# **Ube City Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Vision Summary Version**

As of the end of March 2023, 2,100 foreigners from 45 countries are living in Ube City, and this number is expected to increase further. As our city continues to internationalize, it is becoming more important for residents, private organizations, and businesses to work towards building a community where we understand each other's lifestyles and live happily together as members of the community. Therefore, in order to comprehensively and systematically promote our city's efforts towards multicultural coexistence, and to embody the principles of "mutual prosperity and unity" that have guided the development of Ube City, along with respect for basic human rights outlined in our citizens' declaration to "create a city where individuals are valued", we hereby establish the "Ube City Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Vision".

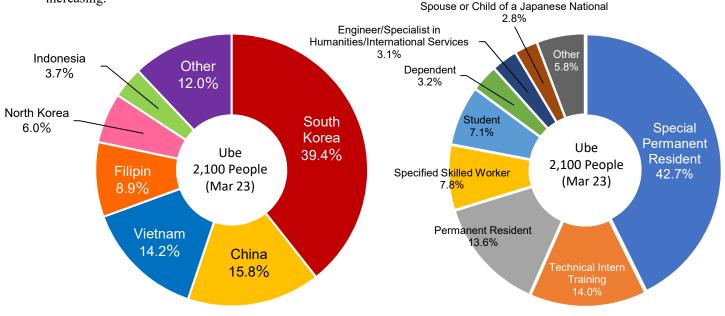
### **Current situation and issues of Ube City**

#### Status by nationality/region

■ The most common nationalities/regions in Ube City are South Korea, China, Vietnam, and Filipin. Compared to 10 years ago, the number of nationalities and regions (total number) has increased from 37 to 45, and the number of nationalities is increasing.

#### Status by residence status

■ In Ube City, the number of special permanent residents is the largest, followed by technical intern trainees, permanent residents, and specified skills. A certain number of international students also live here.



### **Issues of Ube City**

Communication	<ul> <li>✓ Enrichment of Japanese language learning opportunities</li> <li>✓ Fostering understanding towards multicultural coexistence</li> <li>✓ Promotion of local exchange</li> </ul>
Living environment	<ul> <li>✓ Medical, health, welfare, and hygiene services that are easily accessible for foreigners</li> <li>✓ Resolving anxieties related to housing and public transportation</li> <li>✓ Dissemination of disaster prevention information that is easily understood by foreigners</li> </ul>
Employment	<ul> <li>✓ Enhancement of employment environment and acceptance system for foreigners</li> <li>✓ Improvement of the working conditions for foreign workers</li> </ul>
Childcare/ Education	<ul> <li>✓ Elimination of economic insecurity</li> <li>✓ Enhancement of educational environment and acceptance system for foreign children</li> <li>✓ Enrichment of opportunities for foreign students to learn Japanese</li> </ul>
Information	<ul> <li>✓ Improvement of awareness of information dissemination tools</li> <li>✓ Responding to expectations for information dissemination</li> <li>✓ Raising awareness of consultation services</li> <li>✓ Dissemination of rules and manners of Japanese life and culture</li> </ul>

# A city where everyone can live comfortably, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or cultural differences

#### 1. Creating a community through mutually respectful communication

We will enhance Japanese language education so that foreign residents can acquire the necessary Japanese language skills for daily life and live smoothly with local residents.

In addition, we will promote the spread of "easy Japanese" for foreigners and foster awareness of multicultural coexistence. Furthermore, we will promote the development of communities where both Japanese and foreign residents can engage in multicultural and local exchanges in their daily lives.

#### (1) Enhancement of Japanese language education necessary for daily life

As the basic local government closest to foreign residents, we will enhance Japanese language education for foreign residents. We also provide information for foreigners who want to learn Japanese.

#### Main initiatives:

- Enhancing Japanese language classes
- Operating online Japanese classes
- · Providing information for learning Japanese

#### (2) Spreading awareness of "easy Japanese"

We aim to educate as many Japanese people as possible about "easy Japanese," a language that is commonly understood by many foreign residents, and facilitate communication. We will also communicate information in easy Japanese about pages that are likely to be viewed by foreign residents. In doing so, we will actively consider the use of ICT technology.

#### Main initiatives:

- · Promoting communication using easy Japanese
- Creating information media in easy Japanese
- Establishing a new field of "easy Japanese" in the Ube City international volunteer system

#### (3) Raising awareness of multicultural coexistence and promoting mutual understanding

We will hold lectures and workshops to deepen knowledge and awareness regarding multicultural coexistence.

#### Main initiatives:

- Holding courses to promote mutual international understanding,
- Nurturing leaders of multicultural community development

#### (4) Promoting interaction and active participation of foreign residents in the local community and social participation

We will create an environment that makes it easier for foreign residents to participate in local events such as festivals and sports days.

#### Main initiatives:

- Creating opportunities for interaction with local residents
- Holding events that utilize the knowledge and skills of foreigners
- Promoting participation in local festivals and events

#### 2. Creating a community where everyone can live with peace of mind

By creating an environment where foreign residents can live safely and with peace of mind so that they want to continue living in the city for a long time, we will promote the creation of a community where everyone, including Japanese residents, can live richly and with peace of mind.

#### (5) Improving daily life services that are easy for foreigners to use

We will create an environment where foreign residents can live as members of society and enjoy the same public services as Japanese people.

#### Main initiatives:

- Utilization of translation apps and volunteer interpreters when visiting medical institutions
- Creation of multilingual parent and child health handbooks (maternal and child health handbooks) and vaccination pre-examination forms
- Provision of information on child care service systems

#### (6) Eliminating anxiety about daily life and public transportation

We will create an environment where foreign residents and Japanese residents can live comfortably together by sharing the manners of life in Japan and public transportation.

