



Materials for Public Comment



Summary of The Second Tsukuba City Basic Guidelines For Globalization

April 2023

Period subject to:
From April 2023
To March 2032



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Background and objectives

We have formulated the Tsukuba City Basic Guidelines for Globalization in 2016. With the three basic core measures as the pillar of these Guidelines, we have implemented measures that would contribute to globalization of the city. However, to respond to the ever-changing conditions of Tsukuba City and international trends, and to promote measures for internationalization together with the whole city from a new perspective, we have formulated the Second Tsukuba City Basic Guidelines for Globalization.

Positioning of Guidelines

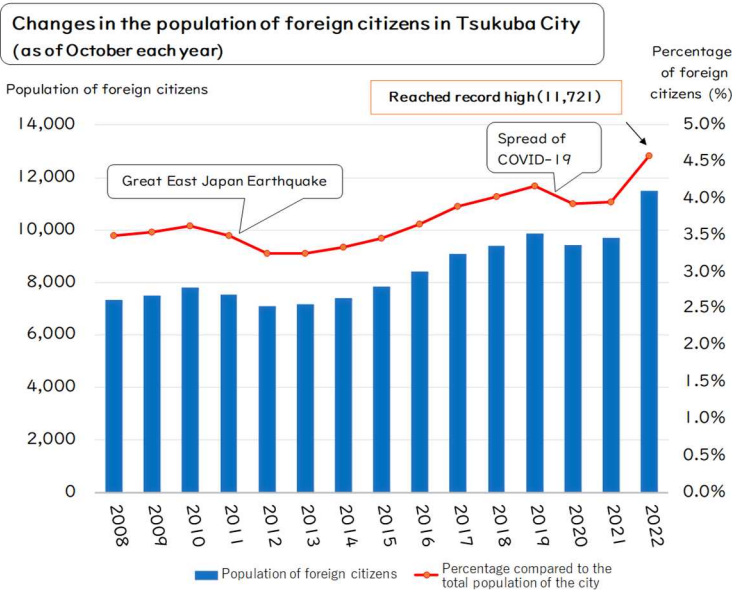
Ensuring the consistency with the Second Strategy Plan of the Tsukuba Future Scheme (March 2020) which is the City's top-level plan, as well as other related plans of the City, Ibaraki Prefecture and the national government, these guidelines aim to offer directions for the city's internationalization policy.

Implementation period of Guidelines

The implementation period of these guidelines is 10 years from FY2023 to FY2032. During the period, we will review these guidelines as needed according to changes in social conditions and other factors. In addition, we will formulate separate three-year action plans during the period so that we can steadily make progress on specific initiatives to address various issues.



