

International Symposium co-organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Shizuoka prefecture, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
FOREIGN RESIDENTS AND THEIR INTEGRATION IN JAPAN:
Reflections on Experiences of European Countries and Challenges Facing
Communities in Relation to Japanese Descendants from Brazil**

25 March 2008

Shizuoka Convention & Arts Center "GRANSHIP" (Shizuoka City)

9:30 - 16:40

Objectives of the symposium

In recent years, the number of foreign residents in Japan has kept rising, exceeding two millions as of end 2006. This trend is likely to continue as globalization advances further. At the same time, Japanese descendants from foreign countries - so-called "Nikkeijin" - have rapidly increased particularly since 1990's. They have proven to be indispensable labour force for the industries in many cities, and their residence has become more permanent, inviting their family members from the countries of origin.

These foreign residents face a number of problems, including unstable employment, non-subscription to social insurances, and insufficient proficiency in Japanese, among others. Due to the difference in languages, culture and customs, there have been many cases of frictions between such foreign residents and host communities. Some cities have witnessed emergence of communities of Japanese descendants isolated from local communities. In light of these challenges, there have been active debates as to how best to integrate foreign residents in Japan.

Such debates over how best to integrate migrants have also evolved in European countries. The recent trend in integration policy is to emphasize adaptation on the part of migrants as members of society to the culture of the host communities including the local language, while paying due regard to the cultural diversity of migrants.

On Tuesday 25th March 2008, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Shizuoka Prefecture and the International Organization for Migration will co-organise "an International Symposium on Foreign Residents and their Integration in Japan" in the Shizuoka Prefecture. We will discuss, together with the audience, such issues as to what are the obstacles hampering the harmonious co-existence between Japanese and foreign residents; what kind of relationship the Japanese people should build with the rapidly increasing foreign residents in Japan amid the deepening globalization; and what kind of model is appropriate for Japan to integrate them.

The first session will shed light on the multicultural policy (a model of the integration policy), in which the host society broadly promotes and assists migrants to retain their original culture including mother tongues. While listening to the experiences in European countries which are regarded to have adopted such integration model, we will discuss the thrust and challenges of such model.

The second session will focus on the Japanese descendants from Brazil and their integration in Japan, in light of the 100th anniversary of the Japanese emigration to Brazil this year. Based upon the current situation and efforts in the Shizuoka prefecture in which a number of Japanese descendants from Brazil and other foreign nationals reside, the symposium will consider effective ways to address various challenges facing the Japanese descendants from Brazil living in Japan.

Agenda and participants (provisional)

English-Portuguese-Japanese simultaneous interpretation available

Morning Session 9:30 – 13:00

Opening Remarks

Mr. Hitoshi KIMURA, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Yoshinobu ISHIKAWA, Governor of Shizuoka Prefecture

Keynote Speeches

Dr. Yoneo ISHII, President of National Institutes for the Humanities

Mr. Brunson MCKINLEY, Director General of IOM

Session 1 “Current Situation and Issues Surrounding the Multicultural Policy (a Model of Integration Policy)”

Prof. Keizo YAMAWAKI, Professor of the School of Commerce, Meiji University (moderator)

Dr. Jeroen DOOMERNIK, Senior Researcher and Programme Coordinator of the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Amsterdam (presenter)

Mr. Jonas DOLL, Development Officer of Swedish Migration Board (presenter)

Prof. Kazuaki TEZUKA, Professor of the College of Law, Aoyama Gakuin University (presenter)

(Break)

Panel discussion followed by questions and answers

Dr. Jeroen DOOMERNIK,

Mr. Jonas DOLL,

Prof. Kazuaki TEZUKA

Prof. Masachi OSAWA, Professor of the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University

Mr. Noriyuki WAKISAKA, Editorial Writer of the Asahi Shimbun

(Lunch break)

Afternoon Session 14:10 – 16:40

Session 2 “Japanese Descendants from Brazil and their Integration”

(Japanese language education for children; living assistance for foreign residents such as language support for adults, housing assistance, etc.; corporate responsibility; and social participation of foreign residents)

Prof. Shigehiro IKEGAMI, Associate Professor of the Department of International Culture, Faculty of Cultural Policy & Management, Shizuoka University of Art and Culture (moderator)

Mr. Nozomu SUZUKI, Mayor of Iwata City, Shizuoka Prefecture (presenter)

Prof. Kimihiro TSUMURA, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Modern Communication Studies, Hamamatsu Gakuin University (presenter)

