

# Sekai wa Hitotsu

Gifu International Center (GIC)

International Exchange &  
Multiculturalism Information Magazine



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## Opening of a Basic Course for Medical Interpretation Volunteering

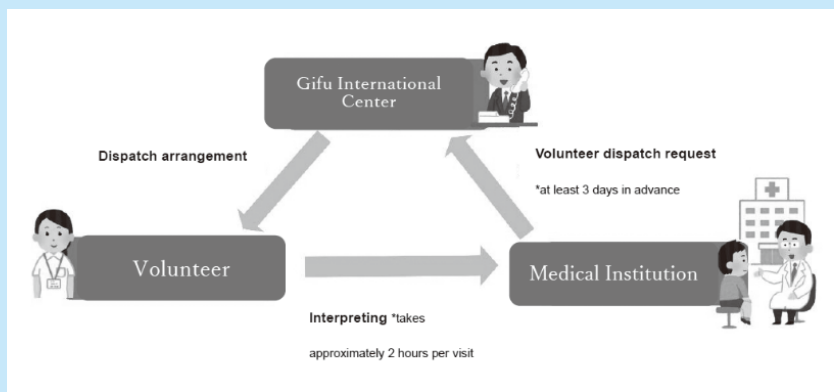
Aiming for the development and training of medical interpretation volunteers, our center launched a “basic course for medical interpretation volunteering”. Therefore, we are looking for Portuguese, Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese speakers who are interested in medical interpretation.

In this course, we teach about what to bear in mind as a medical interpreter, physiology, basic disease knowledge, and we also offer a roleplay exercise to immerse yourself in the situation of a medical examination at a clinic or in neurosurgery.

Most of our participants have already had medical interpretation experiences in the past with their family or acquaintances. Even despite this, we received a lot of feedback such as “I learned about the importance of asking the doctor for more details when I am unsure about the expressions or words used while interpreting”, or “I realized that I was always interpreting in my own style”, showing how these roleplay exercises were a great opportunity for new realizations.



## Mediation service for medical interpretation volunteering



To ensure that foreign residents with limited Japanese proficiency are able to get a medical examination without worries, we offer this mediation service for medical interpretation volunteering in Portuguese, Chinese, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Those volunteers passed our Center’s examination test, showing a high level of Japanese proficiency.

# Gifu Prefecture Japanese Learning Support Center

In Gifu Prefecture, we are continuously working on expanding opportunities for foreign residents to acquire the basic Japanese knowledge needed in everyday life, starting with the “Gifu Prefecture Japanese Learning Support Center”, launched in Gifu International Center.

“I would like to launch a Japanese teaching course”  
“I would like to know a nearby place where I can learn Japanese”

## ● Support Provided for Japanese Learning

We offer 1-on-1 support sessions with a consultant.



## ● Gifu Online Japanese Course

In order to provide more learning opportunities to our foreign residents, regardless of the area they live in, we regularly hold free basic Japanese courses online.

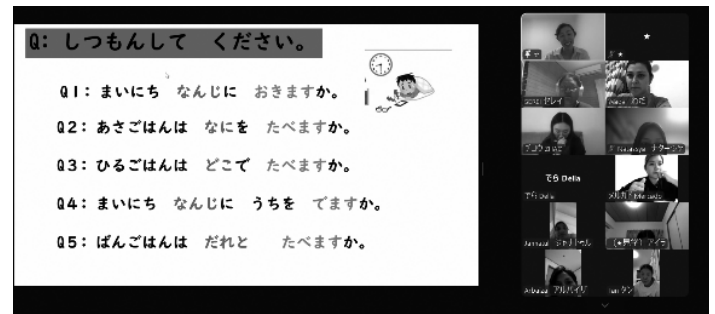
### ● First Steps Course

A course designed for beginning Japanese learners

This class provides the minimum knowledge needed for everyday life such as self-introduction and grocery shopping vocabulary.

### ● Speaking Course

A course where you can enjoy a conversation with a Japanese partner about your hometown, work and more depending on the theme of the week. Not only will you expand your Japanese proficiency, but you will also deepen your mutual cultural understanding !



