October 2017 in Rome, Italy, March 2018 in Ottawa, Canada, October 2018 in Montreal, Canada, March and October 2019 in Paris, France, and October 2022 in

Berlin, Germany. In addition, Japan participated in meetings held online in May and October 2020, April and November 2021, March 2022, and March 2023.

- b) Assistance, etc., provided to countries in Southeast Asia and elsewhere from which victims of trafficking in persons originate.
 - The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has invited relevant personnel engaging in measures against trafficking in persons in ASEAN countries to Japan to provide them with training, in collaboration with the National Women's Education Center, etc. Since 2009, JICA has provided training for public and private personnel in charge of measures against trafficking in persons in ASEAN countries, such as Thailand, working on strengthening cooperation among countries and the measures against trafficking in persons. National Women's Education Center, an implementing agency of JICA, held a country focused training "Thailand-Japan Workshop on Anti-Trafficking in Persons" between FY2009 and FY2010, country focused training "Thailand-Japan Workshop on Support for Victims of Trafficking in Persons" in FY2011, a regional training "Seminar on Promotion of Networking among Asian Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons" from FY2012 to 2013, Knowledge Co-Creation Program "Seminar on Promotion of Networking among Asian Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons" in FY2014, Knowledge Co-Creation Program "Seminar on Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons" in FY2015, and a Knowledge Co-Creation Program "Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons" from FY2016 to 2022. In 2022 when it was difficult to hold programs in Japan due to the pandemic of COVID-19, five relevant persons from three countries (Malaysia, Viet Nam and Cambodia) in charge of the measures against trafficking in persons participated in the online program. At the end of the program, they had an opportunity to present and discuss more detailed information about the current status of the measures against trafficking in persons in each country.
 - The Japan Coast Guard and JICA jointly conducted "Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Maritime Law Enforcement Course)" for overseas maritime law enforcement officials, etc., on the knowledge and skills required for maritime enforcement, including anti-trafficking measures.

[Figure 33] Promotion of Networking among ASEAN Countries on Anti-Trafficking in Persons (JICA, National Women's Education Center)



- In Thailand, JICA implemented the “Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-regional Countries” from April 2015 to April 2019. Based on the results of the Project on Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand, which was implemented solely in Thailand from March 2009 to March 2014, this project was expanded its scope to other countries in the Mekong region (Myanmar and Laos) in order to enhance the capabilities of organizations in the Mekong region that engage in the repatriation/return and social reintegration of not only Thai victims of trafficking but also victims of other neighboring countries who suffered in Thailand, enhancing inter-organizational coordination.
- JICA supported holding a “Mekong Region Workshop” in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, by inviting government officials concerning trafficking in persons from each country in the Mekong region. The workshop was held nine times as part of the activities of the “Project on Strengthening of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for Protection of Trafficked Persons in Thailand” (once every year from 2010 to 2014) and the “Project on Capacity Development on Assisting Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-regional Countries” (once every year from 2016 to 2019). Furthermore, the tenth workshop was held online in 2022 as part of the activities of the “Project for Strengthening Regional Network for Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Mekong Region.” These ten workshops helped strengthening the network in the Mekong region and promote the sharing of knowledge and lessons on measures against trafficking in persons across borders. Based on the results of the above-mentioned projects, JICA started the “Project for Strengthening Regional Network for Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Mekong Region” including support

for the Mekong Region Workshop, which is scheduled from January 2022 to January 2025. The project aims to strengthen the staff-level regional network between Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Viet Nam to combat trafficking in persons.

- JICA implemented the “Project for Strengthening the Operation of the Hotline for Counseling and Supporting Trafficked Survivors” in Viet Nam from November 2018 to March 2022. This project worked to further strengthen prevention of trafficking in persons and collaboration with related organizations, based on the development of Viet Nam’s hot line operation system (telephone consultation service) developed by the “Project for the Establishment of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Hotline in Vietnam” implemented from 2012 July to March 2016. JICA provided training for each relevant organization, expanded the hot line facilities, provided counseling training for its staff, and implemented public relations activities and other works, contributing to strengthening the functions of the hot line in Viet Nam.

[Figure 34] Anti-Trafficking in Persons Hotline, Hanoi Operation Center (JICA)



[Figure 35] JICA Viet Nam Anti-TIP Hotline Report (Report on cooperation in the revision of ordinances regarding measures against trafficking in persons in Viet Nam and implementation of training of telephone counselors) (JICA) (in Japanese)

ベトナム Anti-TIP ほっとライン便り

被害者支援及びカウンセリングのための人権取引対策 (Anti-TIP) ホットライン運営強化プロジェクト ニュースレター

今月の内容

- Decree No. 09 改定ワークショップを開催し、最終化しました。
- DOLISA フォーカルポイントセミナーを開催しました。
- 電話相談員研修を実施しました。
- コロナ禍での遠隔によるプロジェクト活動の推進
- 今後の主な活動予定

Decree No. 09 改定ワークショップを開催し、最終化しました！

2020年10月15日に、ハノイにて Decree No. 09 (人権取引対策の細則に係る改定) 改定にかかるワークショップを、労働関係委員会 (ILO) と共に実施しました。Decree No. 09 は、人権取引 (TIP) の被害者、サイバーがどのような支援を受けられるのかを定める重要な改定です。この改定に向けては、2019年に被害者支援を推進している機関やサイバーへのインタビューを行い、10月以降、起算ワークショップを7回行い、1年がかりで改定案の最終化に近づけることができました。参加者は中央・地方の関係者、NGOや国際機関、メディアから合計112人が参加しました。

午前中のパネルディスカッションで追加のコメントを集め、午後はグループディスカッションを行い、幅広い意見交換と関係者からの重要な意見を伺いました。ワークショップで得た意見を最終案に反映する上で、関係者・関係者などの承認を得、最終的に12月に首相府に提出することができました。以前の Decree No. 09 から改定された点は、以下のとおりです。

