

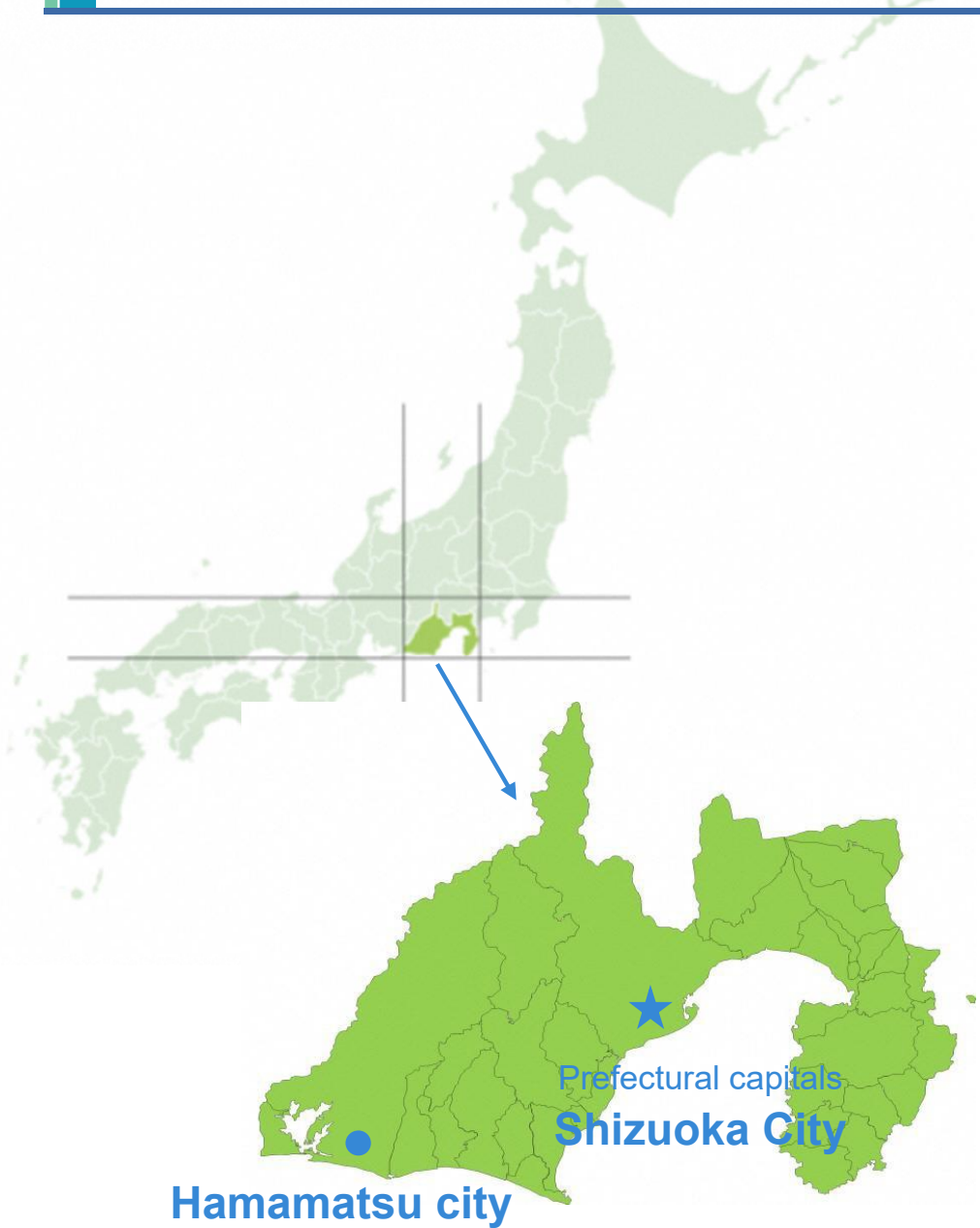
Initiatives for Municipal Cooperation in Shizuoka Prefecture