#### Main initiatives:

- Promotion of understanding of crime prevention and traffic safety for foreigners
- Dissemination of information to disseminate rules for daily life such as how to separate garbage and the neighborhood community association system
- Implementation of daily life orientation
- · Multilingualization of local public transportation

#### (7) Improvement of regional disaster prevention capabilities, including foreigners

We will work on improving disaster prevention capabilities to minimize damage to all residents, including foreign residents and temporary visitors.

#### Main initiatives

- Enhancing multilingual support at evacuation sites
- Holding disaster prevention classes for foreigners
- Promotion and awareness of the disaster prevention handbook for foreign residents (issued by Yamaguchi Prefecture, available in 6 languages)

#### 3. Creating a community where Japanese and foreigners can play an active role together

By encouraging all people, including foreigners from various backgrounds, to participate in society, demonstrate their abilities to the fullest, and play an active role as members of supporting local industry, we will promote the creation of a diverse and vibrant region. We will also promote the internationalization of the region through attracting inbound tourists and interacting with sister and friendship cities.

#### (8) Creating a work environment that is easy for foreign residents to work in

In cooperation with related organizations, we will promote the creation of an environment where both foreign and Japanese workers can work comfortably.

#### Main initiatives:

- Promotion of creating a working environment conducive for foreign residents
- Support for local companies in accepting foreign talents

#### (9) Providing the appeal of Ube City to inbound tourists

In cooperation with related organizations, we will communicate the appeal of Ube City to overseas and foreign tourists.

#### **Main initiatives:**

- Promotion of enhancing the appeal as a tourist destination
- Strengthening tourism promotion to overseas
- Promotion of attracting foreign cruise ships

#### (10) Exchanges with sister/friendship cities and other countries

We carry out exchange projects with foreign countries, centering on our sister cities Newcastle (Australia) and Castelló de la Plana (Spain), and our friendship city Weihai (China), and we are conducting exchange projects not only between governments but also among citizens. Facilitate interaction at different levels.

#### **Main initiatives:**

- Promoting people-to-people exchanges
- Promotion of city exchanges
- Promotion of interaction through education, culture, and sports

#### 4. Creating a community where children can learn freely and play an active role

We will promote the creation of an environment where children can live safely and comfortably, and an environment where children can thrive globally.

#### (11) Improving the educational environment and acceptance system for foreign students

We will establish a system for accepting foreign students and their parents so that they can enjoy school life with peace of mind.

#### Main initiatives:

- Support for foreign students attending school
- Multilingualization of documents for parents
- · Japanese language learning support for foreign students
- Promotion of multicultural education
- Building a system of counseling for children and parents with concerns

#### (12) Nurturing young people who can play an active role globally

We aim to develop young people who can play an active role globally, focusing on exchanges with sister/friendship cities and other countries overseas.

#### Main initiatives:

- Junior global training dispatch
- Support for short-term study abroad in sister cities
- Promotion of youth participation in international exchange events

#### 5. Regional development with established information and human networks

We will work to create an environment where all citizens, including foreign residents, can receive administrative and daily life information equally and enjoy administrative services equally.

#### (13) Providing administrative information and consultation services in multiple languages

We will promote the internationalization and multicultural coexistence of our city by making administrative services multilingual and raising awareness of multicultural coexistence among employees.

#### Main initiatives:

- Multilingualization of administrative and daily life information
- Multilingualization of signs at public facilities
- Multilingual support at counters when visiting the agency
- Holding easy Japanese courses and training sessions for staff
- Interpretation and translation using ICT

#### (14) Information dissemination towards realizing multicultural coexistence

We will promote multicultural understanding and coexistence in our city through the use of digital media and effective communication strategies.

#### Main initiatives:

- Dissemination of multicultural coexistence initiatives using social media
- PR of foreign human resources who can play an active role in the region
- Effective dissemination of Ube City's multicultural coexistence promotion vision

## Promotion system

In order to promote multicultural community development, citizens, local communities, various organizations, and governments need to play a leading role in their respective positions, cooperate with each other, and work together.

#### **Educational institution**

Higher educational institutions such as universities and higher professional schools are required to utilize the abilities and diversity of international students to promote multicultural coexistence, as well as create a system for them to play an active role in the local community.

#### Company

Companies that employ foreigners are required to create a comfortable working environment, including respecting human rights and complying with labor-related laws and regulations, so that foreign workers can work with peace of mind. In addition, in order to promote the retention of foreign workers, it is expected that they will enhance support in daily life, participate in creating livable communities in collaboration with local governments and related organizations, and provide opportunities for Japanese language education.

#### Citizens/Region

Ube City offers opportunities to interact with various foreign residents from companies, schools, local communities, etc., and by acknowledging each other's cultural differences, understanding and respecting each other, we can live a long, safe and prosperous life together. It is hoped that construction will continue.

# Promoting a multicultural society

A city where everyone can live comfortably, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, or cultural differences

#### Citizen activity group

We hope that each organization will carry out activities that are rooted in the local community while taking advantage of their unique characteristics. In addition, foreign residents themselves will be required to play a central role in civic activities and be proactive.

#### **Administrative**

Based on the basic principles and policies set forth in this vision, we will take the initiative in implementing specific measures in order to serve as a role model, as well as collaborate and collaborate by sharing information with local communities, civic groups, companies, etc., promote multicultural coexistence.

## Yamaguchi International Exchange Association

Since its establishment in 1990, it has contributed to the promotion of internationalization as a core organization of private international exchange organizations in Yamaguchi Prefecture. In the future, we will continue to utilize this track record to provide detailed information based on local needs and issues, such as providing multilingual information, providing consultation in multiple languages including easy Japanese to foreign residents, and conducting exchange projects with foreign residents is expected.