

# Toshima City: Basic Policy for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence

March 2019

Toshima City

## G l o s s a r y

\* "Multicultural coexistence" means "a condition where people with different nationalities and ethnic origins live together as members of the community, recognizing others' cultural differences and trying to establish fair relationship" ("Report of the Workshop concerning Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 2006)).

\* In this policy, a term "foreigner(s)" will not be used except when words and phrases are cited from names of research and source materials, but the following terms will be used instead.

◇ **"City residents"**

People living, working or learning in Toshima City

◇ **"City residents with Japanese nationality"**

City residents whose nationality is Japanese

◇ **"City residents with foreign nationality"**

City residents whose nationality is not Japanese

◇ **"City residents with Japanese nationality and foreign origin"**

(i) City residents who have acquired Japanese nationality through notification

(ii) City residents with Japanese nationality whose parent is/parents are from a foreign country

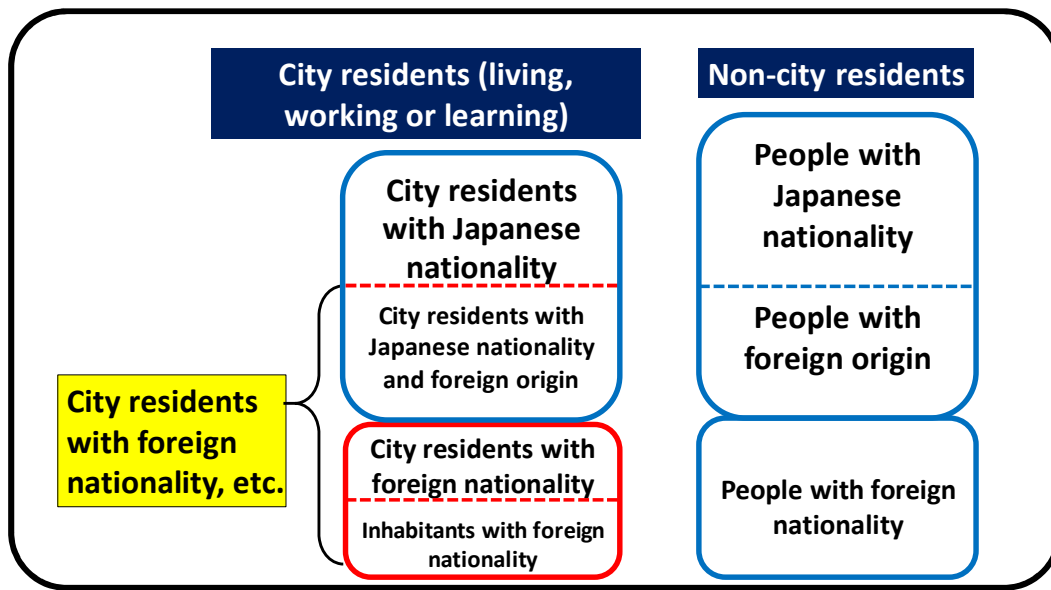
◇ **"Inhabitants with foreign nationality"**

"City residents with foreign nationality" who have registered with Toshima City as an inhabitant

◇ **"City residents with foreign nationality, etc."**

"City residents with foreign nationality" and "city residents with Japanese nationality and foreign origin"

Definitions of terms to be used in this policy



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<b>I In establishing this Basic Policy</b>	

## 1 Background of establishment

"Report of the Workshop concerning Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence" (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications 2006) defines multicultural coexistence as a condition where people with different nationalities and ethnic origins live together as members of the community, recognizing others' cultural differences and trying to establish fair relationship.

Toshima City is receiving many tourists from overseas and has a growing number of inhabitants with foreign nationality. In our city, which has been developed as a city accepting various people, the number of residents from Vietnam, Nepal, Myanmar and other Asian countries has been rapidly increasing in recent years.

As a result, revision of the current information provision in English, Chinese and Hangul (the language of both North and South Korea) and Japanese learning support in terms of content and method needs to be reconsidered.