Ms. Tyemi Flávia YANASE, Student of International Christian University (presenter)

(Break)

Panel discussion followed by questions and answers

Prof. Kimihiro TSUMURA,

Mr. Osamu ISHIOKA, General Manager of the Business Projects Division, IM Company, Yamaha Motor Co., Ltd

Mr. Hiroshi INOUE, Director of the Industrial Affairs Bureau I, Nippon Keidanren

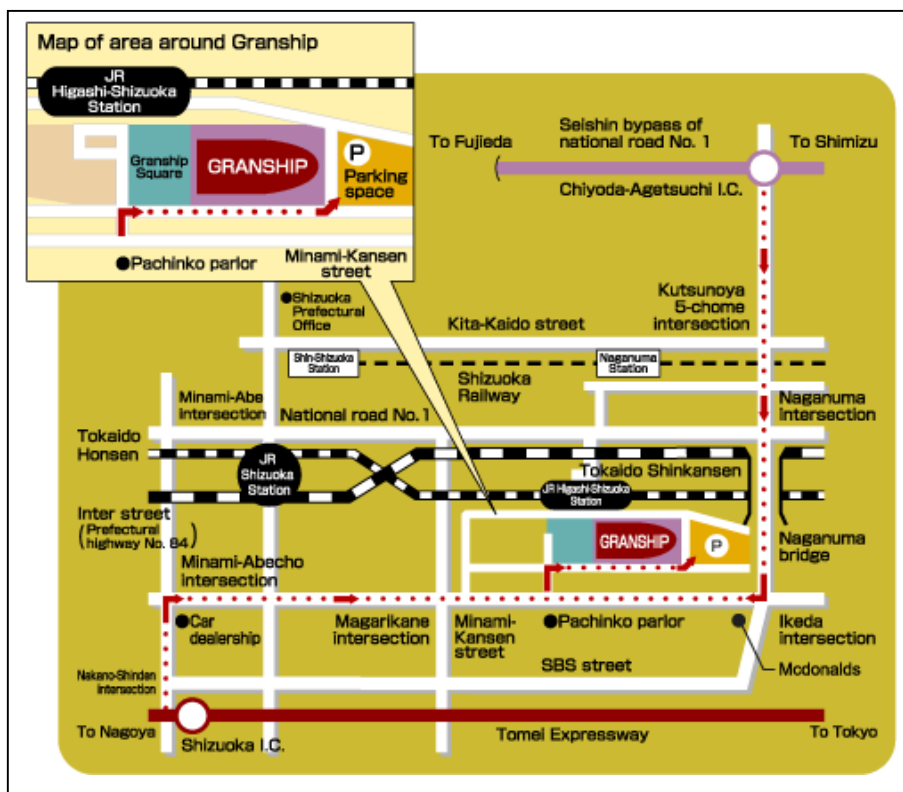
Mr. Yuzo SUGAHARA, Vice-President of Shioji Town (Kosai City) Neighborhood Association

Dr. Masato NINOMIYA, President of Center for the Information and Support of the Workers Abroad (CIATE)

Closing Remarks

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Map of the venue



Sign language interpretation and day-care will be available.

Registration by 14 March 2008 (Fri)

To attend this symposium, please fill out the application form and submit the information on the webpage shown below (recommended).

http://www.iomjapan.org/info/sympoapplication_200803.cfm

Or you can send this registration form to the fax number indicated below.

The secretariat will not be sending emails, etc. to confirm your registration.

Your understanding will be appreciated.

Please indicate if you require the secretariat to reserve a lunch box (¥700 including tea) as there are only a few restaurants, cafeterias, etc. near the venue.

Please also inform if you have requests for day-care no later than 5 Mar 2008 (Wed).

Personal data submitted to us will be properly administered and used for the purpose of the management of this symposium.

There are a limited number of seats, please reserve early. You may have to stand if sitting capacity is full.

Name		
Name of Organization & Job Title		
Lunch Box Request	Yes	No
Address	City:	Prefecture:
Contact Information	Tel:	Fax:
	E-mail:	
Remark		

*If more than one person participates, please make a copy of this registration form.

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Fax: 03-3595-2497

For general inquiries:

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (except on Sat, Sun and holidays)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Toranomon Bldg. 8th Floor, 1-1-12 Toranomon,
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For inquiries on the venue, day-care and Shizuoka prefecture:

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9-6 Ohtemachi, Aoi-ku, Shizuoka City, 420-8601

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