- ★ 当プロジェクトが支援している Anti-TIP ホットラインの位置づけ、機能が正式に記載されました。
- ★ 心理的・身体的被害への支援が被害者支援施設だけでなく受けられるようになった。
- ★ 医療支援も外側の病院でも受けられるようになる。被害者保護施設が得られることとなった。また、定期的な健康診断を受けられるようになった。
- ★ 初期回復支援 (一時見舞金) が、認定された被害者の出身者のみならず、各省

の判断で必要となる人に押し、1カ月前に支給されることとなり、金額も引き上げられた。

- ★ 初期支援及び回復支援の対象として、ベトナム経由で TIP に遭った外国人も含めた。
- ★ 職業訓練支援の選択性を増やすこととした。
- ★ 借入支援 (ローン) はニーズが高いが、サイバーが返済シミュレーションを作成しは難しい場合があるため、立派な支援を受けることとし、ガイドラインを作成することとした。
- ★ 買戻金あるいは天災・火事などのため住む家がない人は住宅再建支援の一時金を支給することとした。
- ★ 支援プロセスを明確にし、手続きにかかる時間を短縮し、効率化を図った。

Decree No. 09 の実施計画では、サイバーの方たちの経過は様々であることがわかりました。職業訓練も良いけれど、それより早く自立したいという方もいる。「父親が (サイバー) のことを知らなくて、軍から一切出ないまま、父親と母親の関係を断つてしまっている」という方もいました。

Hotラインの Facebook もあります。是非一度ご訪問ください。もし何かお困りなことがあれば、「お問い合わせ」をタップしてメッセージを送ってください。お問い合わせは24時間受け付けられます。

Trong Bai 1111 で検索するが、おの QR コードをクリック、もしくはお電話していただくことができます。

なお、本ニュースレターはプロジェクトの進捗状況や高い価値をお知らせするための JICA 事務局の承認を経た上で発行いたします。JICA 及びパートナーの公式見解ではありません。また、無断転載はご遠慮ください。

DOLISA フォーカルポイントセミナーを開催しました！

10月29日に、ハノイにて2020年のDOLISA フォーカルポイントセミナーを開催しました。DOLISA フォーカルポイントは、全国63の省の労働関係委員会 (DOLISA) の役割を担っています。今後の活動予定、目標指標の進捗状況を報告するとともに、COVID-19 下の各省の経済・雇用状況について DOLISA フォーカルポイントから意見を頂きました。コロナ下で閉鎖を延期してきたのですが、日本人専門家の演進に目途がないことから、オンラインで開催しました。

2020年のTIPの現状について、公安省 (MPS) より報告があり、2020年度1~6月期はCOVID-19の影響もありTIP件数等が大幅に減少していることでした。2019年の上半期と比較して、件数は39%減 (1,162/1,908件)、被害者は46%減 (1,546/2,861人)、被害者も減少しています。

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効果的な広報活動に向けて DOLISA フォーカルポイントの協力を依頼しました。効果的な広報活動について得られた意見は以下のとおりです。

- ★ ソーシャルメディアを通じた広報活動が効果的だと思われ、Facebook などのプラットフォームを積極的に活用する必要がある。
- ★ 山岳地域の省には、非電化地域もあり、スマートフォンや PC を日常的に使えない人も多く存在する。ソーシャルメディアを通じた広報活動は現時点で効果的でない場合もあるため、コミュニティの人々と協力した広報活動が効果的だと思われ、ポスターや伝言板を関係地点 (出入国地点) に置いてほしい。
- ★ 遠隔地では、市全体に届くワイドスピーカーの活用も効果的だと思われ、人々と協力した広報活動が効果的だと思われ、ポスターや伝言板を関係地点 (出入国地点) に置いてほしい。
- ★ ターゲットグループには、中小企業主も含まれる。Anti-TIP の知識に関するコンテンツも作成してほしい。
- ★ 正しい情報を基に、広報活動にも力を入れてほしいと思われ、ポスターや伝言板を関係地点 (出入国地点) に置いてほしい。

10月~11月に計3回、各4日間の電話相談員研修を実施しました。COVID-19の影響で、電話相談員及び全国のフォーカルポイントセンターのカウンセラーを対象に、3地域に分けて実施しました。内容は、性的虐待の被害者に対するカウンセリングの5つのステップ (①相談と関係構築、②問題の特定、③支援計画の立案、④介入支援、⑤評価とフォローアップ) について、特に後半3つのステップを重点的に実施しました。講師は、カウンセリングの専門家として、特に新人カウンセラーに優先的に研修に参加する機会を設けていく必要があると思われました。

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今後の主な活動予定

- JAWF モーターバイクの検閲
- 人権取引対策推進計画 (2021~2025年) へのホットラインの反映
- VWU との NPA の関係状況調査、JAWF モーターバイクの検閲
- 国際労働機関の研修教材の作成
- Anti-TIP ホットラインのシステム更新および研修の実施
- 各地の研修の推進

プロジェクトメンバー

担当 責任 : 総務 / 発行管理 / 研修管理
1/人権取引対策 / シンポジウム
担当 責任 : IT / 資料管理 / 関係者連絡
1/研修管理 / 研修管理 / 研修管理
担当 責任 : 本ニュースレター / プロジェクトに関するお問い合わせ
1/okano@pcic.or.jp (担当: 岡野) / 本ニュースレター / プロジェクトに関するお問い合わせ