Speaking course online (First Steps Course)

## ● Multi-discipline training

We are currently working on recruiting more Japanese education staff and volunteers, as well as promoting the use of “Easy Japanese” for our foreign residents.

## ● Dispatch of Regional Japanese Education Coordinators



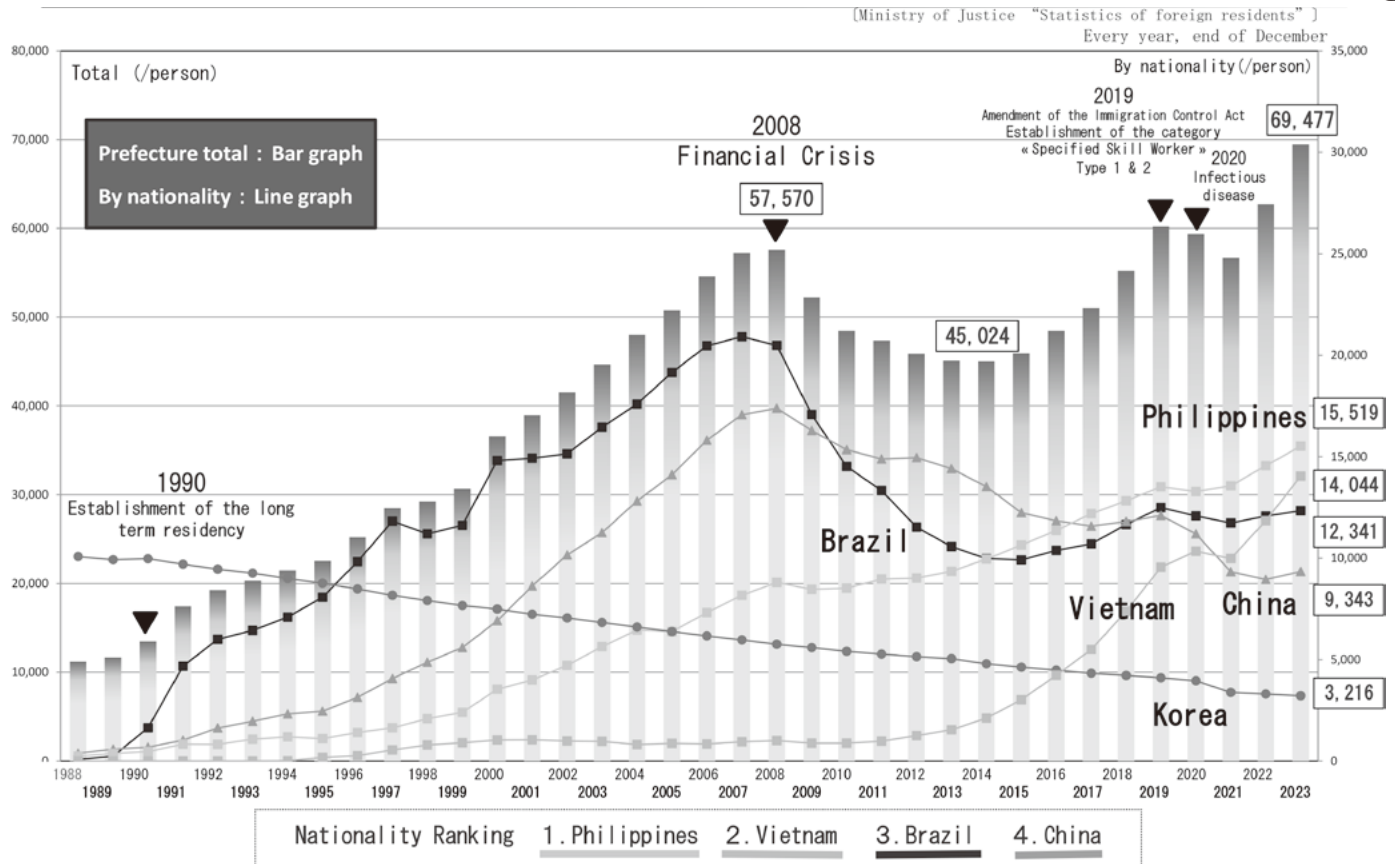
We aim to provide support to promote the use of “Easy Japanese” through dispatching regional Japanese education coordinators in municipalities and in enterprises, as well as the creation and management of local Japanese courses.