In addition, though responses to city residents with foreign nationality, etc. have focused on "support", elements such as "understanding", "dialog" and "tolerance" on the side of local inhabitants who will receive such city residents are becoming more important from the standpoint of coexistence.

Since promotion of multicultural coexistence requires collaboration of various measures for guiding mutual identification between different cultures to mutual understanding, improvement of an environment for multicultural coexistence will be more strongly needed.

In such a circumstance, the issue is to enlighten city residents with various nationalities and to guide them to mutual understanding; for example, city residents with foreign nationality, etc. are required to learn the Japanese language and deepen understanding of Japanese culture, and city residents with Japanese nationality are required to be tolerant enough to accept lifestyle and culture unique to the city residents with foreign nationality, etc.

Therefore, Toshima City decided to establish the Basic Policy for Promotion of Multicultural Coexistence, including responses to city residents with foreign nationality, etc. and the ideal state of multicultural interaction.

The "Principal Ordinance concerning Promotion of Autonomy (Ordinance No.1 of 2006)" of Toshima City includes "Respect for diversity" in its basic principles.

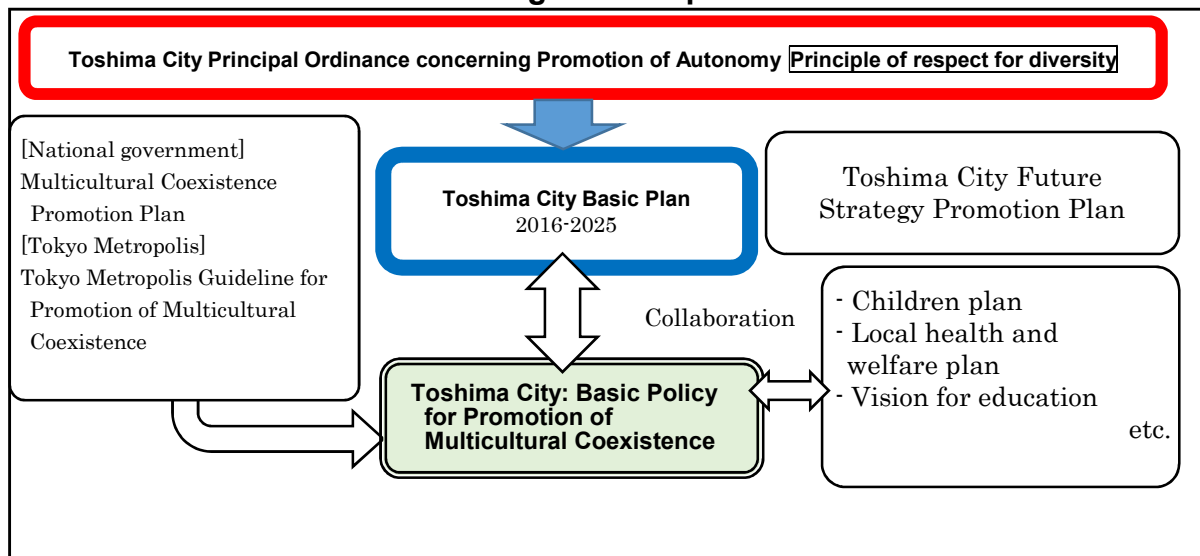
Taking into consideration such a principle, the national government's definition of multicultural coexistence and the current situation of city residents with foreign nationality in Toshima that account for more than 10 percent of all

inhabitants, we have focused on city residents with foreign nationality and city residents with Japanese nationality and foreign origin to consider multicultural coexistence.

