

FY2024 INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN
NATIONALS AND THEIR INTEGRATION INTO JAPAN
Collaboration Between Local Governments in Pursuit of Interculturalism



Intercity Collaboration for Intercultural City, Hamamatsu

Hamamatsu City
Planning and Coordinating Department
International Affairs Division
February 13, 2025



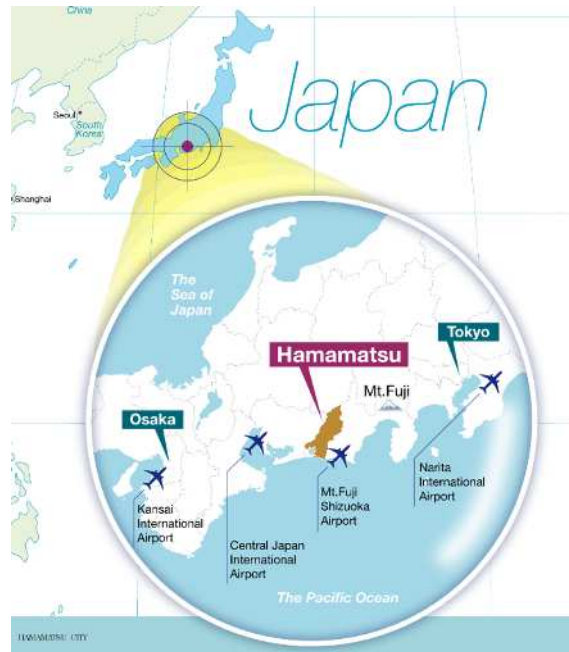
HAMAMATSU CITY

- 1 Overview of Hamamatsu City**
- 2 Overview of Foreign Residents**
- 3 Hamamatsu City's Intercultural Initiatives**
- 4 Collaboration with ICC**
- 5 Aspects of Intercity Collaboration**

1 Overview of Hamamatsu City

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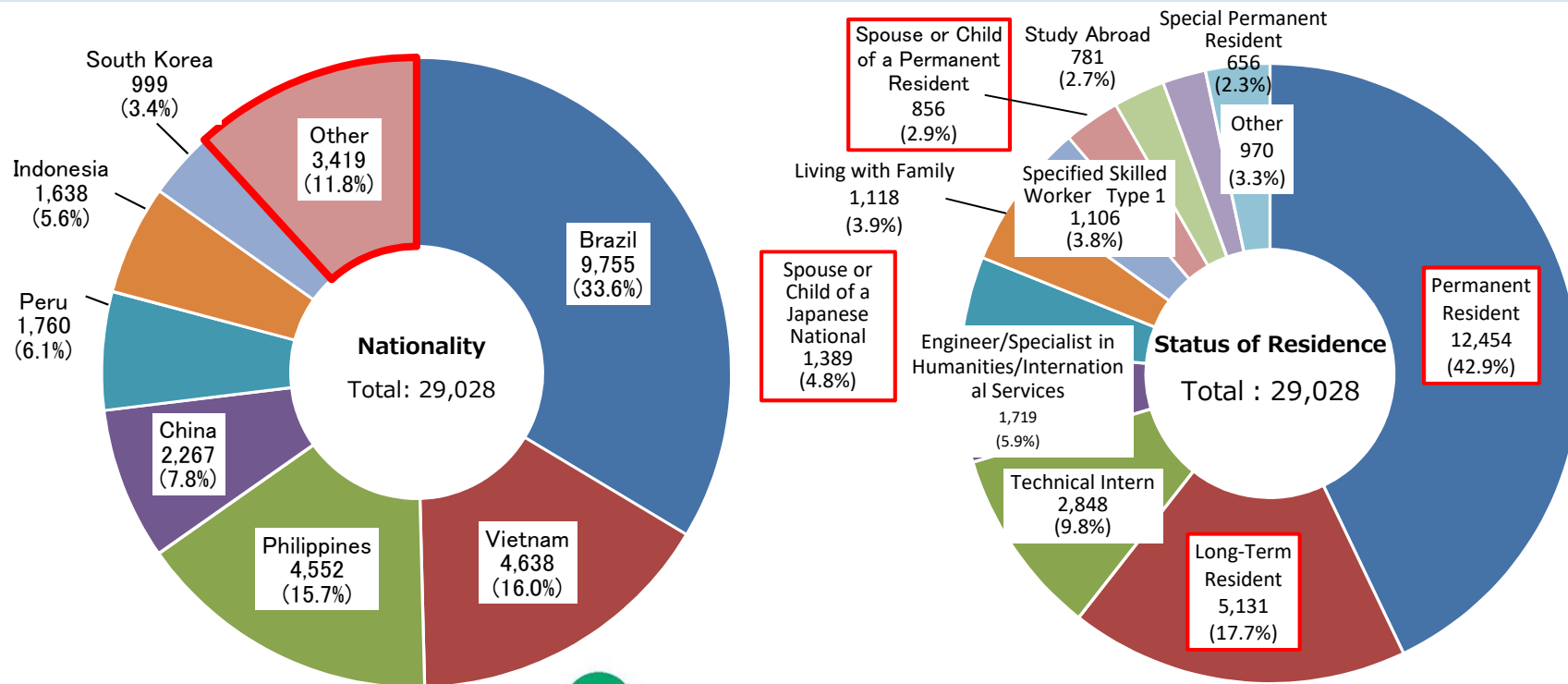
Population: 786,792 (as of April 1, 2024)
Area: 1,558.11km²
(second largest in Japan)