Director for Multicultural Affairs Division,
Regional Diplomacy Bureau, Shizuoka Prefecture

Masumi YOKOCHI

Outline of Shizuoka Prefecture

Located in the center of Japan, a prefecture full of rich, attractive nature and culture



Mt. Fuji World cultural heritage (2013.6)



**Nirayama
Reverberatory
Furnaces**
World cultural heritage
(2015.7)



**Southern
Alps**
UNESCO Eco
Park
(2014.6)



Izu Peninsula
UNESCO World Geopark
(2018.4)



Prefecture	Municipality	Government ordinance city
Implement the following affairs as <u>a wide-area local government covering municipality</u> (1) Wide area coverage (2) Matters pertaining to liaison and coordination concerning municipalities (3) Those which are not suitable for processing by municipalities.	As a basic local government, conduct administrative work in local areas.	Specified by cabinet order from cities with a population of 0.5 million or more and no involvement of prefectures

Outline of Shizuoka Prefecture

People's incomes per capita are the sixth in the national, and manufacturing is active



3.56 million
Tenth
in the national
(As of 2023.10.1)



17 trillion
530.6 billion yen
Tenth
in the national
(FY2021)

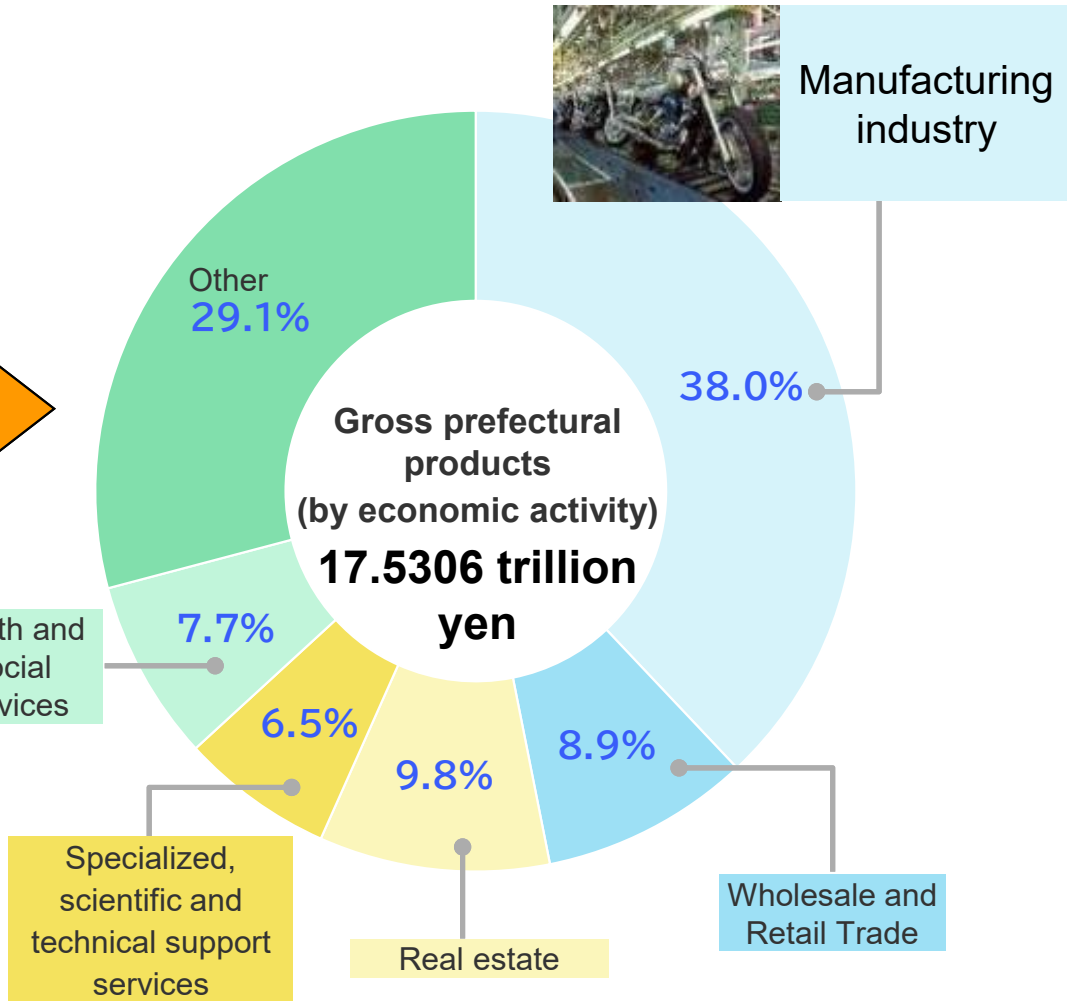
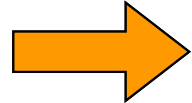


