三田市多文化共生推進基本方針
（Sanda City Basic Policy for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence）

June 2009
Sanda City
Aiming for a Multicultural Society

Background of Basic Policy for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence

Globalization and bordlessness affects every area of society such as politics, economics and culture as the coming and going of information, goods and people across borders increases. Even in Sanda City, the number of new foreign residents referred to as new comers, in addition to the North and South Korean as well as Chinese residents who have lived here for many years, has increased in recent years creating a society with different nationalities, ethnic groups and lifestyles now totaling 965 people from 38 different countries as at March 2009. Citizens of diverse cultures living together in a region make society richer and give birth to new cultures and intercultural exchange.

However, on the other hand, there are times when friction arises between Japanese citizens and foreign residents due to differences in customs and culture, and in some cases the language barrier can give rise to many problems. Also, the reality of the current situation is that even long-term foreign residents are sometimes subject to disadvantageous circumstances merely because of the fact that they are of a different nationality, and sometimes experience racial prejudice and discrimination. In the future, we expect more foreigners will come to Japan and will help shoulder the future of society and the economy creating a multiethnic society. It is our aim to create a ‘multicultural society’ that surpasses all differences in nationality and ethnicity where both foreign and Japanese citizens can live in a safe environment with each and every citizen respecting other cultures and diverse values.

● Transition in Foreign Registration Numbers

![Graph showing transition in foreign registration numbers](image_url)

Data: Sanda City (end of March yearly)
Based on the underlying principle ‘Creation of a Coexistent Society where Human Rights are Respected’, Sanda City is aiming to realize a society where all members of society can coexist with each and very citizen while respecting the rights of others. In 2003 Sanda City decided on the ‘Sanda City Basic Policy for Human Rights’ and since then has striven to promote human right policies with every city policy evaluated from the standpoint of respect for human rights while working and coordinating closely with citizens and various relevant authorities.

In addition, they have established the ‘Sanda City Basic Policy for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence’ to define a basic direction for projects and policies regarding foreign citizens as we move towards realizing a multicultural society, where foreign citizens’ human rights are respected and they can coexist peacefully with Japanese citizens. Based on this policy, we will strive to promote policies and projects while working together and coordinating closely with citizens, businesses and other relevant groups. Furthermore, this basic policy is a part of the ‘Sanda City’s Third Comprehensive Plan’ and ‘Sanda City Basic Policy for Human Rights’ planning scheme, and serves as a guiding principle when implementing projects and measures in the relevant departments.

● Sanda City’s Main Policies & Projects Regarding Foreign Citizens.

- Abolition of ‘Nationality Clause’ regarding the employing of City Office staff (1973)
- Assistance for non-pensioners of foreign nationality (1996-)
- Assistance for foreign children commuting to school (2001-)
- Established the ‘Basic Policy on Sanda City Foreign Residents Education’ (1996)
- Established sister-city exchanges with Blue Mountains City, Australia (1988), Kittitas County, USA (1992), and Jeju City, Republic of Korea (1997)

In addition, Sanda City holds seminars & lectures on deepening international understanding, has administrative documents as well as signboards of public facilities relevant to foreign residents written in several languages.

Under this policy, regardless of your nationality, of whether you are naturalized or have Japanese nationality, or if one of your parents is a foreigner married to a Japanese national, anyone who has non-Japanese roots is included in the term ‘foreign citizen’.
Basic Objectives of Basic Policy for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence

In Sanda City, we are aiming to realize a society where all citizens can live full lives peacefully together, and have ‘the respecting of human rights and creation of a coexistent society’ as our basic principle. At the root of this policy is respect for ‘human rights’ and the enriching of contact and communication between people. Also, in the opening passage of the ‘Sanda Citizens’ Policy Charter’ enacted on Sanda City’s 50th anniversary, it reads ‘Let us create a society where people value life, help each other and touch one another’s hearts’. The Sanda City Basic Policy for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence aims to realize a multicultural society in which both Japanese and foreign citizens can live peacefully, work, and learn together while respecting the human rights of others, and acknowledging the differences in nationality, ethnicity, customs and culture.
Measures for the Realization of a Multicultural Society

I Creating awareness for a Multicultural Society

Through various opportunities, efforts are being made to educate and widely establish locally the idea that ‘both foreign citizens and Japanese citizens are all considered equal citizens’. Measures to enhance mutual understanding are also being taken.

① Creating awareness to respect human rights.
- We will endeavour to promote human rights education and awareness, do away with racial prejudice and discrimination and foster a human rights awareness that declares ‘both foreign citizens and Japanese citizens are citizens coexisting in Sanda City’.
- We will strive to deepen the publics’ understanding of the idea of a multicultural society through publicity and education. We will also endeavour to educate businesses in order to create fair job opportunities for foreign citizens.
- We will strive to raise public servants and education facility workers’ understanding and awareness on foreign citizens through training seminars, research and lectures, etc.

② Promoting education regarding multicultural coexistence & international understanding
- We will promote education on international understanding and multicultural coexistence that is based on a mutual respect between foreign and Japanese citizens.
- We will carry forward education for foreign infants, children and students to learn about their mother tongue, culture and history so as to allow them to have self-awareness and pride in their ethnic background. We will also educate Japanese infants, children and students to deepen their understanding the history and culture of our foreign citizens.
- We will promote education for both foreign and Japanese infants, children and students in order to create an environment that will allow all foreign citizens to able to use their ethnic names. We will also strive to educate the general public, including guardians.