2 Overview of Foreign Residents

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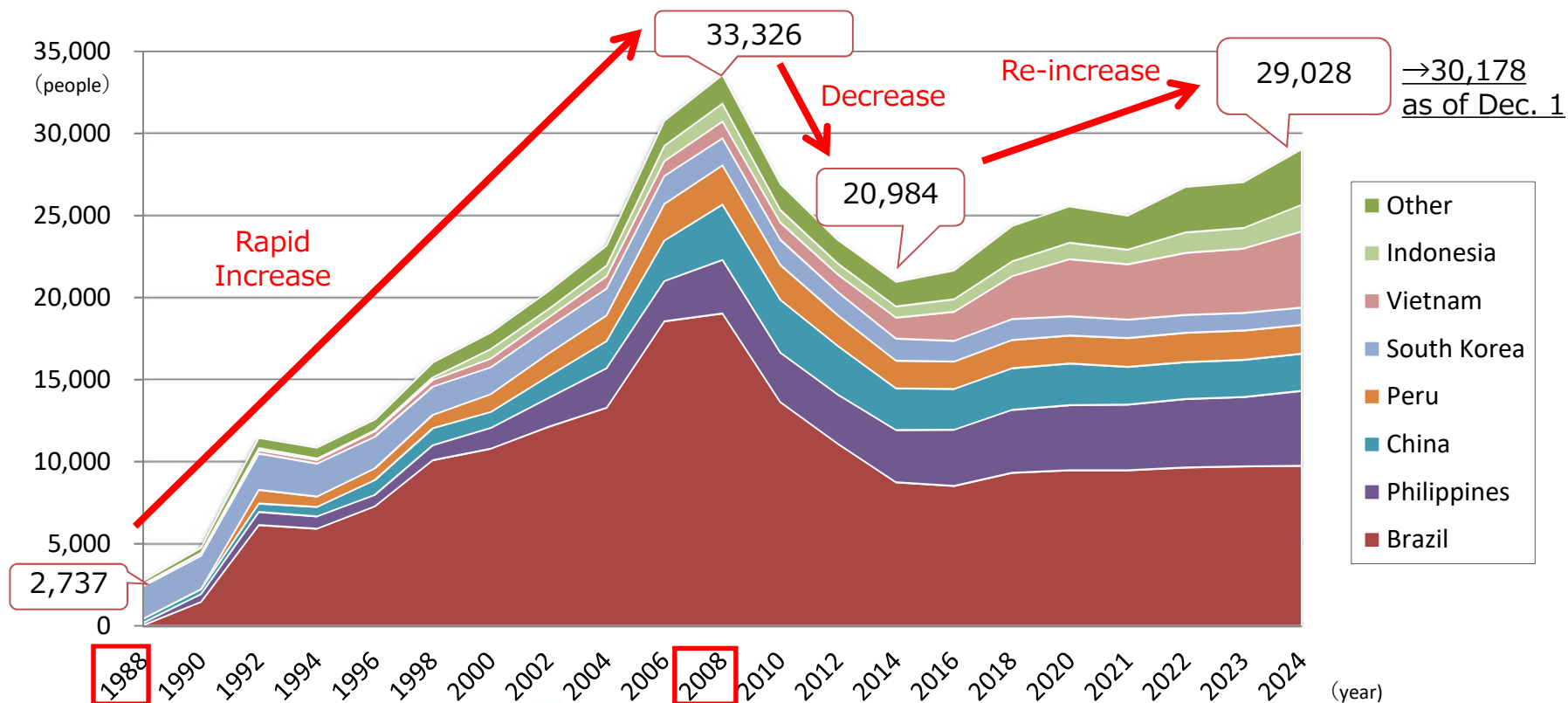
- South Americans, mainly Brazilians, account for 40% of our foreign residents – but Asian residents are seeing an increase.
- Over 70% hold a Status of Residence which enables a long-term stay, such as “Permanent Resident” or “Long-Term Resident”.
- High percentage of workers are employed in the manufacturing industry, with a recent upward trend in the number of technical interns.
- Some countries like India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are seeing an increase in residents under “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” “Intra-company Transferee” and “Living with Family”.



2 Overview of Foreign Residents

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- Rapid increase in the South-American immigrant population, such as Brazilians and Peruvians, following the 1990 revision to the Immigration Control Act.
- Significant increase in Vietnamese residents, with similar upward trend for Filipino and Indonesian residents.