3.11 million yen
Sixth
in the national
(FY2020)

- 1st Tokyo Metropolitan Government
- 2nd Aichi Prefectural Government
- 3rd Fukui Prefectural Government



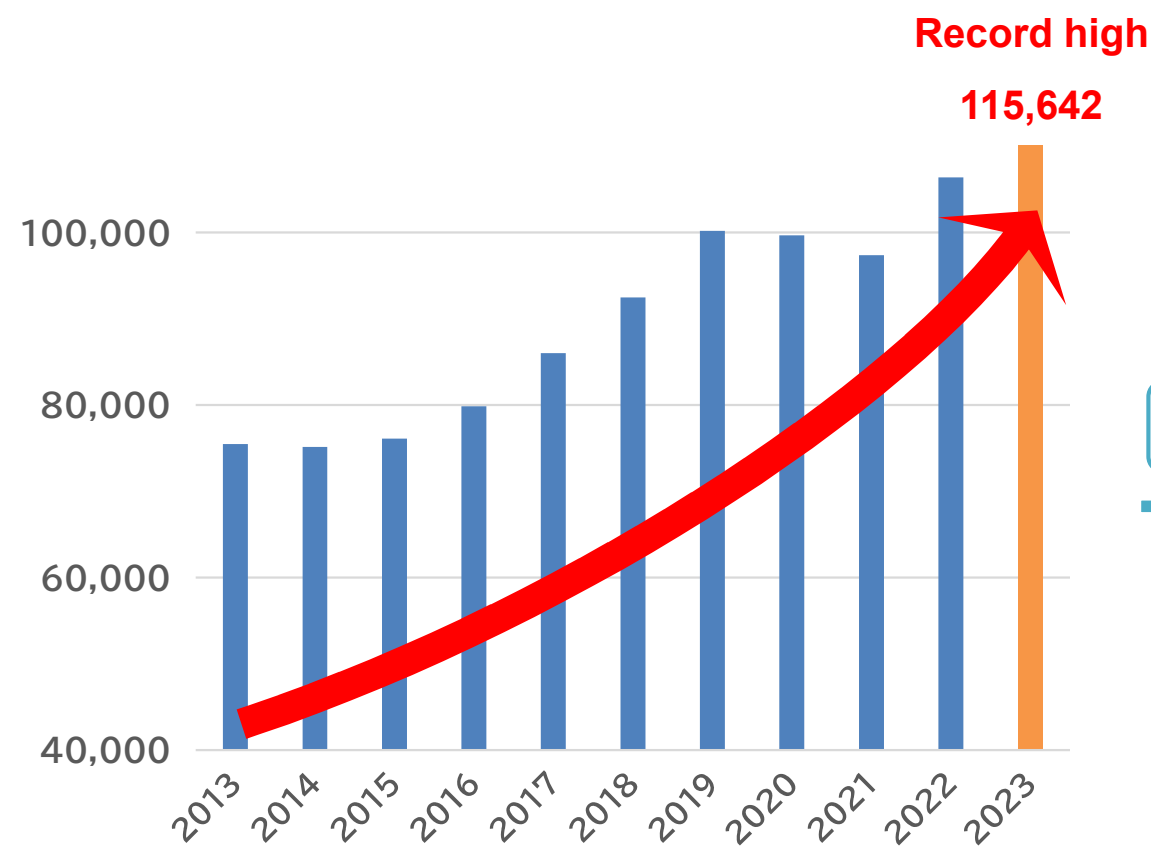
19 trillion
291 billion yen
Third
in the national
(2022)