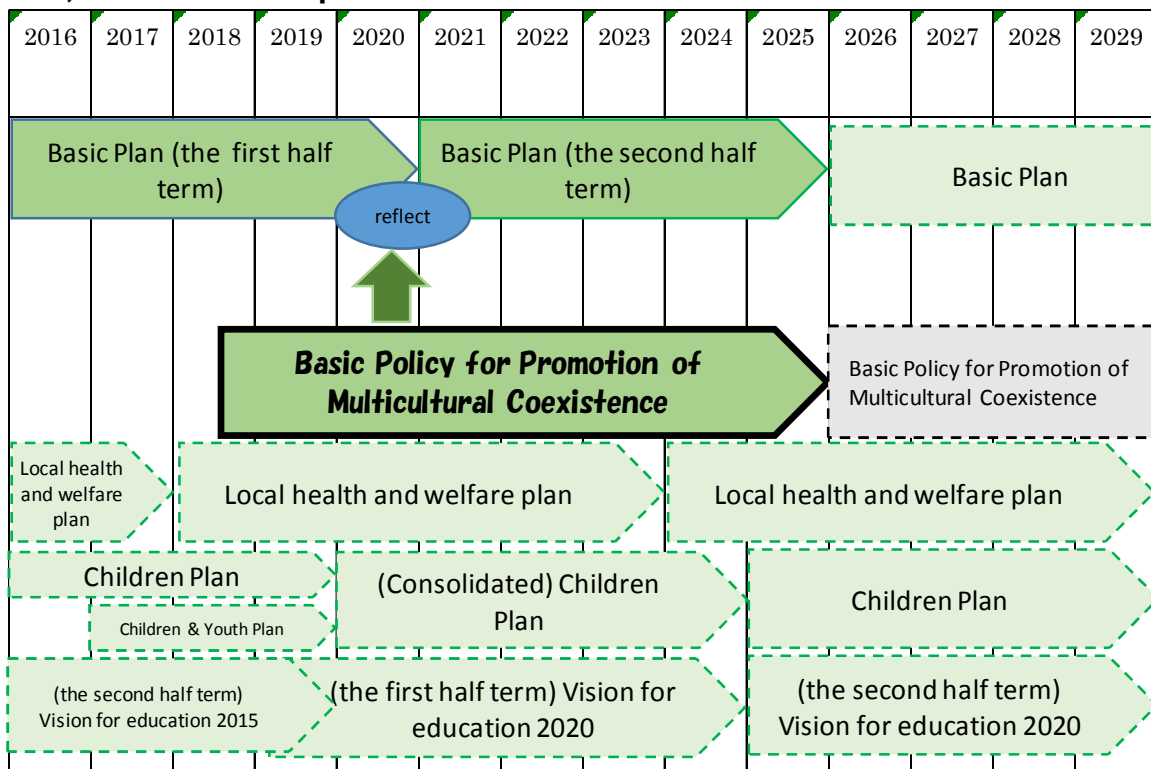
## 2 Positioning of basic policies

The purpose of this Basic Policy is to review and further promote measures for multicultural coexistence of Toshima City under its upper-level plan "Toshima City Basic Plan 2016-2025".

### Positioning of basic policies



### Period, etc. of relevant plans



## II Current situation and challenges

### 1 Situation of inhabitants with foreign nationality

Toshima City has many inhabitants with foreign nationality who are from Asian countries, in the twenties, international students and in a single household. In recent years the number of such inhabitants has been increasing by more than approximately 2,000 every year. In addition, nationalities of such inhabitants have become diversified (more than 100).

- The number of inhabitants with foreign nationality: 30,384      10.5% of the total population (as of November 11, 2018)
- The number of inhabitants with foreign nationality by the nationality
  - Chinese (14,323), Vietnamese (3,631), Nepali (3,463), Korean (both North and South) (2,654), Burmese (2,269), Filipino (515), American (439), Thai and French (285), and Bangladeshi (273) in decreasing order.
  - The number of inhabitants with Vietnamese nationality has increased approximately thirteenfold, Nepali approximately fivefold and Burmese approximately twofold these recent six years.
  - Areas where inhabitants with foreign nationality live are Ikebukuro, Higashi-Ikebukuro and Kitaotsuka in decreasing order.
  - Number and percentage of inhabitants by the age structure: The largest group is "20 to 29 years old", accounting almost half of all inhabitants
  - Status of residence: The largest group is "Student", accounting almost half of all inhabitants with foreign nationality
  - Period of stay: The largest group is "one year or longer, but shorter than two years", and the second largest is "three years or longer, but shorter than five years"
  - The number of households of inhabitants with foreign nationality by the number of household members: Single households account for more than 80 percent.

