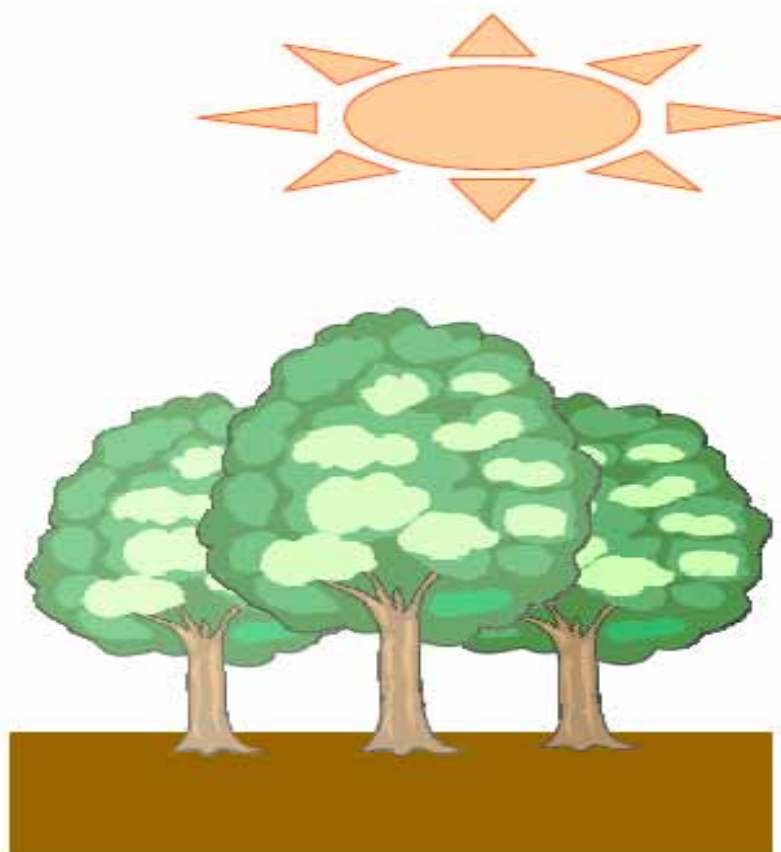


City of Toyohashi Plan to Promote Multicultural Coexistence* Overview



City of Toyohashi

- * The title of original Japanese version of this document is *Toyohashi-shi Tabunka Kyousei Suishin Keikaku Gaiyou-ban*. The phrases “multicultural coexistence,” “multiculturalism,” and “multicultural” in this translation refer to “*tabunka kyousei*,” which is the idea that people of multiple cultures can coexist within the same society.

Throughout this document, the term “foreign” as in “foreign resident” refers not only to persons of foreign citizenship but also to persons holding Japanese citizenship who have roots in a foreign county or spent a major or formative part of their life in a foreign country.

1. Background for Development of this Plan

As of January 2009, the population of Toyohashi is 385,000 people, of whom approximately 20,000 are foreign residents from 73 different countries, making up 5% of the population.

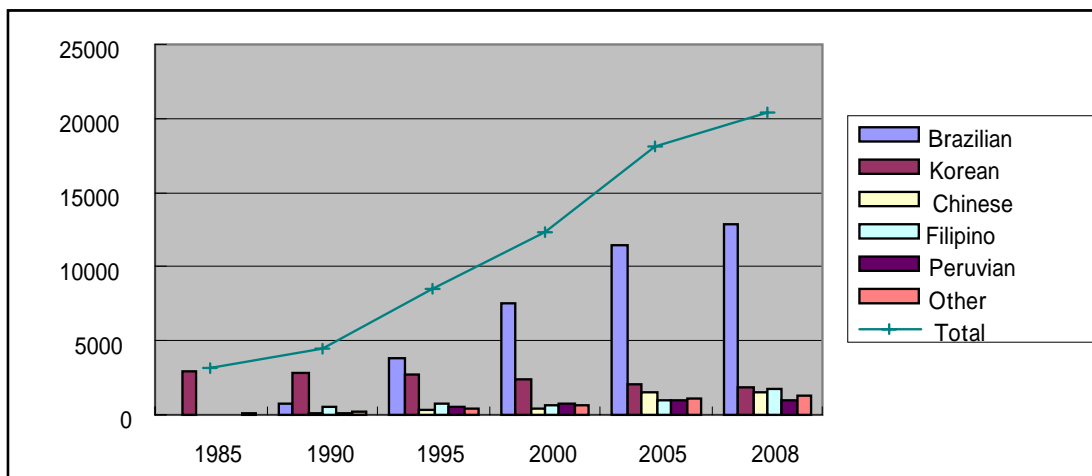
This is due to the rapid influx of people from Brazil after it became easier for people of Japanese descent to find work in Japan following the revision to the “Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act” in 1990.