Implementation of the Revised Immigration Control Act



Lehman Shock

HAMAMATSU CITY

※As of April 1, 2024

3 Intercultural Initiatives

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Hamamatsu Intercultural City Vision

*3rd Planning Period
(2023-2028)

Aim for the Future

An intercultural city built on mutual respect and understanding that continues to grow and create

Direction

- 1 Collaboration: A City Built Together, Hand in Hand, with Mutual Respect
- 2 Creation: A City that Brings Forth New Value through Diversity
- 3 Peace of Mind: A City Easy for Anyone to Live In

Key Initiatives

- ◆ Promotion of foreign residents' activities
- ◆ Comprehensive and systematic promotion of Japanese language instruction
 - ◆ Construction of support systems for daily affairs and various life stages
- ◆ Strengthening crisis management systems
- ◆ Promoting digital tools and DX



HAMAMATSU CITY

3 Intercultural Initiatives

Attitude towards Intercity Collaboration

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Pillar of the Policy System: Creation

Promoted Policy (4) Promoting Collaboration with Cities and Organizations

Hamamatsu aims to promote its collaboration and knowledge-sharing with cities in Japan and abroad and related organizations in pursuit of creating an intercultural society.

■ Promoting cooperation with domestic cities and organizations

- Joining the Council for Cities with Foreign Residents, promoting initiative in collaboration with other member cities by making proposals to national and prefectural governments and related organizations
- Promoting cooperation between domestic cities whilst strengthening collaboration with the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations, The Japan Foundation, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

■ Sharing of expertise and knowledge through collaboration with other Intercultural Cities

- Monitoring new trends in interculturalism whilst continuing collaboration with intercultural cities worldwide as a member of the “Intercultural Cities Network” – the largest international network of its kind.
- Wide-spread sharing both domestically and abroad of knowledge and success gained through collaboration



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4 Collaboration with ICC

–Domestic Cities–

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Council for Cities with Foreign Residents

Background for Establishment

- Following the enactment of the Revised Immigration Control Act in 1990 and in the midst of the increasing residence of foreign nationals, issues became more apparent in the fields of social security, education, employment, and foreign resident registration
- Laws and systems at the national level did not suit the actual situation and the initiatives of local governments were limited in their reach.

Establishment of legal systems, establishment of systems and support, and cooperation with related organizations was necessary

In 2001, per Hamamatsu's proposal

Establishment of the Council for Cities with Foreign Residents

As more foreign residents settle in Hamamatsu, we recognize that they become **important partners in the creation of a new region** through the coexistence of diverse cultures and sports, alongside providing large support to the local economy.

Through the collective will and effort from all citizens, we will pursue interculturalism which creates a safe and comfortable regional society, and the establishment of new rules and systems.

(Hamamatsu Declaration on Regional Coexistence 2001, Council for Cities with Foreign Residents)



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4 Collaboration with ICC

–Domestic Cities–

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Council for Cities with Foreign Residents

Details

Sharing expertise and knowledge about interculturalism and continuously proposing government policies.

Initiative Results

Implemented the Resident Registry system for foreign residents; dispatching educational aid workers for foreign pupils; projects promoting school enrollment for the children of domiciled foreign residents; comprehensive policies for the intake and assimilation of foreign talent.



Council for Cities with Foreign Residents Komaki 2023



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4 Collaboration with ICC

–Foreign Cities–

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- January 2012: participated in the Intercultural City International Symposium in Tokyo
→ **Start of the Hamamatsu's international cooperation with intercultural cities**
- October 2012: hosted the Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit 2012 Hamamatsu
- October 2013: participated in the Asia-Europe Intercultural City Symposium 2013 Ansan Summit



Intercultural City International Symposium



Asia-Europe Intercultural City Summit



Asia-Europe Intercultural City Symposium

4 Collaboration with ICC –Foreign Cities–

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- **November 2016:** participated in the “World Forum for Democracy 2016”
➔ **We received high praise for our intercultural policies and a strong push to join the ICC network.**
- **October 2017:** hosted the Intercultural Cities and Utilizing Diversity in City Development 2017 Hamamatsu and declared its membership in the ICC Network.
- **October 2019:** hosted the “Hamamatsu International Summit on Intercity Collaboration 2019”
- **March 2021:** participated online in the 25th Observer Anniversary – Japan & the Council of Europe
- **October 2024:** hosted the Intercultural City Symposium Hamamatsu 2024

**First Asian
Member
City**



ICC Member Symposium 2017



Intercity Cooperation
International Summit 2019



ICC Symposium 2024



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5 Aspects of Intercity Collaboration

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Main Advantages and Potential

Functioning well results in unimaginable possibilities

- Branding as an intercultural city
- Sharing of good practices, promoting initiatives to collaboratively solve shared issues
- Publication of policies and evaluations
e.g.) ICC Index, advice from experts in urban policy
- Message appeal to domestic and international society
e.g.) policy proposals and joint declarations
- Active involvement from local staff like administrative employees

Main Issues

- Discrepancy in response and views resulting from the difference in size of local governments
- Labor of maintaining and operating a network
e.g.) burden of secretariat cities
- Difficulty defining goals e.g.) permanent or temporary
- Activity details and results not always visible to third-parties



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