Situation of Foreigners in Shizuoka Prefecture

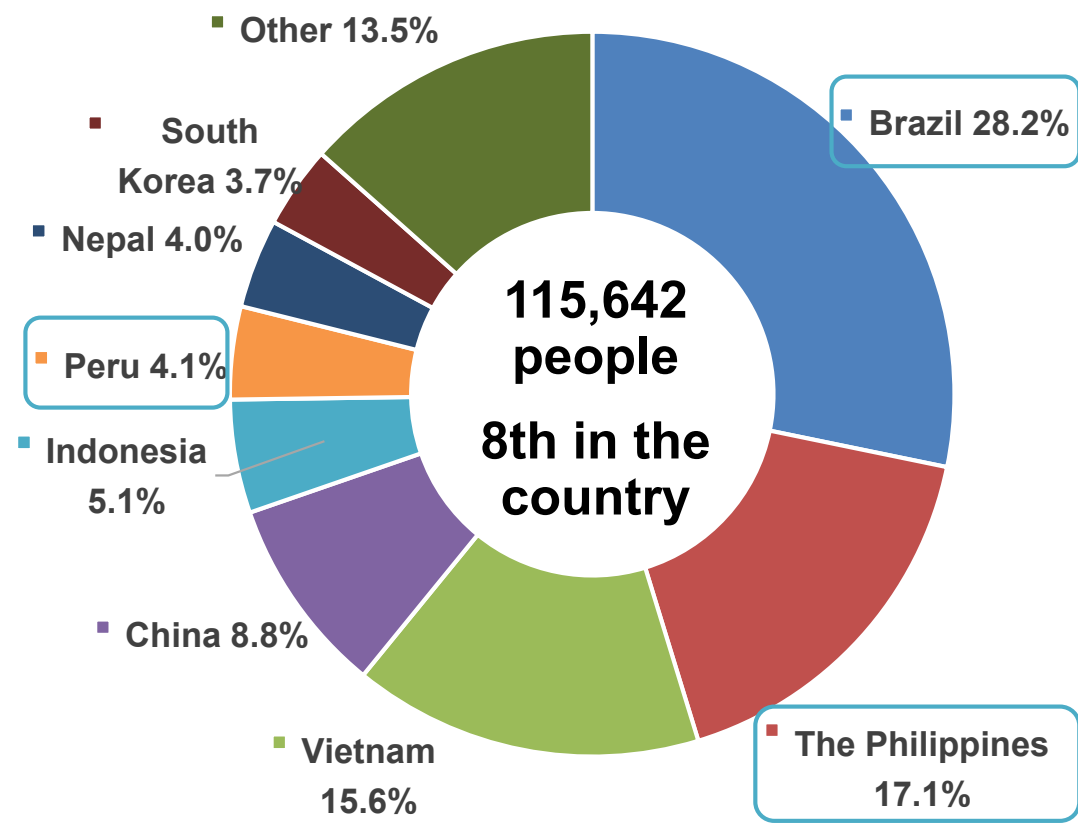
The number of foreign residents in Brazil and the Philippines reached a record high of approximately 45%

Changes in the Number of Foreign Residents in Shizuoka Prefecture



(Statistics on Foreign Residents of the Ministry of Justice at the end of December each year)