The City of Toyohashi has enacted policy promoting multicultural coexistence in the past, but the City has not developed policy or adopted a structure to accept such a rapid influx of foreign residents.

Number of Registered Alien Residents

Data from April 1 of each year. Units: Persons

| | 1985 | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2008 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Brazilian | 3 | 752 | 3,829 | 7,569 | 11,449 | 12,885 |
| Korean | 2,990 | 2,858 | 2,768 | 2,364 | 2,031 | 1,906 |
| Chinese | 36 | 63 | 282 | 479 | 1,547 | 1,548 |
| Filipino | 33 | 527 | 714 | 643 | 970 | 1,758 |
| Peruvian | 0 | 65 | 506 | 711 | 962 | 1,016 |
| Other | 61 | 193 | 424 | 623 | 1,110 | 1,315 |
| Total | 3,123 | 4,458 | 8,523 | 12,389 | 18,069 | 20,428 |



2. The Significance of Promoting a Multicultural Coexistence

Respect for Human Rights

Promoting multicultural coexistence adheres to the principle of respect for human rights protected by such legal documents as the Japanese Constitution, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

A bright, peaceful society that is easy to live in can be realized by respecting the human rights of all its people, regardless of nationality or ethnicity.

Improvement of People's International Understanding

It is expected that, as efforts to build a multicultural community continue, interaction with other cultures will occur frequently at the local level, and residents' ability to understand different cultures will also improve. This activity will make it possible to create new values and new culture.

This also makes it possible to train people to participate in peace-making and international cooperation activities and to raise a generation of youth that excels at intercultural communication and possesses an international worldview.

Building a Lively Community

By local foreign and Japanese residents recognizing the differences in each other's lifestyle habits, culture, and values and participating and cooperating in various local activities, foreign residents can fulfill a role as supporters of the local community, just like Japanese residents. This should contribute to greater community vitalization and growth. Encouraging community-building with people from all over the world should contribute to the development of a local economy/industry that is open to the world.

Building a Safe Community

As more foreign residents continue to settle here, demand is increasing for them to better understand and adhere to Japanese laws and customs and for them to be accepted not as temporary visitors but as local residents and people going about their lives. Building a community where Japanese residents and foreign residents may live together will contribute to building a community where anyone can live safely.

Building a Community Where People Can Hold onto Their Dreams

Foreign children are also able to decide their future from the various options they have depending on the educational environment provided for them.

In addition, by improving the employment environment, it will be possible to deliver a stable way of life economically and in terms of social security.

By bringing about such a society, foreign residents will be able to fulfill their role as members of the community, helping enliven the local community and society.

3. Basic Principle

“Building a community where anyone can lead a peaceful and vibrant life by recognizing each other’s nationality and culture.”

We aim to foster a "Multicultural Society" where Japanese people and people of foreign nationality can live together as residents of the same community by sharing the richness provided by all residents understanding and respecting each other's different values and cultures and by using the differences in nationality, ethnicity, and culture as a feature of the community in terms of diversity.