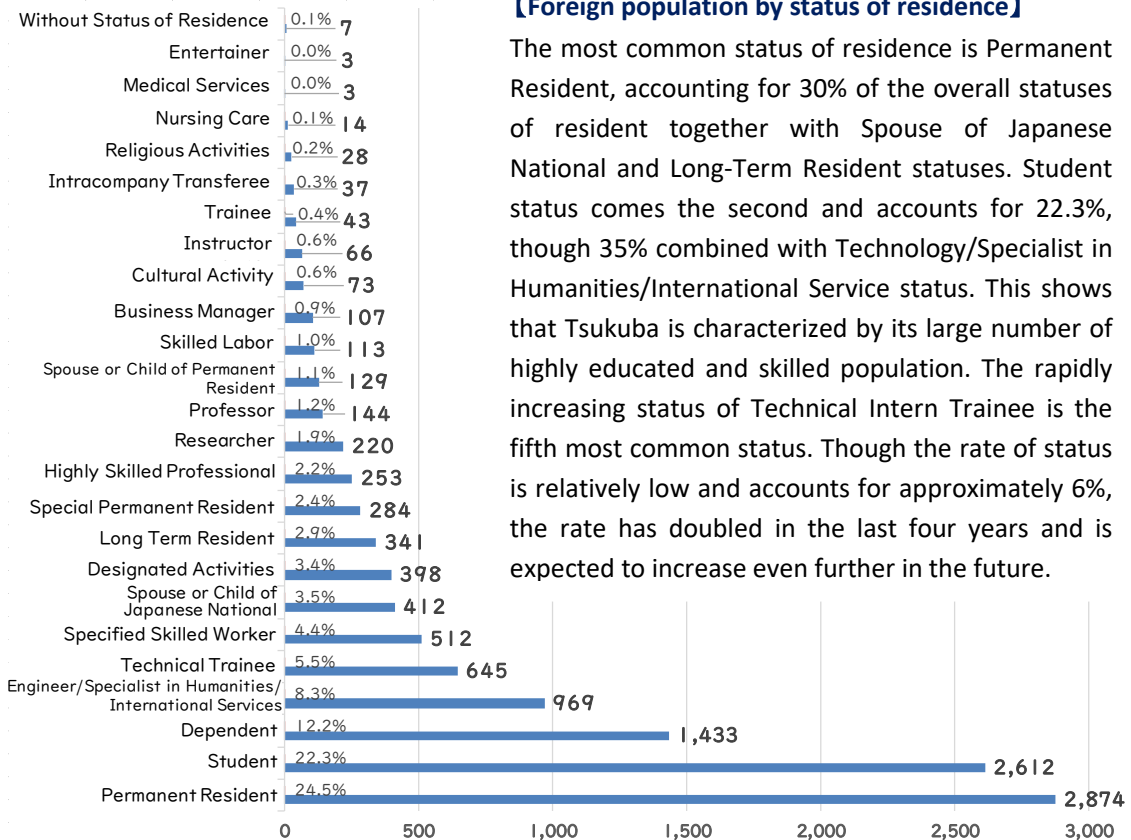
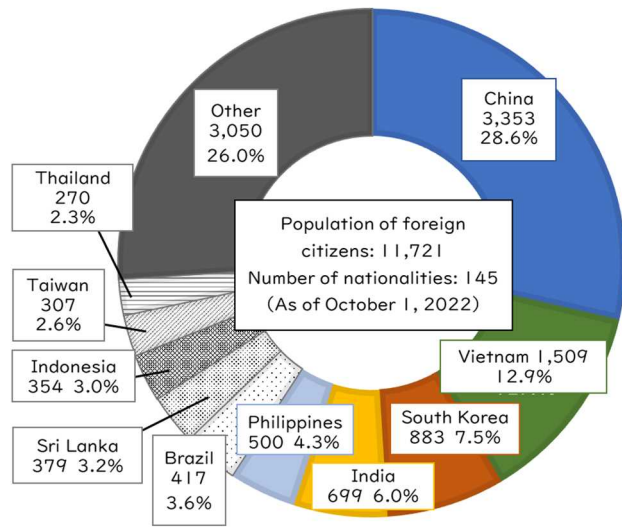
Details of foreign citizens living in Tsukuba City



The population of foreign citizens living in Tsukuba City was 11,721 as of October 1, 2022, accounting for approximately 4.6% of the city's total population. Compared to that of Ibaraki Prefecture (approximately 2.5%) and all Japan (approximately 2.3%), Tsukuba City has higher percentage of foreign citizens. In addition, the population of foreign citizens is again on the increase, though it once started to decline due to the Great East Japan Earthquake and the spread of COVID-19.

【Foreign population by nationality and region】

Of the foreign population by nationality and region, the largest was Chinese followed by Vietnamese and South Korean as of October 1, 2022. Nine out of the top 10 citizens' nationalities are from Asian countries and regions, accounting for 70% of the overall foreign population. There are residents from 145 countries and regions in Tsukuba City. The 3,050 people classified to "other" in the graph are from 135 countries. In Japan there are foreign residents from 194 countries and regions. The fact that people from nearly 150 countries and regions reside in a city with a population of approximately 250,000 is a significant feature of the city, making it one of the most diverse cities in Japan.