③ Promoting learning & exchange for multicultural coexistence
- We actively create learning opportunities to foster a cosmopolitan outlook and multicultural awareness through the learning of foreign culture and customs.
- We will strive to offer enriched intercultural exchange programs designed to promote contact and strengthen ties between foreign and Japanese citizens, and deepen mutual understanding of each other’s cultures. We will also further exchange between citizens by expanding the international exchange base located in the Sanda Public Community Center (Machizukuri Kyodo Center).
- We will promote independent international exchange activities on a broader base by citizens, such as exchange in diverse areas.
Creating a Society where Foreign Citizens can live happily

We will enhance our ability to provide necessary administrative information accurately, in several languages. We will strive to internationalize the administration through close regulation between relevant departments, as well as secure interpreters for many languages, and a simple counseling system for foreign citizens.

① Enhancing support system for consultation, offering information & posting notifications
- We will give consideration to foreign citizens so that they may receive necessary daily life information as well as administrative services in the same way that Japanese citizens do. We will aim to provide information on systems and services, display signboards inside public facilities, etc. in either several languages, or place furigana above the Chinese characters in order to make the information easy-to-understand for foreign residents.
- We will work closely with relevant organizations and businesses to make not only information, but also signs in places such as train stations, hospitals etc., according to their order of public importance, available in several languages.
- We will work on improving the provision of information through our websites aimed at foreign citizens, as well as the foreign language information sites. We also work to improve the daily life consultation system for foreign citizens.
- We will promote intercultural exchange among foreign citizens.

② Support for foreign citizens’ learning Japanese & trying to adapt to Japanese society
- We will work on supporting foreign citizens who wish to learn Japanese at Japanese language schools.
- We will offer learning opportunities and information for foreign citizens who wish to enhance their understanding of Japanese society, systems, culture and daily life customs. We are also considering creating place(s) where foreign citizens new to Sanda City can learn more about daily life here.

③ Support for learning and the securing of work
- We will also examine the possibility of implementing a system that allows all children of compulsory education age to be put into school, and at the same time educate guardians about their children's guaranteed rights to learn.
- We will strive to improve Japanese language instruction and the dispatching of foreign language instructors so as to allow foreign children and students to receive necessary instruction in the Japanese language and learn words necessary for daily life, as well as words necessary in order to receive educational instruction.
- When sending notifications and reports home from school, we will take into consideration the fact that there may be many guardians who do not have a substantial grasp of the Japanese language, or guardians who do not understand Japanese culture or customs.
- We will work to create counseling systems to deal with general education issues such as putting a child into school, school life, and guidance counseling after graduation. In particular, we will offer proper guidance and necessary education in securing guidance counseling after graduation.
Enriching administrative services

- In order to enhance foreign citizens’ understanding of the services, systems and administrative policies regarding life and property such as public health, healthcare, welfare, social security, and housing, we will strive to make this information widely-known and available in several languages. When offering these services we will also take into account the differences in lifestyles, customs and values.
- We will strive to provide a support system for foreign citizens to prepare them in case of emergency such as a natural disaster. We will also endeavour to make sure that information reaches foreign residents at times of emergency.

Creating a Multicultural Society together

While at the same time encouraging the participation of foreign citizens in various areas of the city planning process (machizukuri), we are moving ahead with the setting up of a system to allow us to make full use of the opinions and ideas put forth from the viewpoint of foreign citizens.

Promoting participation in city planning (machizukuri) & reflecting opinions

- We are striving to create opportunities to have the voices of foreign citizens heard and reflected in the creation process by actively encouraging the participation of foreign citizens in committee meetings and deliberation council meetings.
- Based on the resolution approved by the Sanda city council in 1995, ‘Our opinion on requesting the granting of provincial voting rights for permanent foreign residents,’ we have since been appealing to the Japanese government regarding the realization of provincial voting rights for foreign citizens.
- We will promote the participation of foreign citizens in various local activities.

Fostering people to promote multicultural coexistence

- While at the same time we will promote and foster the activities of organizations that support foreign citizens, as well as groups made up of foreign citizens, we also plan to enhance cooperation between the various groups.
- We will strive to foster foreign citizens that will assume leadership roles in local society.
- We will strive to promote the broad participation of citizens in the activities of volunteers and multicultural integrated-related businesses that support foreign citizens.
In aiming for the realization of a multicultural society, we will promote comprehensively all policies regarding multicultural coexistence working in close cooperation and collaboration with various groups, citizens, businesses, and related organizations.

1. **Keeping in close contact with citizens, groups, businesses and other relevant organizations**

   In promoting the policies based on this plan of action, we will strive to work in close cooperation with Japanese and foreign citizens, various groups, businesses, universities, and related organizations in all fields of administration to allow us to make full use of their knowledge and know-how.

2. **Sanda City's promotion system**

   In order to promote our policies effectively for the realization of a multicultural society, we will improve the functions of control, cooperation within the administration at the same time attempt to grasp the actual situation and awareness of foreign citizens accurately.

3. **Appealing to the Japanese government**

   We request that the Hyogo Prefectural and Japanese Federal Government improve laws and support systems in order to push forward in solving the many problems foreign citizens face. We will also promote close cooperation and the exchange of information between local autonomous bodies and the Prefectural Government.

4. **Managing policy progress**

   The management of progress of the policies based on this plan of action will be carried out by the Sanda City 'Department of City Development & Human Rights Promotions' of and will be evaluated objectively together with the citizens. We will reexamine this policy and related policies in response to any changes in the state of affairs in Japan.