4. Basic Goals

Basic Goal I: Raise awareness of multiculturalism

Basic Goal II: Build a lively community

Basic Goal III: Build a community that is easy to live in

Basic Goal IV: Build a society where people can hold onto their dreams

5. Plan Term

5 years spanning from fiscal year 2009 (Heisei 21) to fiscal year 2013 (Heisei 25)

6. Plan Details

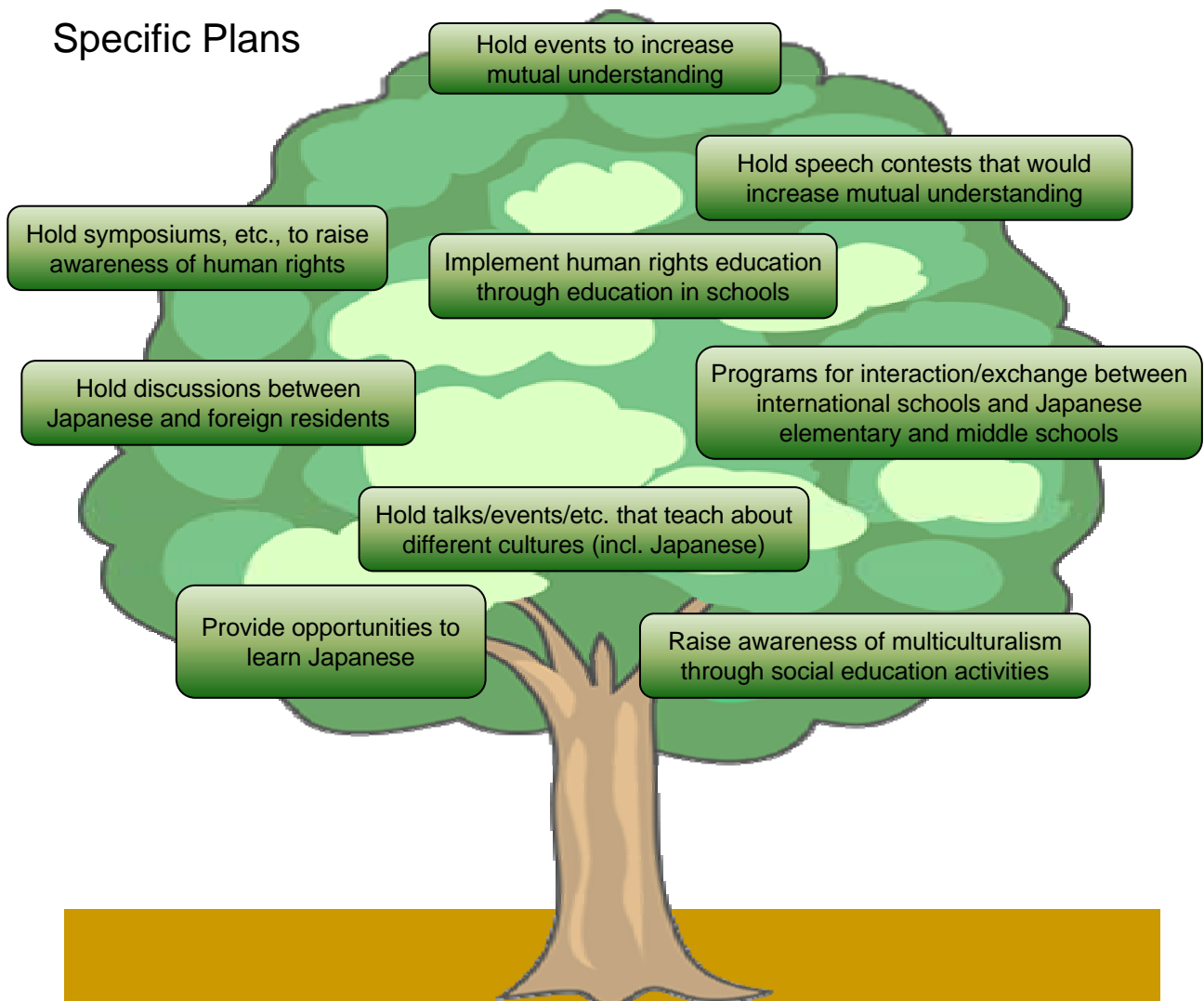
Basic Goal I: Raise awareness of multiculturalism