2021年1月第7号

- JICA implemented the “Project on Capacity Development and Promotion of Networking on Assisting Victims of Trafficking” in Myanmar from July 2018 to July 2021. This project facilitated to further strengthen capabilities and collaboration of Myanmar’s organizations pertaining to protection, repatriation, and social reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons in Myanmar, based on the results and issues of the “Project on Capacity Improvement of Recovery and Reintegration Assistance for Trafficked Persons” implemented from June 2012 to June 2016.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been contributing to the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund (CPCJF) managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) every year since FY2015, to support projects to enhance the criminal justice capacity (including trafficking in persons countermeasures) of law enforcement authorities in Southeast Asia. It contributed US\$200,000 in FY2021 and US\$380,000 in FY2022. Officials seconded from the Ministry of Justice (prosecutors) are leading this project. It also contributed US\$650,000 in total in FY2020 and FY2021 to the project implemented by the UNODC to strengthen the capacity of Southeast Asian countries to combat trafficking of children and women under the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, it contributed US\$3,700,000 in FY2022 to the project for measures against illicit drugs and trafficking

in persons in Myanmar and Thailand

c) Working with countries that are sending technical intern trainees

- With the objectives of eliminating improper sending organizations as well as collaborating to carry out technical intern training properly and smoothly, Japan has signed the memorandum of cooperation (MOCs) with 14 of the countries that are sending technical intern trainees (Viet Nam, Cambodia, India, Philippines, Laos, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Thailand, and Indonesia) (as of March 31, 2023).

If a sending organization is recognized as improper, based on the MOC, the relevant state government will be informed and requested to investigate, and if needed, the relevant government will be requested to supervise the organization or revoke its authorization. In FY2022, 93 sending organizations were reported to each state government.

[Repeated from 3 (3) i)]

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the attendance of officials from the relevant ministries and agencies, has been utilizing opportunities such as consular consultations with sending countries of technical intern trainees, to bring up and request improvements from time to time regarding the appropriate functioning of the system including measures against cases of disappearance and human rights infringements.
- In order to improve the transparency of sending organizations and recruitment information, JICA plans to establish a new system (website) regarding sending Vietnamese technical intern trainees from FY2023.

d) Sharing of information through the Bali Process

- Since 2002 Japan has been participating in meetings of the Bali Process (a follow-up process following regional ministerial meetings relating to migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons and other related transnational crimes). Japan presented its anti-trafficking initiatives and discussed with representatives from other member countries, regions, and international organizations future directions for the Bali Process.

At the Eighth Bali Process Regional Ministerial Meeting held in Adelaide, Australia in February 2023, participants from 42 nations, regions and related international organizations held discussions on the present state of trafficking in persons, etc. in the region, future initiatives, etc. Representatives from Japan presented Japan's initiatives to combat trafficking in persons, international cooperation, and its contributions to the Bali Process.

- In FY2022, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also contributed US\$10,000 to the management of the Bali Process website which is operated and managed by the IOM, in its effort to enhance information sharing among the related countries.
- e) Training by the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)
- UNAFEI, operated by the Ministry of Justice of Japan based on the agreement with the United Nations, held the international training courses for criminal justice practitioners in French-speaking African countries, covering the themes “Basics of investigation, prosecution and adjudication” and “Combating terrorism and organized crime” (February 2016), as well as the international training courses for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries around the world, covering the themes “Criminal Justice: Children as Victims and Witnesses” (May/June 2016), “Criminal Justice Procedures and Practices to Disrupt Criminal Organizations” (May/June 2017), and “Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants” (May/June 2019), respectively. Through these training courses, UNAFEI enhances the capacity of criminal justice practitioners of developing countries, strengthens their network, and supports their efforts to combat trafficking in persons.
- f) Response to the situation in Ukraine
- To assist Ukraine and Moldova where there are large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons following the Russian invasion, in FY2022 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided approximately US \$930,000 through UNODC to strengthen border controls and support to strengthen law enforcement capacity, including measures against trafficking in persons, and approximately €210,000 through the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to support anti-trafficking projects in neighboring countries.

(2) Acquisition of people’s understanding and cooperation

i) Further promoting of government public relations

- The Cabinet Secretariat, the Cabinet Office and the National Police Agency provide information regarding trafficking in persons countermeasures on the Government public relations website, which is operated by the Cabinet Office, and calls on people to contact their local police station, etc., when asked for help from victims of trafficking in persons who have been forced into prostitution and work, etc.
- The Cabinet Secretariat provided information to citizens about the actual state of trafficking in persons and called for reports of harm through means such as postings on social media (Twitter).

- The Cabinet Office positioned the promotion of trafficking in persons countermeasures as one of the fields relevant to the eradication of all types of violence against women in the Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality (approved by a cabinet decision on December 25, 2020).
During the campaign period for eliminating violence against women, from 12 to 25 November every year, the Cabinet Office produces posters and leaflets and distributes them to local governments and other relevant organizations. In addition, with regard to the prevention of youth victims of sexual violence, awareness-raising activities have been conducted using social media and other publicity media that are easily accessible to young people, starting with Youth Sexual Violence Prevention Month in April.
Since 2016, the Cabinet Secretariat has publicized information on its Twitter account during violence against women.