Breakdown of Nationality of Foreign Nationals

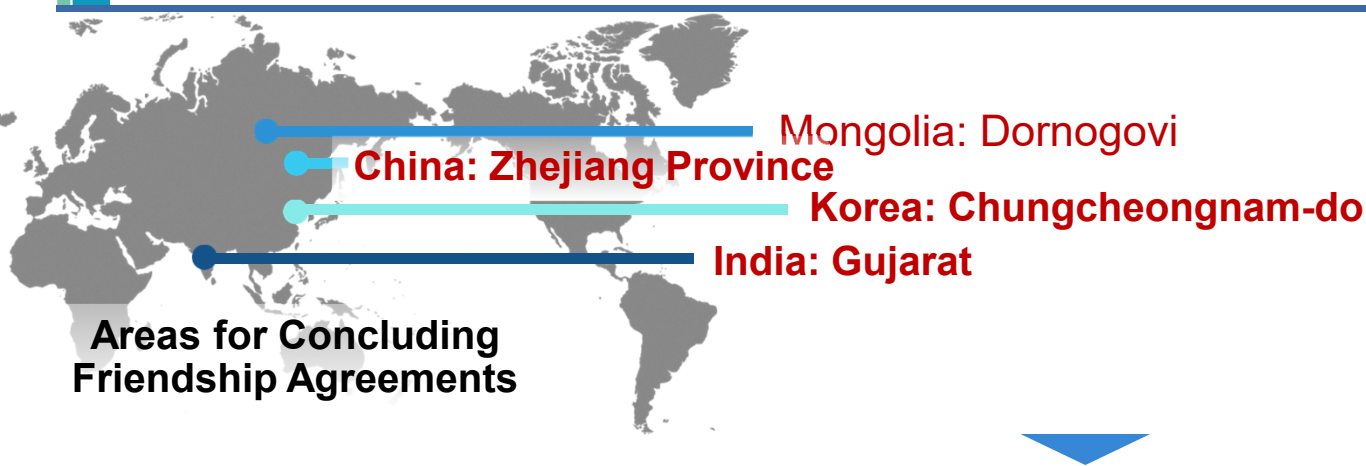


(Statistics of Foreign Nationals in the Ministry of Justice End of 2023.12)

Increased due to revision of the Immigration Control Act in 1990

Regional diplomacy and multicultural policy in Shizuoka prefecture

Integrated implementation of “incorporating vitality from overseas” and “promotion of multicultural society”



◆Promotion of regional diplomacy

- 2024 Concluded a new agreement with Gujarat State of India

◆Incorporate vitality from overseas

- Recruitment of highly-skilled workers through job interviews (Vietnam, Indonesia, Mongolia, India, Nepal)

Fostering a multicultural awareness -Realization of “Shizuoka Prefecture without Mental Walls and Word Walls”-

- ◆Establishment of multicultural awareness
 - Promoting Exchange between Foreign Nationals and Japanese Nationals
 - Extension activities in cooperation with university students
- ◆To support communication
 - Promoting the spread and use of “friendly Japanese”
 - Establishment of a Japanese language education system
 - Disseminating information in multiple languages with “friendly Japanese”



Promotion of exchange at local Japanese language classes



Multicultural Symbiosis Forum

Improving the environment that supports people's lives -Realizing “Safe and Secure” Lifestyles-

- ◆Enhancement of consultation services for foreigners
 - “Camellia” Assistance Center for Foreign Residents (Japanese + seven languages)
- ◆Strengthening Information Provision for Foreign Nationals
 - Strengthen dissemination of disaster prevention and lifestyle information
 - Establishment of the Multilingual Support Center for Disasters in the event of a disaster



“Kameria” Multilingual Consultation Center

Supporting Foreign Nationals -Cultivating Human Resources to Support the Present and Future of the Prefecture-

- ◆Improving the educational environment for children of foreign roots
 - Operation Zero School Absence
 - Support for career choices and career development
 - Organization of special curricula and assignment of support personnel, etc.
- ◆Creating Comfortable Environment
 - Dissemination of the Alien Workers Charter
 - Support for nursing care facilities that jointly conduct Japanese language training



Seminar to promote the labor charter

Initiatives for cooperation among local governments (1)

Council for the Promotion of multicultural society (7 prefectures and 1 city)

◆History of Installation

Due to the amendment of the Immigration Control Act in 1990, the number of Japanese descendants has increased
⇒ The Housing Cities Conference was established in 2001.