【Foreign population by status of residence】

The most common status of residence is Permanent Resident, accounting for 30% of the overall statuses of resident together with Spouse of Japanese National and Long-Term Resident statuses. Student status comes the second and accounts for 22.3%, though 35% combined with Technology/Specialist in Humanities/International Service status. This shows that Tsukuba is characterized by its large number of highly educated and skilled population. The rapidly increasing status of Technical Intern Trainee is the fifth most common status. Though the rate of status is relatively low and accounts for approximately 6%, the rate has doubled in the last four years and is expected to increase even further in the future.

Key Tasks in Tsukuba City

We have identified key tasks in Tsukuba City by reviewing the current situation and based on our initiatives and social conditions so far, as well as the result of the citizens awareness survey for both Japanese and foreign residents.

Task 1: Make sure that everyone is aware of various information including information about daily living, support services, and administrative services.

Based on the awareness survey for foreign citizens, we found that our services such as Tsukuba One-stop Inquiry Desk for Foreign Residents, and the official multi-lingual website and newsletters of the city were not well-known. We need to make sure that everyone is aware of these information and services.

Task 2: Further improve Japanese language learning support for children with foreign background.

As the number of children with foreign background increases every year, more children need support for Japanese language learning. We need to further improve language learning support for children, as well as training teachers and volunteers to teach the language.

Task 3: Provide opportunities and information for foreign citizens to participate in their local community.

According to the result of the awareness survey for foreign citizens, while 7% of the respondents answered that they had already participated in community activities, 60% answered that they would like to participate. In addition, they mentioned lack of information about community activities and not knowing how to participate as main reasons for not participating. In order to address these issues, we need to identify and create more opportunities for foreign citizens to participate in community activities, provide more information, and encourage them to participate.

Task 4: Create an environment where people of all nationalities can work together on equal footing

The Plan to Promote Intercultural Cohesion by Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications also encourages foreign citizens to actively participate in community revitalization projects and contribute to globalization processes. It also encourages communities to secure various human assets. As mentioned in Task 3, we need to create an environment where foreign citizens can exercise their capability and where people of all nationalities can work together.

Task 5: Create a focal point for intercultural exchange where people can interact with and learn from each other.

Currently Tsukuba City lacks facilities with enough space and functionality for intercultural activities and communication. Although Tsukuba International Association offers various services including Japanese learning support, these are provided at different public facilities and we often have feedback from citizens suggesting that not many people know the location of Tsukuba International Association. We need a focal point for intercultural activities where foreign residents can casually stop by, children with foreign background can get support for their school life and learning, and residents of all nationalities can socialize.

Task 6: Support international students who wish to work in Tsukuba.

In the discussions on the Second Tsukuba City Basic Guidelines for Globalization, it was stated that there were many international students who left Tsukuba City or Japan because they could not find any jobs in the city as they wished. The results of the awareness survey for foreign citizens also show that although more than 60% of the respondents wanted to work in the City, they had problems such as not knowing how to find a job, not being able to work without sufficient Japanese language ability, and not getting enough job information. We need to provide more support for international students and other residents who wish to work in Tsukuba or Japan.

Task 7: Make a cooperation network with related institutions which support foreign citizens.