 - Every year since FY2004, the Cabinet Office has produced educational posters and leaflets relating to measures taken against trafficking in persons and also made this information available online.
In FY2022, the Cabinet Office produced about 50,000 posters and leaflets for users titled “That is human trafficking (sexual service or forced labor), too!” and about 50,000 posters and leaflets for victims titled “Human trafficking (sexual service or forced labor) could happen to you!” and distributed these to about 4,600 places including local governments, airports and sea ports, universities and technical colleges, the Japan Association of Travel Agents, the IOM, and other relevant organizations. The Cabinet Office also displayed the posters in train stations, and conducted public relations and awareness activities using means such as social media. In addition, awareness videos focusing on users of sexual exploitation were disseminated on social media.
In order to raise greater awareness of the measures for cases that are often known to the police and for which arrests are made in Japan, such as coercion to provide sexual services, and cases involving the use of not only physical restraint but also psychological restraint, publicity that uses the terminology “Trafficking in persons (sexual service or forced labor)” is promoted.
The posters, leaflets, and videos for users clearly state that trafficking in persons is a grave crime that violates the human rights and subject to penalties of specific imprisonment for violating the relevant Act by presenting some cases, calling on people “What the person close to you does could be trafficking in persons. Report to the nearest Police Station or Regional Immigration Services Bureau if you find an offender or a person like a victim.”
- [Repeated from 3 (5) i]
- Every year since 2005, the National Police Agency has produced leaflets in several languages calling for people to report cases of trafficking in persons to the police, with the aim of discovering latent

victims. These leaflets are distributed to the relevant ministries and agencies, embassies in Tokyo, and NGOs, and also placed in places that can easily catch the eyes of the victims and made available online.

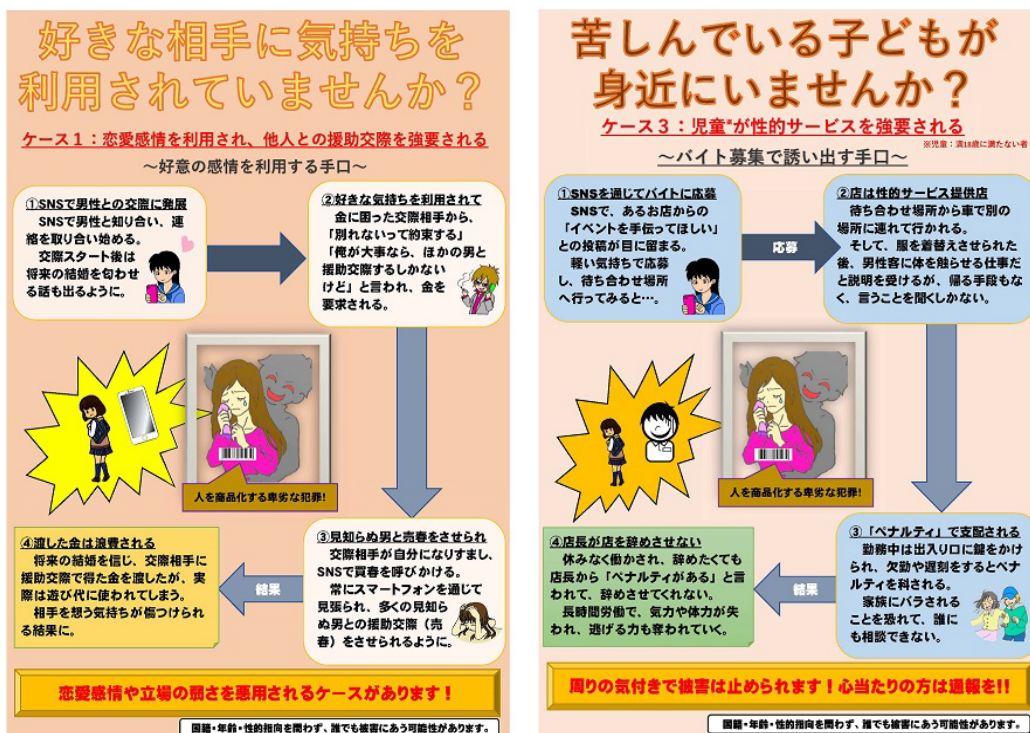
The leaflet was revised throughout from the perspective of victims in a significantly compact form for portability and an understandable design with key words and illustration, reflecting feedback from NGOs and foreign embassies in Tokyo. In FY2022, about 228,000 leaflets in ten languages (Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Russian, Thai, Tagalog, Indonesian, and Vietnamese) were prepared and distributed.

In addition, digital signage using the leaflet data is displayed at multiple international airports in Japan.

[Repeated from 4 (2)]

- The National Police Agency collected major methods of trafficking offences from nationwide and prepared materials with understandable words and illustrations by exchanging views with NGOs in order to raise awareness of as many more Japanese people as possible on important points. The data of the leaflet is posted on its website and written on Twitter several times to promote public relations.

[Figure 36] Major methods of trafficking offences (National Police Agency) (in Japanese)



借金のための性的サービスをさせられていませんか？

ケース2：借金返済のために売春を強要される

～癒やしを求める気持ちを利用する手口～

①ホストクラブ通いを続け
知り合いに誘われ、楽しい時間を過ごしたホストクラブ。その後癒やしを求めて通ううちに、いつの間にか金がなくなり、代金をツケにしてしまう。

②返済のため売春を強要される
ツケを支払えないでいると、店のオーナーから、売春をして借金を返済するよう指示され、指示されるままホテルで待機させられることに。

→ 運送不能

④未返済と言われ逮捕が続く
ノルマを課され、渡されるのはホテル代と少額の生活費のみ。「借金の返済が終わっていない」と言われ続け、長期間にわたって大金を搾取された。

③自由を奪われ体を売る日々
自分の借金残額がいくらなのか分からないまま、次々と指定された相手に売春をさせられる毎日。

← 結果

あなたの安全・人権を守ります！まずは相談を!!