### 2 Key challenges

- Necessary living information does not reach city residents with foreign nationality, etc., especially city residents using languages other than English, Chinese and Hangul and city residents with foreign nationality, etc. who have just come to Japan.
- City residents with foreign nationality, etc. who have just come to Japan find it difficult to understand rules and systems concerning daily life (such as waste sorting, tax, and national health insurance) and to take various procedures, which sometimes leads to conflicts with local inhabitants.
- In some cases, city residents with foreign nationality, etc. feel that it is not necessary to interact with Japanese people and have no sense of coexistence with Japanese, because they can complete all their living and work within a community of city residents with the same nationality.

### III Basic philosophy of multicultural coexistence

#### Realization of a "multicultural coexistence" city

- City residents have diverse values regardless of the nationality or race. We will promote multicultural symbiosis in which various city residents including foreigners can respect each other and live peacefully, and facilitate formation of productive communities.
- We will make efforts to encourage city residents to coexist as a member of the local community beyond the border of nationality and race.

(Source: "Toshima City Basic Plan 2016-2025")

### IV Basic measures for multicultural coexistence

#### 1 Support for living of city residents with foreign nationality, etc.

##### (1) Assistance in learning the language, rules, etc.

Learning of the Japanese language in Japanese language classes, etc. is so important for city residents with foreign nationality, etc. that it serves as an entrance to Japanese society.

In such classes, they are expected not only to master the Japanese language but also to understand Japanese systems, rules, etc. required to live in Japan.

It would serve as citizenship education to make city residents with foreign nationality, etc. aware of their responsibilities and rights as a city resident.

For the purpose of promoting such education, we will increase the number of opportunities to learn the Japanese language so that city residents with foreign



nationality, etc. may attend the class according to their life rhythm including work or school.

In addition, participation of city residents in such activities as a volunteer will be supported.

## **(2) Establishment of the scheme for information provision**

As for information to be provided by the city, we will consider transmission in multiple languages to respond to a recent increase of the number of residents from Asian countries other than East Asia.

We will also consider methods of information transmission using various tools including SNS.

We will collaborate with city residents who will work as a key person and related organizations so as to ensure finely adjusted transmission of information.

In particular, we will consider development of human resources who can support information transmission to city residents with foreign nationality, etc. in the case of a disaster and report victims' needs to the city.

## **(3) Collaboration with support groups, etc.**

To enhance support for city residents with foreign nationality, etc., we will support networking of Japanese language classes and support groups in the city and collaborate with such groups.

In addition, we will improve transmission of information on the city's services, Japanese language classes and support groups so that any city resident with foreign nationality, etc. can easily get information.

# **2 Creation of a sense of coexistence and promotion of interaction**

## **(1) Awareness raising**

For the purpose of developing human resources with a cosmopolitan way of thinking, we will teach children to accept multicultural coexistence.

In addition, we will promote activities to deepen understanding of different cultures and create a sense of coexistence in both city residents with foreign nationality and city residents with Japanese nationality.

## **(2) Promotion of interaction**

We will create opportunities for city residents with foreign nationality, etc. to actively participate in events of the city and communities through cultural

exchange projects (such as music, paintings, dance and food culture).

Furthermore, we will utilize the existing local bases (City Community Plaza) and cultural bases (libraries and the local culture creation center) as a point of exchange between communities of city residents with foreign nationality, etc. and Japanese society, and promote exchange-type language learning.

### **3 Support for activities of city residents with foreign nationality, etc.**

We will support local activities such as set up opportunities for interaction and information exchange, and increasing opportunities for introduction of habits of each other and cultural exchange for the purpose of encouraging city residents with different nationalities to understand each other.

In addition, we will collaborate with communities of city residents with foreign nationality and encourage them to share local challenges as a city resident.

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Issued by: Multicultural Coexistence Promotion Subsection,  
Planning Section, Policy Planning Division, Toshima City  
2-45-1 Minami-Ikebukuro, Toshima City 171-8422