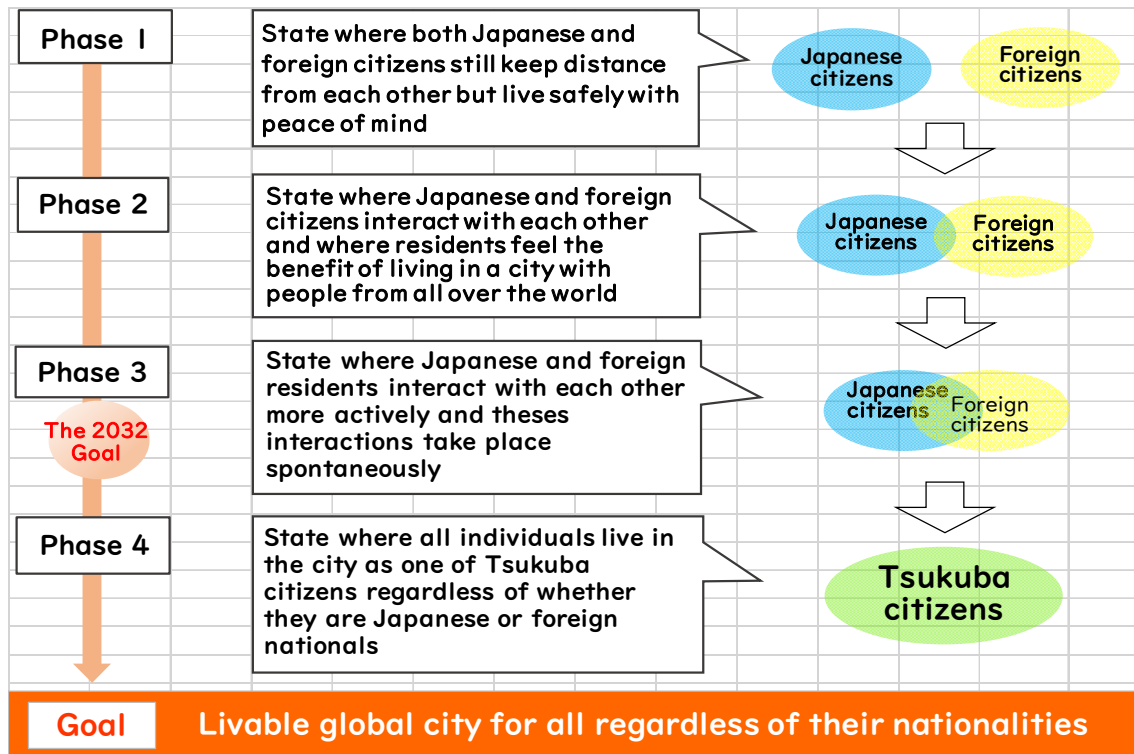
The number of foreign citizens is expected to increase in the future. To provide appropriate support for them, it is important to go hand in hand with various support organizations while sharing roles with them, including host institutions and private organizations. We need to strengthen cooperation with these organizations and institutions by sharing information and awareness, and discussing how we can cooperate.

Task 8: Share the appeal of Tsukuba with the world.

Over nearly 50 years, Tsukuba City has grown to an academic city where various people from approximately 150 countries and regions reside. To build on this legacy and further develop Tsukuba as a global city full of creativity and potential, we need to attract diverse human resources from Japan and beyond. To do this, it is essential to share the attraction of the city such as its rich nature, culture, education, as well as initiatives related to science and technology, start-up, and smart city. We need to further promote exchange and cooperation with various organizations based in Japan and beyond including those in sister cities and partnership cities, as well as utilizing our global network so that we can share various attractions of our city with the world.

Globalization Process and Goal which Tsukuba Aims to Achieve

The following diagram shows the process of globalization and the final goal which Tsukuba City aims to achieve. In the diagram, the process is divided into four phases with each phase showing the state of relationship between Japanese and foreign citizens.



<Phase 1>

This is a state where both Japanese and foreign citizens still keep distance from each other but live safely with peace of mind. The local government and various organizations of Tsukuba City provide support for foreign citizens so that they can live in the city without any inconvenience. In this phase, residents tend to help each other within their own community of the same nationality, language and/or other elements.

<Phase 2>

This is a state where Japanese and foreign citizens interact with each other and where residents gradually feel the benefit of living in a city with people from all over the world. In this phase, various organizations including the local government and International Association host culture events to create opportunities where people of all nationalities can join and interact with each other. Some residents may actively participate in their neighborhood regardless of their nationality or language they speak and already feel the benefit of living in a city with people from all over the world. However, this has not become the norm for the entire city.