In order to bring about a multicultural society, it is important for Japanese residents and foreign residents to recognize the differences in each other's cultures, customs, and ways of thought, to understand each other, to respect each other as neighbors living in the same community, and to help each other as going through life.

We will foster awareness of multiculturalism and provide venues for interaction and learning through various opportunities and activities at workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, the Toyohashi International Association, and NPO activities.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Goal Indicator: | Percentage of residents who feel positive about the increase in the number of foreign residents. Current Value (H20): 36.6%; Target Value (H25): 50.0% |
| Goal Indicator: | Number of participants in learning opportunities such as <i>Nihongo Kyoushitsu</i> [Japanese Language Classroom] Current Value (H20): 830 people; Target Value (H25): 1,000 people |

Specific Plans



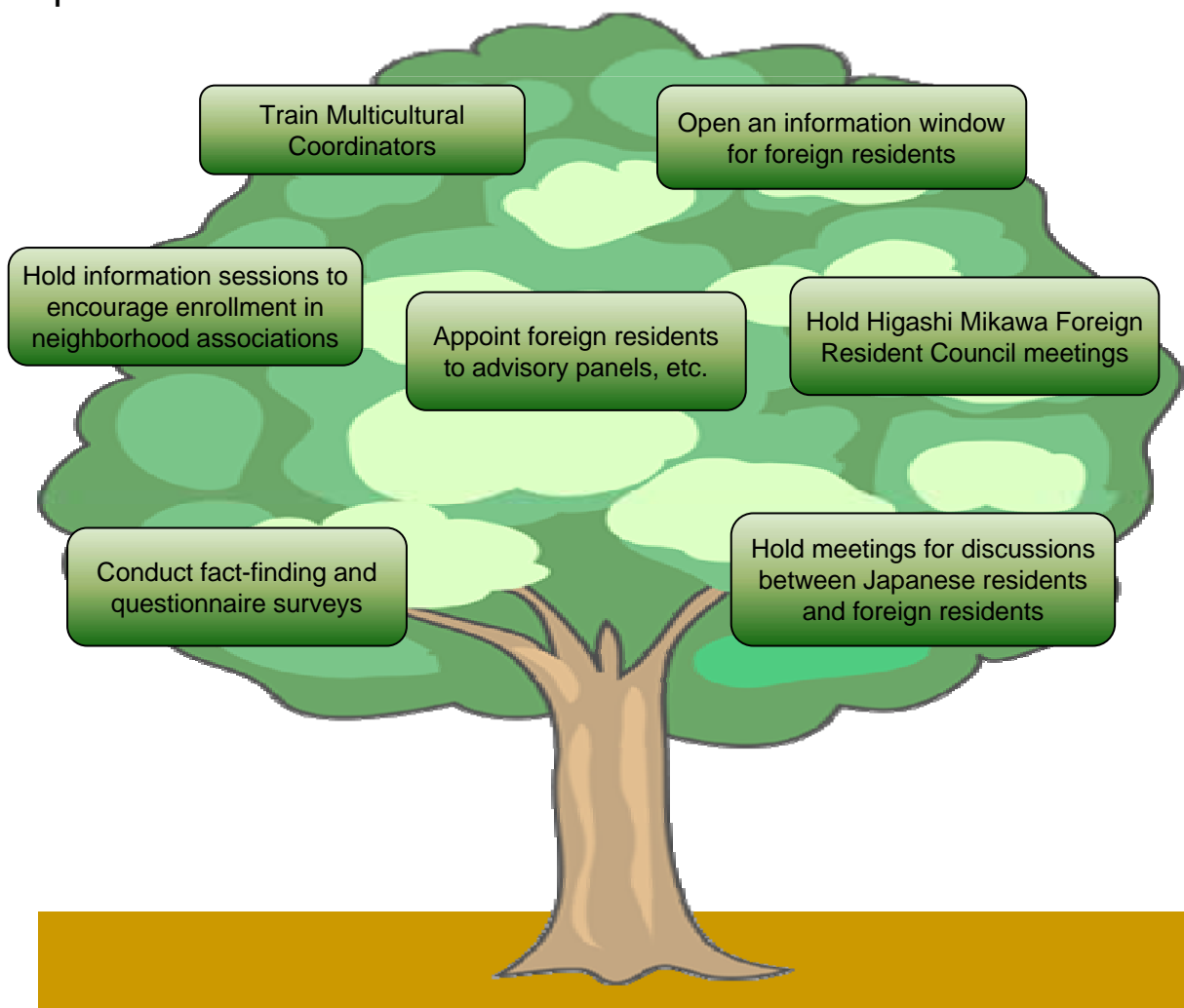
Basic Goal II: Build a lively community

In order to build a lively community, the people who live there must help and support each other. It is important that Japanese residents recognize foreign residents as neighbors who live in and make up the same community. Likewise, it is important that foreign residents become firmly aware that, as members of the local community, they share a role in supporting that community. We will proceed with building a framework where Japanese residents and foreign residents can build a lively community hand-in-hand.

Goal Indicator: Participation rate of foreign residents in neighborhood association activities, etc.
Current Value (H20): 26.9%; Target Value (H25): 50.0%

Goal Indicator: Participation rate in community discussion meetings, etc.
Current Value (H20): 70 people; Target Value (H25): 500 people

Specific Plans



Basic Goal III: Build a community that is easy to live in

For Japanese residents and foreign residents to live together in peace, foreign residents must pay sufficient attention to essential rules and systems while living in Japan, and they need to understand their duties and the responsibilities they ought to fulfill as residents. Also, Japanese residents need to make efforts to understand the culture and customs of foreign residents.