国籍・年齢・性的指向を問わず、誰でも被害にあう可能性があります。

労働を強要されている人は身近にいませんか？

ケース4：パスポートを取り上げられ、強制労働させられる

～外国人に対する仕事の募集を悪用する手口～

①ダンサーとして勧誘される
外国人女性が、日本の店で働くダンサーとしてスカウトされ、ダンサー（興行）の在留資格で日本に入国する。

②パスポート等を取り上げられる
来日すると、パスポートや携帯電話を取り上げられ、実際はダンサーではなく、ホステスの仕事だと説明を受ける。

→ 来日

④働いた給料は横取りされる
週に数千円程度で毎日深夜まで働かされ、外出も制限される。知らない土地で日本語はよく分からず、携帯電話も手元にないので、助けを求められない。

③接待を強要される
狭いアパートにすし詰め状態で住まわされ、指示されるままにホステスとして接待を強要される日々。

← 結果

被害者・通報者の方の安全・秘密を守ります！情報提供を!!

国籍・年齢・性的指向を問わず、誰でも被害にあう可能性があります。

脅されて無理やり働かされていませんか？

ケース5：脅しにより強制労働させられる

～ミスにつけ込み低賃金での労働を強いる手口～

①客から仕事を依頼される
客から、配達の仕事を受ける。普段どおり仕事を終え、報酬をもらえると思っていたところ、突然、その客からクレームが入る。

②仕事のミスで謝罪を強要される
「品物が壊れていた」と呼び出され、暴行を受け謝罪を強いられる。暴力団関係者だと思ひ、抵抗できずいたところ、その客の店で働くよう命令される。

→ 結果

④支配による強制労働が続く
日常的な脅迫・暴力によって、精神的に支配され、抵抗できない状態が続いた結果、1年以上の長期間にわたり、ほぼ無給で労働を強いられた。

③脅迫・暴行で働かされる
客が経営する飲食店で無理やり働かされた上、毎日のように「売上げが少ない」「寂すぞ」と脅され、暴行を受ける。

← 結果

あなたの安全を守ります！情報提供を!!

国籍・年齢等を問わず、誰でも被害にあう可能性があります。

家出をして苦しんでいる子どもが身近にいませんか？

ケース6：家出をした児童が性的搾取を受ける

～家出の書き込みにつけ込み手口～

①SNSで親れる人を探す
SNSに「家出したい」と書き込むと、離れた場所に住む人から「俺の家で寝泊まりできるよ」「少しは気が済むんじゃないかな」という返信が。

②相手の家へ連れ込まれ脅される
思い切って家出をしようとして、相手の家へ行くことに。家に着くと急に態度が変わり、「暴力団に知り合いがいる」と脅される。

→ 家出

④金を取り上げられ被害は長期間続く
援助交際（売春）で得た金はほとんど取り上げられ、時に乱暴な扱いも受ける。見知らぬ場所で連絡手段もないため、相手の言うことを聞くしかない状態のまま、長期間にわたって被害が続いた。

③援助交際を強要される
「生活費を稼ぐため」との理由で、援助交際（売春）をするよう言われる。スマホを取り上げられ、行動も監視されているので、逃げることもできない。

← 結果

周囲の気づきで救い出すことができます！情報提供を!!

国籍・年齢・性的指向を問わず、誰でも被害にあう可能性があります。

○ Having set “Stop Trafficking in Persons” as one of the priority targets of awareness-raising activities, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct public relations activities on the fact that

trafficking in persons is a grave crime and provides human rights counseling services on the Ministry of Justice’s website, as well as producing and distributing a booklet titled “The Protection of Human Rights.”

[Figure 37] The Protection of Human Rights (Ministry of Justice) (excerpt) (in Japanese)



- The Immigration Services Agency has listed on its automatically translated multi-language website the contact points for consultation and providing information relating to trafficking in persons, and its policies and processes relating to victim protection measures. In addition, efforts have also been made to make leaflets produced by the National Police Agency readily available to trafficking victims by, for example, placing them at regional immigration services bureau examination counters and airport landing examination counters.

[Repeated from 4 (2)]

- Based on the results of investigations and research into trafficking in persons carried out at the National Women’s Education Center of Japan between FY2005 and FY2010, the center has produced display panels and leaflets titled “Eliminating trafficking in persons and violence against women” regarding the importance of raising awareness of trafficking in persons and also made this information available online.
- In 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs designated (period (from February 20 to March 5) as a

campaign period for strengthening screening to prevent the improper acquisition of travel documents through identity theft. During these campaign periods, passport offices in each prefecture and municipality commissioned by its prefectural government engaged in public relations activities, including posting information on websites and displaying posters in order to prevent improper acquisition of passports, which has the potential to aid and abet international terrorism and international organized crime such as trafficking in persons and illegal immigration.

[Figure 38] Leaflet (National Women’s Education Center of Japan) (excerpt)



[Figure 39] Poster for the Prevention of improper acquisition of passports (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) (in Japanese)

(Reference: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/toko/passport/shinsa.html>)



- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributes leaflets produced by the National Police Agency (see 4 (2)) and leaflets and posters produced by the Cabinet Office (see 3 (5) i)) to overseas diplomatic missions, etc.

[Repeated from 4(5)]

- In February 2020, JICA, in cooperation with Shogakukan Inc. and girl manga artists, produced a publicity manga on the current situation for trafficking in persons in Thailand and close support provided to victims, based on JICA's cooperation on anti-human trafficking measures in Thailand to date. This manga has been published in a female comic magazine by Shogakukan, and has also been published on JICA's website. In July 2020, JICA translated it into Thai in order to strengthen awareness of trafficking in persons as well as JICA's support project against trafficking in persons in Thailand.