<Phase 3>

This is a state where Japanese and foreign residents interact with each other more actively and these interactions take place spontaneously. In this phase, both residents enjoy living in Tsukuba City by helping and interacting with each other without any hand of the local government or various organizations. It is a state where everyone can come into contact with diverse cultures and values and enrich their life by experiencing diversity through food, culture, education and more in daily life.

<Phase 4>

This is a state where all individuals live in the city as one of Tsukuba citizens regardless of whether they are Japanese or foreign nationals. By this phase, it has become the norm for neighborhoods to have residents from all over the world with diverse cultural background. Regardless of nationalities, each and every one of the residents can enjoy living in the city as the member of a community, and there is no longer a need to consider Japanese and foreign residents separately in every aspect of life. The diversity will bring about new culture and innovation, making our society even more affluent.

<The goal which these guidelines aim to achieve>

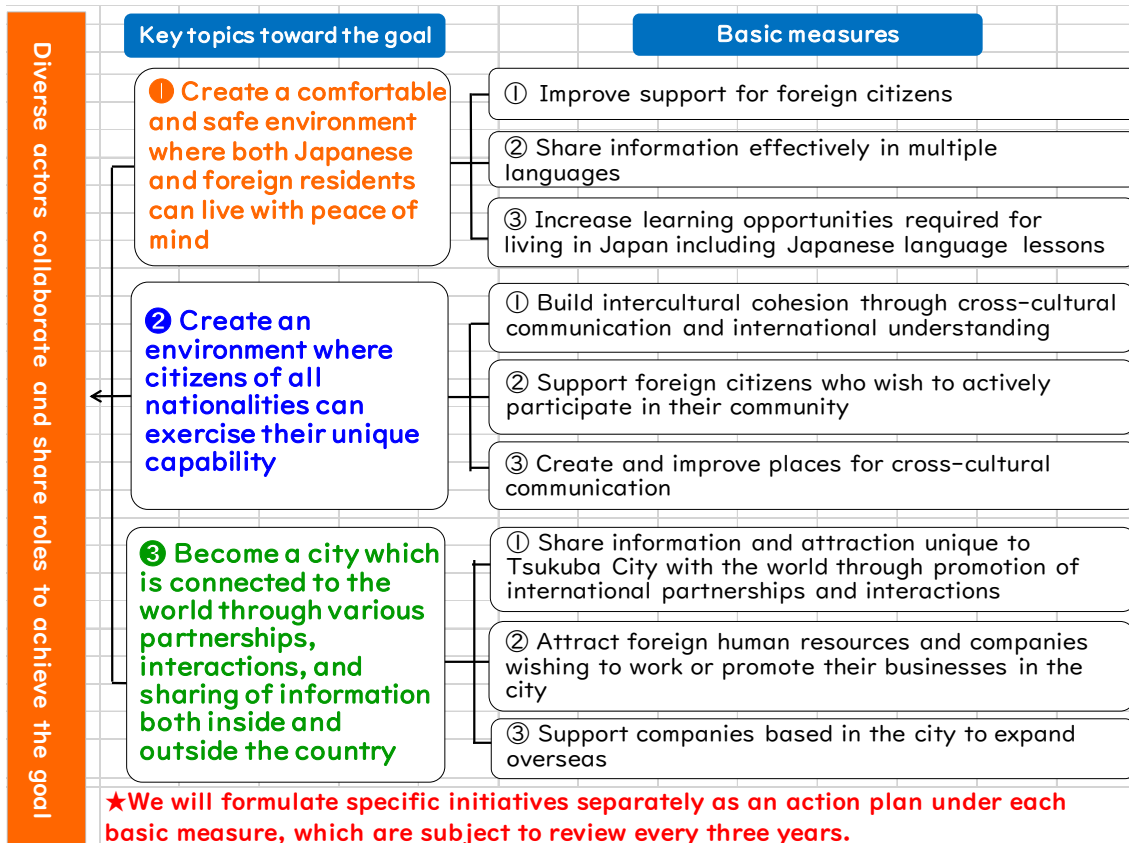
Currently Tsukuba City is in halfway of Phase 1, though partially coming to Phase 2. In the next 10 years which is the implementation period of these guidelines, our goal is to reach Phase 3. When we reach Phase 3, Tsukuba City will be an international city where people from 150 countries meet and where residents of all nationalities are proud of and enjoy living.