Through the dispatch of coordinators, local Japanese classes have opened in Motosu and Tarui.  
(The picture shows the Motosu Japanese speaking class)



In this article, we will present the current state of foreign residents living in Gifu Prefecture through national and prefectural data.

## Change in the Global Foreign Residents Population by Nationality



In December 2023, Gifu prefecture reached its highest number of foreign residents with 15,519 Filipino citizens, 14,044 Vietnamese citizens, 12,341 Brazilian citizens and 9,343 Chinese citizens. Residents from these four countries represent about 70% of the foreign residents in Gifu Prefecture.

On the same year, we observed a remarkable increase of Vietnamese citizens with a sudden rise of technical intern trainees, to the point where they overtook Brazilian citizens' 2nd spot.

We are expecting this tendency to continue, as well as a smooth increase in Filipino and Brazilian citizens coming to Gifu Prefecture.

### GIC Services Report

## Opening of a Network Service for Overseas Students

To promote the exchanges between overseas students, prefecture citizens, and local businesses, as well as showing the charms of Gifu prefecture to overseas students, we implemented the "Gifu Prefecture Charms Discovery Tour".

This year, 32 overseas students at Subaru Language School Motosu visited the "Kakamigahara Interchange Aeon Mall", the "Gifu Prefecture Area Disaster Prevention Center" and the "World Freshwater Aquarium Aqua Totto Gifu".

At Aeon Mall, after enjoying a maki sushi-making workshop, they got to learn more about the mall through a foreign exhibition and a presentation on the measures taken for the environment. As for the Disaster Prevention Center, they were trained to use an extinguisher, and got to experience an earthquake simulation, preparing them to an eventual major disaster.



The Gifu International Center (GIC) is a center based in the local community, which aims to establish a cultural exchange that draws on Gifu's prosperous natural environment, rich history, and other resources. Through these exchanges, it hopes to assist in the creation of a multicultural society and contribute to mutual understanding and friendly relations with other countries.

In 2012, the GIC transitioned to being a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation and is continuing cultural exchange and multinational collaboration efforts.

### Creating a Multicultural Region

- Support for the children of foreign residents as well as for parents and guardians; Career education and support
- Foreign residents consultation desk, conversations with an administrative scrivener
- Japanese learning assistance and consultation; Assistant language teacher volunteer training
- Natural disaster preparations

### Designing an Multinational Environment

- "Sekai wa hitotsu" multicultural information magazine
- International culture teaching programs (language, foreign culture lessons)
- Multicultural education (school visits)
- Japanese and foreign residents cultural exchange event

### Promotion of Volunteer Group Activities

- Training and mediation for medical translation volunteers
- Natural disaster translation volunteer training
- Natural disaster support network creation
- Assisting multicultural co-existence/international exchange organizations
- Registering volunteers; Introducing volunteers to institutions and groups

### Searching for Supporting Members

The center is currently searching for individuals and groups who are interested in working together to support the center's activities.

- Annual membership: minimum payment of 1 unit  
1 unit (Individual): 3,000 yen (2 units = 6,000 yen)  
1 unit (Organization): 5,000 yen (2 units = 10,000 yen)
- Membership benefits: Delivery of magazine "Sekai wa hitotsu", a membership discount for active participation, etc.

### Gifu Prefectural Consultation Center for Foreign Residents

Our consultation center is open to all foreign residents of Gifu Prefecture. Please feel free to consult us about your daily life worries (Tax, Housing, Education, Welfare, etc). We will link you to public institutions and help you find solutions to your problems.

**Timetable:** Mondays~Fridays 9:30AM~4:30PM

**Phone Number:** 058-263-8066

**Languages Available:** English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and more than 10 other languages.

### Editing and Publication

## Gifu International Center (GIC)

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Closed Saturdays, Holidays, New Years

Languages: English, Chinese, Portuguese, Tagalog, Vietnamese