[Figure 40] Publicity manga on the current situation for trafficking in persons in Thailand (in Japanese and Thai)

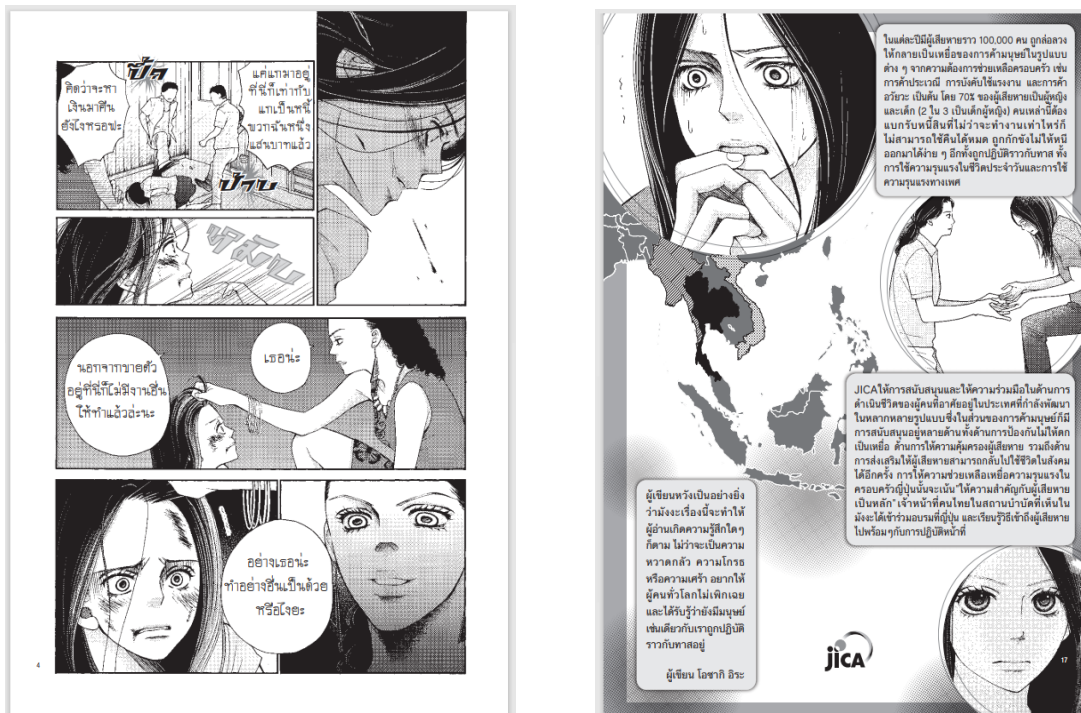
(Source: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)) (Collaboration between JICA and Shogakukan)

In Japanese (including introduction of manga)

https://www.jica.go.jp/topics/2019/20200205_01.html

In Thai

<https://www.jica.go.jp/publication/manga/trafficking.html>



ii) Efforts through education

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology has always strived to promote education that raises awareness about respecting human rights, through school education and social education, based on the spirit of the Constitution and the Basic Act on Education(Act No. 120 of 2006). Based on the National Curriculum Standards, the ministry also promotes education that put emphasis on nurturing respect for life of oneself and others.
- On the basis of the “Policy to Enhance Measures against Sex Crimes and Sexual Violence” that was determined in June 2020, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology promotes “Life Safety Education” that is education for students to learn about the importance and value of life, respect themselves and others as well as to prevent them from becoming a perpetrator, victim or bystander of sex crime or sexual assault. In FY2020, the Ministry and the Cabinet Office worked together to prepare a textbook and a guidebook and published them in April 2021. In FY2021, they collected guidance cases through practice models. They also promote awareness contributing to the prevention of sexual exploitation by preparing leaflets on the prevention of child sexual exploitation through the use of Internet and encouraging the relevant organizations and bodies and schools to use them. In FY2022, they promoted initiatives such as publicizing training videos for teachers and the use of video educational materials for students, as well as compiling instructional examples nationwide.

[Figure 41] "Life Safety Education" educational and awareness materials (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) (in Japanese)



iii) Raising awareness of associations of small and medium enterprises

- At the meetings for optimizing the operation of the Technical Intern Training Program held every year, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry gains the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies on complying with labor-related laws, and disseminates information to the relevant organizations. In 2022, the meeting was held in June.

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries held a meeting of the Agricultural Industry Technical Intern Training Business Council in January 2022 and a meeting of the Specified Agricultural Skilled Worker Council and Steering Committee in February 2023 with a view to ensuring the proper acceptance of foreign human resources based on the actual situation in the agricultural industry, as well as protecting their human rights. Comprising members from the relevant ministries and agencies, and agricultural organizations, the Council and the Committee shared information on the status of the Specified Skilled Worker system and Technical Intern Training system and challenges of the two systems, and exchanged opinions to address these challenges and issues. The Ministry also collects and disseminates good practices in accepting foreign human resources and distributes booklets to related organizations to promote their utilization.

iv) Raising awareness of overseas travelers

- The Japan Tourism Agency continues to raise awareness amongst travel agencies with the aim of ensuring that travel agencies do not become involved in unsound travel. Specifically, the Japan Tourism Agency encourages travel agencies every year, when conducting their annual self-assessments relating to compliance with the Travel Agency Act (Act No.239 of 1952), to look at whether or not they have been involved in facilitating unsound travel and the purchasing of counterfeit goods, etc. It also conducts on-site inspection of travel agencies, including such self-assessment, in accordance with the Travel Agency Act. The Travel Agency Act Article 13, Paragraph 3, Item 1 prohibits the mediation, etc. of actions that violate the laws and regulations enforced in travel destination countries.

- In the section under “Case Studies: Examples of Problems and Countermeasures,” the booklet titled “A Handbook of Safety Tips in Foreign Countries” distributed to Japanese nationals travelling overseas by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cites involvement in acts of prostitution as an example of a case where Japanese nationals become criminals. The booklet explains that the prostitution is illegal in many countries and can be treated as a grave crime, and that offenses relating to the child prostitution and possessing child pornography overseas is subjected to punishment under the relevant Japanese law as the crime committed outside Japan, therefore calls on the public to refrain from engaging in inappropriate activities.