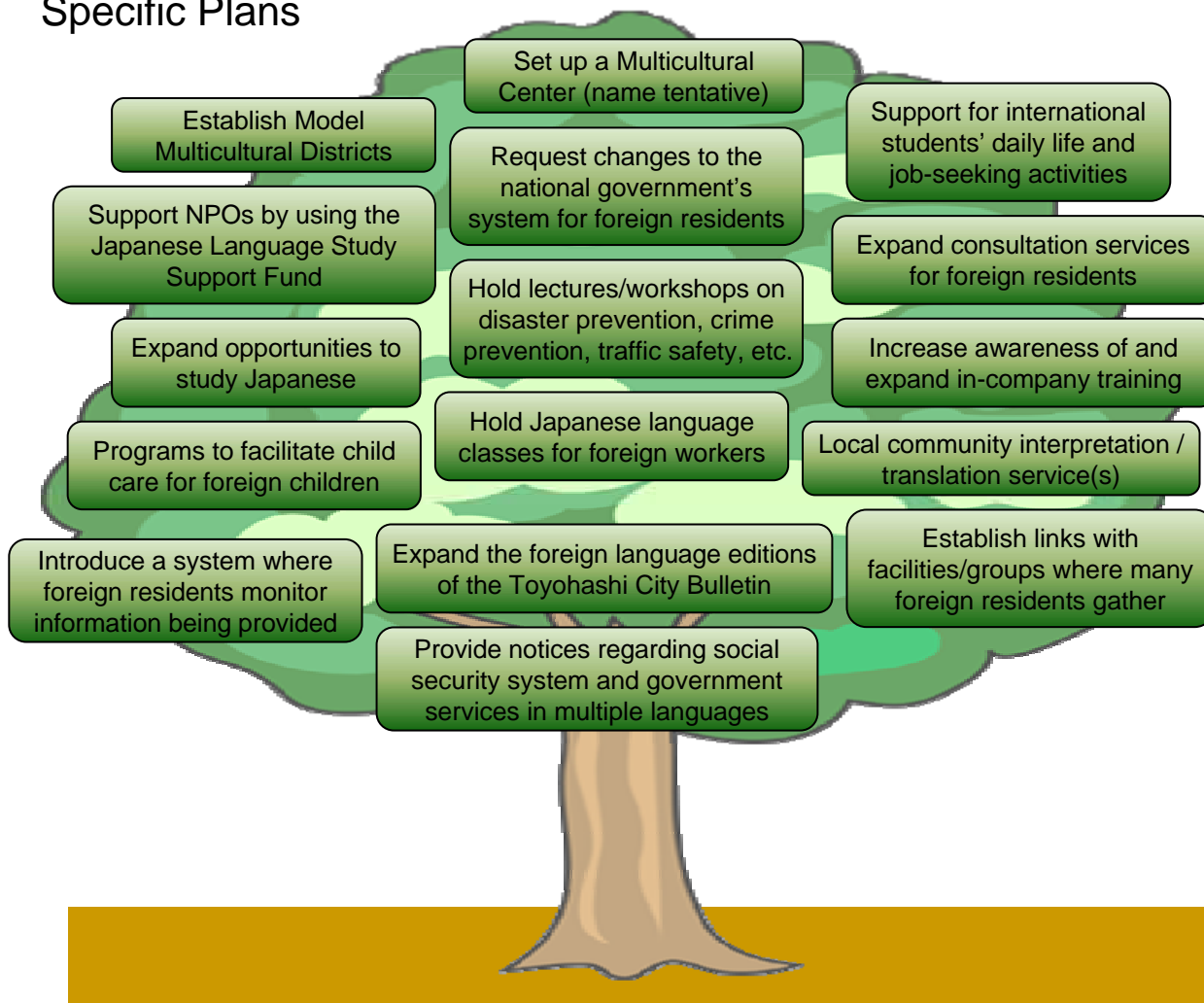
Communication in Japanese is a prerequisite for foreign residents to establish themselves in their local communities, and improvement in Japanese language ability is indispensable.

In addition, it is necessary for the city to precisely ascertain the actual residency/living situations of foreign residents and to inform all foreign residents of information needed for daily activities, disaster information, and their duties as residents.

In order to do so, the city will work toward seeing more information provided in multiple languages through various media and toward seeing that more opportunities to study Japanese are available. We will work toward creating an environment where both foreign residents and Japanese residents can live together peacefully as members of the same community.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Goal Indicator: | Number of consultations given to foreign residents Current Value (H20): 7,606; Target Value (H25): 9,000 |
| Goal Indicator: | Incidents of information being provided in a foreign language Current Value (H20): 22,114; Target Value (H25): 37,500 |

Specific Plans



Basic Goal IV: Build a society where people can hold onto their dreams

As the number of foreign residents seeking permanent or long-term residence in Japan increases, it will be necessary to expand the educational environment so that foreign children have a wide variety of career options available and can hold onto their dreams as they take part in society.

