

Significance of Pursuing the Multicultural Symbiotic Society

(1) To Encourage Foreign Residents to Participate in the Social Planning

The concept that all citizens build respectful relationships means that the foreign residents can have equal access to important information and administrative services, which encourages them to take part in the social planning by making good use of the cultural uniqueness.

(2) To Raise Awareness of Human Rights amongst People in the Communities

Accepting and understanding differences in each other's cultural situations and backgrounds is the main point of *Respect for Fundamental Human Rights* stated in the Constitution of Japan and International Covenants of Human Rights. This deed does not only grant the human rights to all foreign nationals, but gives opportunities to show respect for each other's individuality and can raise awareness of human rights amongst people in their communities.

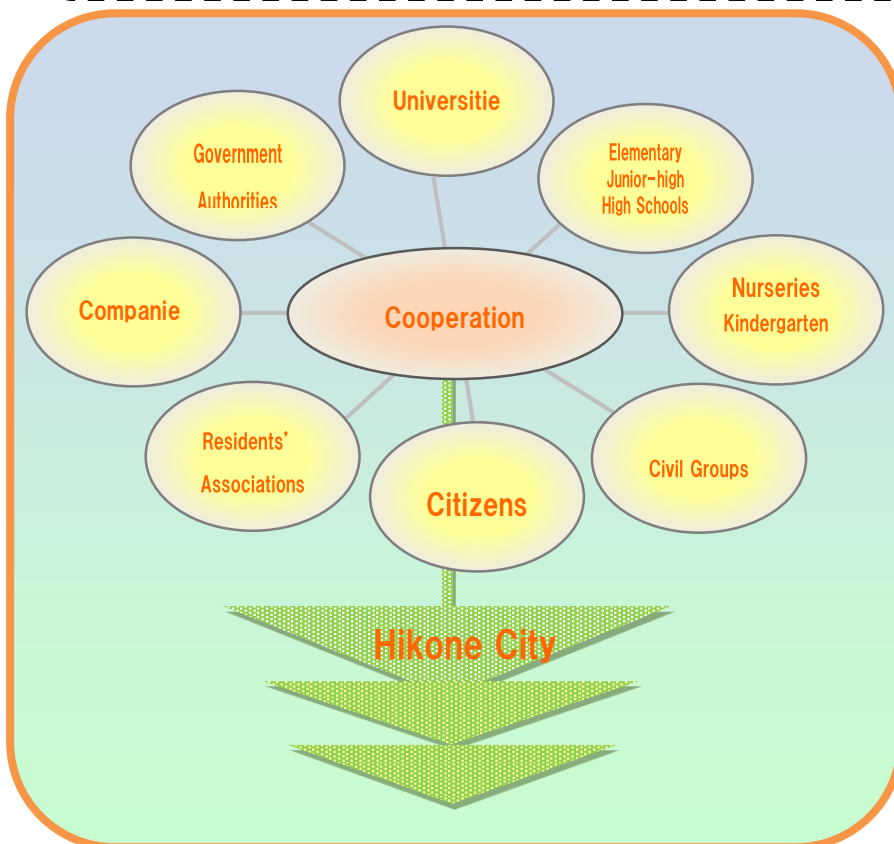
(3) To Pursue the Society Where All Citizens Support One Another

Multicultural symbiotic society is not confined to supporting foreign residents. It also brings the whole society and citizens to work together on a ground of "the Universal Design" - shaping a society where all folks can be well off and support one another, regardless of age, gender, nationality and cultural differences.

(4) To Create a New Source of Vitality for the Communities

The more foreign residents are able to participate equally in the social planning, the more opportunities the city can have novel & unique ideas. Moreover, having a sense of multiculturalism becomes a huge contribution to the gradually but steadily globalizing communities.

It is indispensable that every conceivable person works in a cooperative way as a key person.