[Repeated from 3 (5) i)]

(3) Strengthening of the system for promoting measures against trafficking in persons

i) Improvement of relevant administrative officers' knowledge and awareness

a) National Police Agency

- The police school provides training on measures against trafficking in persons for newly hired police officers and promoted police officers.
- In order to contribute to improving the professional skills of police officers, training is conducted by National Experts designated by the National Police Agency.
- Every year the National Police Agency offers training on measures to combat offenses related to trafficking in persons, targeted at executive staff across Japan who are responsible for cracking down on adult entertainment-related offenses.

b) Ministry of Justice

- The Public Prosecutor's Office provided trafficking in persons-related lectures, etc., to public prosecutors during training workshops etc., provided to them in correspondence to the years of experience. Furthermore, the Public Prosecutors Office widely informs the approach to be taken at various meetings at which nationwide public prosecutors gather together that they should actively respond to cases of trafficking in persons. Particularly, in meetings of public prosecutors responsible for combating organized crime, specific examples and experiences of cases of trafficking in persons in Public Prosecutors Offices nationwide are shared.

c) Immigration Services Agency

- The Immigration Services Agency puts efforts into advancing the knowledge and awareness of its officials on measures to combat trafficking in persons through lectures on human rights at training programs according to their careers. In addition, in cooperation with external instructors from the relevant ministries and agencies, IOM, and NGOs, specialized training on human rights and measures to combat trafficking in persons was also conducted targeting mid-level officials who deal directly with such trafficking cases. An initiative was also implemented in which the officials who received this training fed back what they learned to provide training for frontline staff.
In specially-developed training on trafficking in persons countermeasures, the agency carries out a lecture emphasizing the practical work involved in identifying victims, including case studies that clarify the main points to consider when identifying victims.

d) Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- In the training course for newly appointed consular officers conducted every fiscal year, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs delivers lectures on measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, including the role that visas play as a border control measure, as well as considerations to take when interviewing former victims. A total of 86 officials attended the lectures in FY2022. Similar lectures were also delivered in the training for 85 security officers to be stationed at Japanese Embassies and Consulates.

Consular officers who are currently posted or before being posted to Japanese Embassies and Consulates, including those who are eligible for such training, are given lectures not only on knowledge of travel documents, but also on collaboration with the relevant organizations in the countries of posting.

- To staff members of prefectural passport offices, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implements training courses on the screening process of issuance of travel documents in order to prevent the improper acquisition of travel documents by people connected with trafficking in persons and terrorists etc.

e) Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

- Every year, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare conducts a training for labor standards inspectors in about their fifth year of service, where a lecture is given regarding the role of labor standards inspection bodies in the promotion of measures to combat trafficking in persons. In addition, since March 2022, Prefectural Labor Bureaus have been providing newly assigned labor standards inspectors with training on laws and regulations applicable to trafficking in persons and specific application cases, etc.

- At the annual research council meetings for the heads of Women's Consulting Offices and senior officials for women's protection services, training is provided featuring lectures given by the IOM office in Japan on responses to victims of trafficking in persons.

- In response to suspected cases of trafficking in technical trainees, further efforts were made in February 2021; each Prefectural Labor Bureau was instructed to appoint officials in charge of trafficking in persons at the Bureau, and when a suspected case is identified, they should conduct a joint site-inspection with the Labor Standards Inspections Office and the OTIT so that they should handle the case by working together with relevant organizations as necessary.

f) Japan Coast Guard

- Japan Coast Guard gives lectures on the actual situation of human trafficking and the importance of protecting victims of trafficking through annual training programs for mid-level officials so that they can recognize trafficking during the process of investigations.

g) Courts

- The Legal Training and Research Institute of Japan in charge of training judges provides training relating to human rights issues including trafficking in persons.

ii) **Promotion of cooperation and information exchange with relevant administrative agencies**

- The police, the Immigration Services Agency, the Japan Coast Guard and other relevant organizations, inform prefectural police, the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and their District Immigration Offices, and the respective Regional Coast Guard Headquarters about the “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Identification of Victims)” (see 4 (1)) and “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Protection of Victims)” (see 6 (1)), and instruct them to ensure an appropriate approach is taken toward the identification and protection of victims in cooperation with relevant organizations.
- When cases of trafficking in persons are detected, prefectural police hold local liaison conferences with the relevant organizations to provide appropriate protection for victims and enhance coordination between local organizations.
- In September 2012, the National Police Agency produced materials “the Police procedure for handling trafficking in persons crimes,” and distributed these through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to Women’s Consulting Offices in each prefecture with the aim of facilitating closer coordination.
Women's Consulting Offices in each prefecture use these materials as a reference in their efforts to protect victims of trafficking.
- When the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice recognize cases of suspected trafficking in persons through human rights counseling, they commence investigations on these cases by treating them as human rights violation cases, and work together with the relevant organizations to provide an appropriate response.
- Every year, the Immigration Services Agency holds “Committee on measures to prevent and detect crimes violating the Immigration Control Act,” to share information on the current state of crimes relating to trafficking in persons and measures against such crimes with relevant organizations such as the National Police Agency, the Public Prosecutors Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Japan Coast Guard, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides travel document issuance information to the Immigration

Services Agency for immigration control and for confirming the validity of the passport of Japanese citizens at airports and ports in Japan.

iii) Cooperation with NGOs, IOM, etc.