Based on a suggestion from Aichi Prefecture, 2004 Year, seven prefectures and one city with a large number of foreigners have established the council for promotion of multicultural society to jointly work on measures for foreign residents at the prefectural level. The council is consisted of Aichi Prefecture, Gifu Prefecture, Mie Prefecture, Shizuoka Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, Gunma Prefecture, and Nagoya City.

◆Overview of the council

(1) Structure

Members shall be the heads of the departments in charge of the prefectures and cities, and the heads of the departments in charge shall be the secretariat. Chairman and Secretariat: Aichi Prefecture

(2) Activities

<Recommendation Activities to the National Government>

- Conducted once a year in August (secretary visits central government ministries and agencies and hand-delivered of recommendations)

R6 Visit Date	Visiting ministries and agencies	Recommendations
August 24th-25th	Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Immigration and Immigration Control Agency, National Police Agency, Meteorological Agency	<u>The establishment of a basic law for the formation of muticultural society</u> , creating a comfortable local community, improving the living service environment, enhancing Japanese-language education, ensuring the proper working environment for foreign nationals, appropriately operating the new residency status system, and responding to illegal residents

<Executive Meeting>

- Implemented approximately twice a year (Information-sharing between municipalities, inspection, etc.)

Initiatives for cooperation among regional governments (1)

Council for the Promotion of multicultural society (7 prefectures and 1 city)

Benefits

◆Impact of proposals made by multiple municipalities

- It can be expected to have more impact on the national government than alone through proposals made by municipalities that have the same problems.
- This led to the reform of the Resident Registration System, the formulation of comprehensive countermeasures, and the implementation of the Ministry of Education's survey on the status of non-attendance at school.

◆Sharing of issues and initiatives of the constituent municipalities

- Nationwide regional differences in the number and composition of foreign residents
- A forum for sharing information among local governments that shares the same awareness of issues is valuable

Issues

◆Unrealization of request items in proposal

- Important request items such as the establishment of a basic law and creation of necessary organizations in Central Government, which the Council has requested from the start, are not materialized.
- At some ministries, it becomes perfunctory when they deal with Recommendation Activities by the council.

◆Burden of Secretariat, etc.

- Excess work for the Secretariat of the council, Aichi Prefecture Government.
→ There are differences in the degree of eagerness among members.
- Before the COVID-19 pandemic, members took turn and arranged the inspection tour for the council, but after the pandemic it stopped and the council's action was a little bit stagnant.

Initiatives for Inter-regional Cooperation (2)

National Governors' Association's "Promotion of intercultural society" PT

May 2024 **Yasutomo Suzuki**, who served as the mayor of Hamamatsu City for four terms and has been driving the country's policy to promote multicultural society, **has become governor of Shizuoka Pref.**

Proposed at his first appearance of national governor's meeting in August 2024

- Acceptance of foreign human resources is essential in a democratic society.
- Promoting multi(inter)cultural society is not only an issue in a particular region, but also an issue related to whole nation.
- Establishment of PT for making policy recommendations to national government about promotion of multi(inter)cultural society



National Conference of Governors (Fukui Prefecture)

On November 25, 2024, **“Project Team for Consideration for Accepting Foreign Nationals and Promotion of intercultural society”** was approved by the Standing Committee of the National Governor's Association for Agriculture, Forestry and Commerce and Industry.

Item	Contents
Purpose of establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The government has decided to establish a <u>training and employment system to deal with serious labor shortages.</u> ⇒ <u>Increasing the number of foreigners and promotion of multi(inter)cultural society are issues for the entire country</u>• It will not only solve the problem of the shortage of labor but <u>be beneficial and revitalizing for regions if foreigners, with their ability and cultural background, will work and live in Japan long time.</u>• PT was established as a forum to promote discussions at the prefectural level and to provide the national government with recommendations.
Members	Project Team Leader: Governor Suzuki Participants; more than 40 other governors
Activity schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing of awareness of issues of a smooth transition to a training and employment system• PT to request for national Government to establish the basic law for the formation of multi(inter)cultural society and development of needed structure.