Hikone Multicultural Symbiosis Promotion Plan

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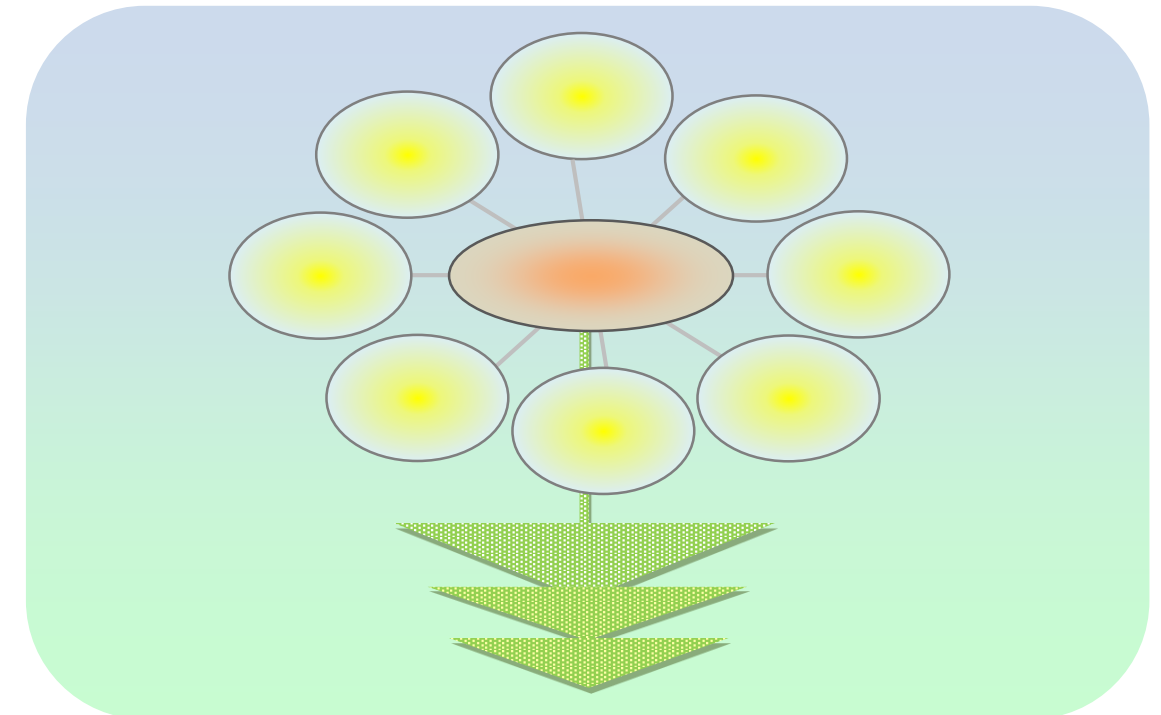
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Hikone Multicultural Symbiotic Promotion Plan

Hikone Where Everyone Can Thrive Together

Abridgement



As the city of Hikone saw a rising trend in the number of foreign residents in recent years - there are 2,249 residents with foreign backgrounds living in Hikone as of September 2016 - the city has been working on multiculturalism by translating the Community Newsletter Koho Hikone, website of Hikone City, etc. into multiple languages to spread necessary information, and stationing interpreters and telephone counselors for the foreign residents; however, we believe that we still have more work that needs to be done.

Therefore, in order to realize the multicultural symbiotic city where both the Japanese and foreign residents of Hikone can recognize and respect one another to promote multiculturalism, we have settled on the creation of "Hikone Multicultural Symbiotic Promotion Plan" .

2017 March

Hikone City

Action Plan Outline



GOAL



DEVELOPMENTS

Hikone Where Everyone Can Thrive Together

1 Communication Support

- *Translating Information into Multiple Languages
- *Offering Opportunities to Learn the Japanese Language and Societies

2 Forming the Secure Environment

- *Living Environment
- *Place Where Children Can Flourish
- *Educational Setting
- *Social Security & Medical Care
- *Disaster Prevention & Mitigation

3 Building the Multicultural Communities

- *Enlightening the Communities on Multiculturalism
- *Cooperation of Foreign Residents
- *Making Communities with Diversity

CONTENTS OF MAIN ACTIVITIES (Excerpt)

- Through the website of Hikone, and other media, we spread the administrative information that is translated into multiple languages.
- We support volunteers of the Japanese language and civil groups so that they can offer Japanese language classes on a periodic & continuous basis.
- For the foreign residents, we set up a consultation desk with interpreters.

- We carry out the workshop of “Multicultural Social Worker” for the relevant departments and authorities.
- For the residents with foreign backgrounds, we host activities, such as the Language Class, Multicultural Children’s Club, and so forth.
- We station a medical interpreter of the Portuguese language at the Civic Hospital in Hikone.
- We create a foreign-language version of the “Disaster Prevention Guideline” and “Disaster Evacuation Manual” .

- We organize the workshop of the topic of multicultural symbiosis during the gathering for “Promotion of Human Rights Society” .
- We recruit the multicultural supporters from the residents of Hikone.
- Through a wide range of existing media, we offer information about events and activities that the foreign residents are engaged in.

Realization of Multicultural Symbiotic Societies

- ◆ To-Mo-Ni (Together) = All residents respect one another
- ◆ I-Ki-I-Ki (Actively) = Each individuality can be displayed