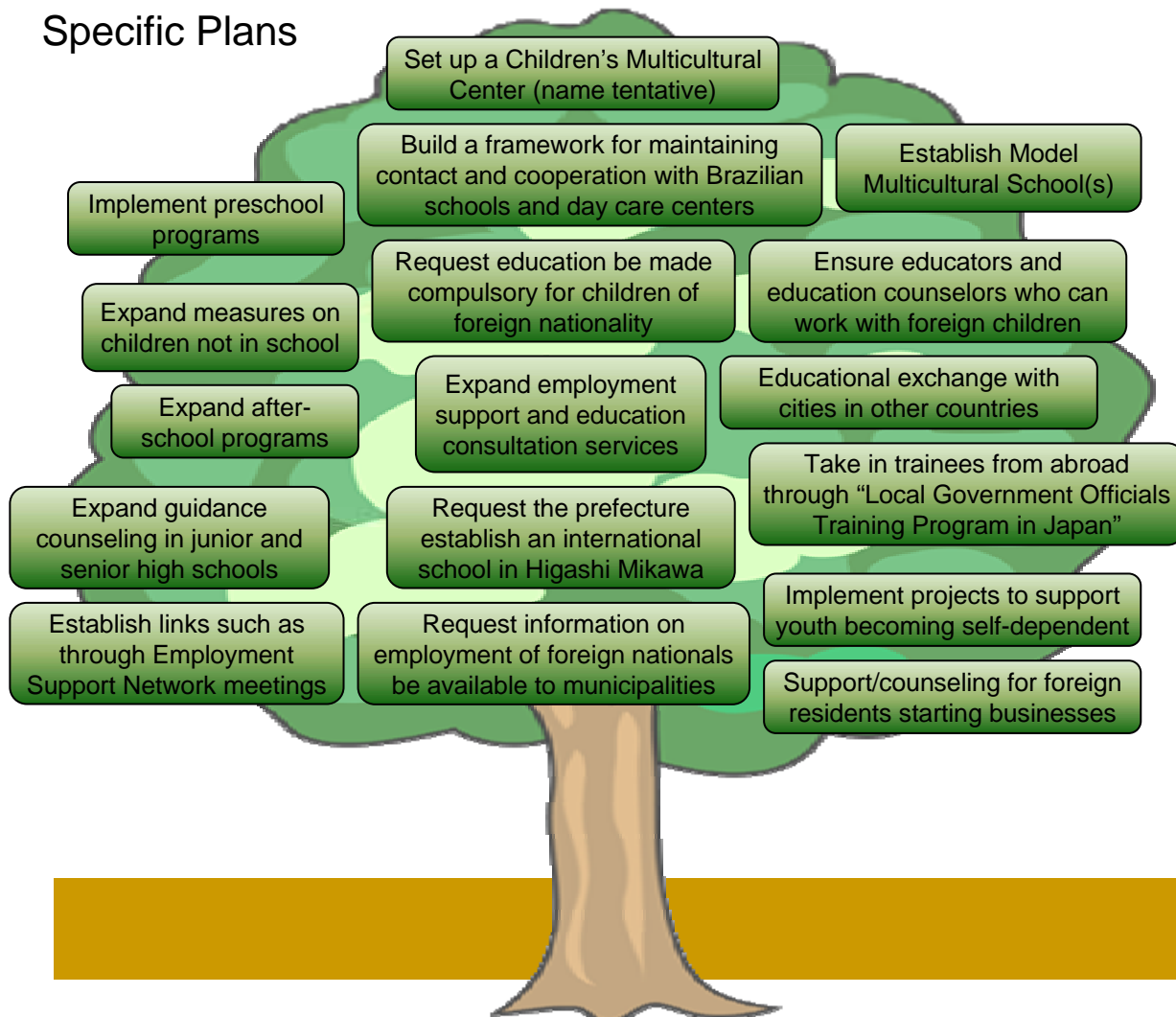
Furthermore, whether foreign residents intend to reside in Japan permanently or go back to their home countries, their children have a clear right to an education, and it is very important that work be done so that those children, who will support society in the future, are able to establish themselves in society.

It is also necessary to take positive action to support employment and improvement of the employment environment so that foreign workers are able to work under conditions that are legal and appropriate.

We will work to improve the education environment and the employment environment so that all residents are able to hold onto their hopes and dreams for the future as they live their lives.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Goal Indicator: | Percent of foreign students entering high school Current Value (H20): 79.5%; Target Value (H25): 90.0% |
| Goal Indicator: | Percent of foreign residents enrolled in social insurance, health insurance Current Value (H20): 45.0%; Target Value (H25): 50.0% |

Specific Plans



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