However, after reaching Phase 3 over the 10-year implementation period, the ultimate goal is to go beyond Phase 3 and reach Phase 4 where Tsukuba becomes a true global city. In Phase 4, **each and every one of the residents is comfortably living in the city as the member of a community regardless of whether they are Japanese or foreign nationals.**

In formulating these guidelines for globalization, we set forth the ultimate goal of creating a livable global city for all regardless of their nationalities.

Three Key Topics and Basic Measures to Achieve the Goal

To achieve the ultimate goal of these guidelines, we need to promote initiatives to address various issues. Therefore, under these guidelines, we set three topics and related basic measures in order to achieve goals.



(1) Topics to achieve the goal

① We aim to create a comfortable and safe environment where both Japanese and foreign residents can live with peace of mind.

We aim to create a safe environment where Japanese and foreign residents can live with peace of mind by improving the support for daily living and communication with a focus on meeting the needs of foreign residents.

② We aim to create an environment where citizens of all nationalities can exercise their unique capability.

We aim to create an environment where foreign citizens are perceived as an active participant of a local community rather than someone who may need support, and where both Japanese and foreign citizens can cooperate with each other. This is a new perspective added to updated guidelines as one of the main features.

③ We aim to become a city which is connected to the world through various partnerships, interactions and sharing of information inside and outside the country.

We aim to become a city which constantly attracts diverse people, cultures, businesses and more from all over the world through various forms of cooperation and interactions with domestic and international cities and organizations. To do this, we will share the attraction and information of Tsukuba such as its nature, culture, education, science technology, innovation and foreign residents' satisfaction level with the international community.

(2) Basic measures related to three topics

We have drawn up basic measures for each of three topics. Under each basic measure, we will formulate specific initiatives separately as action plans, which we will review every three years to ensure the effectiveness.

① Basic measures to create a comfortable and safe environment where both Japanese and foreign residents can live with peace of mind

These measures mainly focus on providing support for foreign residents, communicating information in multiple languages, and improving learning opportunities required for living in Japan including Japanese language lessons.

- ① **Improve support for foreign citizens**
- ② **Share information effectively in multiple languages**
- ③ **Increase learning opportunities required for living in Japan including Japanese language lessons**

② Basic measures to create an environment where citizens of all nationalities can exercise their unique capability

These measures are for fostering awareness of intercultural cohesion so that both Japanese and foreign citizens can interact with and understand each other, as well as providing support and opportunities for foreign citizens who wish to participate in their community. In addition, we will also work on initiatives to expand opportunities for international students who wish to work in Tsukuba City or in Japan.

- ① **Build intercultural cohesion through cross-cultural communication and international understanding**
- ② **Support foreign citizens who wish to actively participate in their community**
- ③ **Create and improve places for cross-cultural communication**

③ Basic measures to become a city which is connected to the world through various partnerships, interactions, and sharing of information both inside and outside the country

We will share the information and attractions unique to Tsukuba City such as its nature, living environment, science and technology, innovation, and initiatives as a super science city with the world. We will also support international students and other residents who wish to work or promote their business in Tsukuba City, as well as supporting initiatives to attract companies to Tsukuba City and to expand businesses overseas.