- Relevant organizations such as the Cabinet Secretariat, the National Police Agency, the Immigration Services Agency, and the Japan Coast Guard, make effort to strengthen cooperation by exchanging their viewpoints and information and providing training programs with NGOs, IOM, and other entities through the Contact Point Meeting on Trafficking in Persons (see 5(2) i)) and their daily works. The National Police Agency also distributes leaflets (see 4(2)) to NGOs, IOM, and other entities and calls for cooperation.
- The government holds discussions with NGOs and examines specific cases of trafficking in persons. In the discussions in 2022, NGOs expressed their views regarding the recognition of technical intern trainees and students as victims of human trafficking, protection of victims, improvement of the knowledge and awareness of the staff who responded at the site, etc., and shared the status of efforts by the relevant ministries and agencies (see 3 (3) i) ii) and 7 (3) i) for more information on these efforts).
- Through public-private cooperation between the Immigration Services Agency and some airline companies, in cases where foreign nationals who may be victims of trafficking in persons are discovered on a flight, the taking of appropriate actions is promoted, such as placing the person under protection during the landing procedures after receiving the information from the airline company. The Immigration Services Agency also coordinates closely with the IOM office in Japan and embassies in Tokyo while also working to provide protection for victims and support for them to return to their countries, and engaging in a sustained exchange of information and communication through meetings, training, and everyday works.

[Repeated from 6 (3) iv)]

Apart from that, from FY2020, the Agency sends its lecturers to the OTIT to provide new employees with training regarding response to trafficking in persons.

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives regular reports from the IOM on the performance of the victim repatriation project. With regard to this project, the IOM office in Japan has conducted a follow-up survey between 2017 and 2018 and released the results in March 2019. To make improvements on areas found in the report on this survey, the IOM interviewed victims who encountered unexpected events such as the pandemic of COVID-19 and a typhoon and needed support in FY2020 and at the end of FY2021, and provided them with additional reintegration assistance as necessary. In addition, for former victims who wish to work abroad again, the IOM created a handbook to provide

information on safe and regular migration that lowers the risk of becoming victims to human trafficking. Further, three victims who were pregnant between FY2020 and FY2021 when they were taken care of in Japan received additional assistance after their return to their countries in FY2022. In March 2023, a workshop for mental health and psychosocial support was held for 18 victims, who returned to the Philippines between 2020 and 2021.

[Repeated from 6 (3) iv)]

8 Future efforts

The measures against trafficking in persons in 2022 has showed steady development. Specifically, while the arrest and punishment of suspects pertaining to trafficking in persons continue to be carried out and the number of arrested cases significantly increased compared to that in 2021, the number of contact places has been increased and multiple languages service pertaining to the provision of information and consultation on various matters has been developed, and the consultation environment has been improved, where latent victims can feel more at ease about going for consultation. In 2022, the Strategy to Make Japan “the Safest Country in the World” 2022 was approved by the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime and the Ministerial Meeting. The 2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the Plan for the Prevention of Sex Crimes against Children (Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation) 2022 were decided by the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime, and the Law Enforcement Task Force against Trafficking in Persons revised the “Handbook on Measures against Trafficking in Persons”. With regard to the Technical Intern Training Program and the Specified Skilled Worker Program, the former Minister of Justice Mr. Furukawa held the “Minister of Justice Study Session concerning the Specified Skilled Worker System and Technical Intern Training Program” to identify issues of both programs. Since December 2022, the “Advisory Panel of Experts on the Ideal Form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System” has been discussing the improvement measures, to prevent human rights violations and other related matters.

Under these circumstances, the number of victims of trafficking in persons recognized in 2022 was almost the same as that in 2021. By nationality, Japanese victims accounted for more than ninety percent, a record high for the identification of victims of trafficking in persons, it is important that each staff member who handles cases on the front line should have in mind the possibility of trafficking in persons and take actions specified in the arrangements determined by the relevant ministries and agencies (see 4 (1)). In 2022, we worked on increasing knowledge and awareness of staff members of the relevant administrative organizations through online conferences and data sharing. Going forward, it is necessary for the relevant administrative organizations to make efforts to further improve their knowledge and awareness.

In addition, the number of cases of trafficking in foreign persons of victims was at an all-time low, in 2022. Since the easing of Japan’s border measures, the number of foreign nationals staying in Japan has been recovering. Against this backdrop, efforts must be made to prevent an increase in the number of victims of trafficking in persons among foreign nationals who visit Japan in the future. At the same time, efforts must continue to be made to ensure that, considering the clandestine nature of trafficking in persons, whenever a request for consultation or protection is sought by victims or others concerned, sound measures must be taken, including protection measures.

Japan will continue to steadily implement measures from the perspective of victims based on the various government action plans with the aim of eradicating trafficking in persons.

[Figure 42] List of ministries and agencies involved in measures to combat trafficking in persons

Cabinet Secretariat	Secretary to the Assistant Chief Secretary
Cabinet Office	Division on Gender-Based Violence, Gender Equity Bureau
National Police Agency	Safety Division, Community Safety Bureau
Children and Families Agency	Child Safety Division, Growth Bureau Child Abuse Prevention Division, Support Bureau
Ministry of Justice	Public Security Division, Criminal Affairs Bureau Investigation and Remedies Division, Human Rights Bureau Human Rights Promotion Division, Human Rights Bureau
Immigration Services Agency	Adjudication Division, Immigration Department Residency Management Division, Residency Management and Support Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	International Safety and Security Cooperation Division, Foreign Policy Bureau Foreign Nationals' Affairs Division, Consular Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology	Education Policy Bureau Gender Equality, Cohesive Society Learning and Safety Division
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Inspection Division, Labour Standards Bureau General Affairs Division, Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau Office of Counsellor for Overseas Human Resources Development, with a Director-General for Human Resources Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Young Farmers and Women Division, Management Improvement Bureau
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry	Office for Industrial Human Resources Policy, Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism	Policy Division, Policy Bureau
Japan Coast Guard	International Criminal Investigation Division, Rescue Department