- ① **Share information and attraction unique to Tsukuba City with the world through promotion of international partnerships and interactions.**
- ② **Attract foreign human resources and companies wishing to work or promote their businesses in the city**
- ③ **Support companies based in the city to expand overseas**

How to implement guidelines

To make Tsukuba a global city, it is essential for the local government to work with various individuals and groups such as citizens, Tsukuba International Association, organizations, universities, research institutes, companies and businesses to promote initiatives. That is why it is clearly stated in the previous section (Three Key Topics and Basic Measures to Achieve the Goal), that **“Diverse actors collaborate and share roles to achieve the goal.”**

Tsukuba City has an important role in connecting, coordinating and cooperating with various actors who work to make Tsukuba a global City. As a city, we will also build relationships which enable smooth collaboration and information sharing with other government agencies such as national and prefectural authorities.

Some of the specific projects that we will work on as a city include reviewing and formulating measures in response to issues and needs related to globalization of local communities. We also provide support for foreign citizens and build intercultural communities by sharing information for foreign citizens and providing consultation services in multiple languages.

In addition, we will improve the learning environment for children with foreign background, provide learning support for Japanese language and other subjects, and provide opportunities for all children to learn about other countries, cultures and intercultural cohesion. We will also work together with various actors to share the attractions of Tsukuba City with the world by working on projects such as building and promoting diverse partnerships with cities and organizations outside the country.

Cooperation with Tsukuba International Association

In close cooperation with Tsukuba City, the Tsukuba International Association plays an important role in involving the citizens and promoting globalization of the city. The Association also finds and trains volunteers who would support various activities of the Association. Some of their specific activities include holding Japanese language classes, providing support for children with foreign background and their parents, creating opportunities for Japanese and international residents to interact with each other, and providing places where international residents feel they belong. The Association, which organizes these events and projects, and provides various support services, is accessible to all citizens.

We will continue to work closely with the Association to understand the needs of both Japanese and international residents while considering and implementing various initiatives.

Cooperation with various organizations

A number of local groups and NPOs are actively engaged in various activities such as volunteer Japanese language teaching in Tsukuba City. Though the scale of activities varies from group to group, these groups significantly contribute to the city in supporting foreign citizens and creating opportunities for residents of all nationalities to interact with each other.

We will strive to understand the individual efforts of these various groups, deepen ties to each group, and cooperate and collaborate with them to promote initiatives by utilizing what they are good at.

Cooperation with universities, research institutes and other organizations

Some of the most common resident statuses in Tsukuba City are Student, Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services, Researcher, and Highly-Skilled Professional. In many cases, foreign citizens with one of these resident statuses are accepted at a university or research institute.

Therefore, we need to work with universities, research institutes and other organizations to provide support for foreign residents. In addition, because organizations such as universities and research institutes have many opportunities to collaborate and interact with various institutions overseas, we could effectively share the local appeal of Tsukuba with the world by working together with universities and research institutes in the city. It is also expected that we help independent efforts by universities and other organizations which support international students wishing to work in the city or inside Japan.

Cooperation with companies and businesses

Because the shortage of human resources has become a management issue for companies, it is urgently required for them to secure and train human resources. The national and prefectural government has also encouraged the employment of diverse human resources including foreign nationals. Given these circumstances, we will work with companies and businesses in various forms so that they can build an inclusive workplace. We will also work with them to improve the environment for foreign residents so that facilities such as stores, restaurants and healthcare institutions are accessible to everyone.

Cooperation with citizens

To achieve the goal we set forth for these guidelines, which is to become a global city, we need to actively encourage our citizens to create local communities where both Japanese and foreign citizens respect each other’s culture, lifestyle and values, so that residents of all nationalities support their community together as equal partners.

Together with Tsukuba International Association, we will encourage our citizens so that they will start communicating and interacting with each other. For example, Japanese citizens can use plain Japanese, translation applications and other tools to communicate with foreign citizens even if they cannot speak foreign languages, and foreign citizens can try to learn Japanese language and culture. We will also create opportunities where citizens of all nationalities can use their capability and participate in activities to support their local community. Through these efforts and together with our citizens, we will create a global livable city for all.

As you can see in the diagram, we will promote the globalization of Tsukuba City by connecting various groups, creating a network and working closely with them.

