



The Initiative Nippon Project

As part of the activities of the Foreign Residents Policy Study Group under Mr Takaji Kunimatsu, now entering its second phase, we formed a subcommittee composed of Messrs Isoyama, Suzuki, Menju, Toda and Oe. The first subcommittee meeting was held on Monday, February 29th, in the presence of Yoshio Ishizaka, Chairman of the Outlook Foundation.



It was decided to hold a Tokyo Round this autumn in order to link views about the acceptance of foreign residents, which vary substantially between private and public sectors, and between metropolitan and regional Japan. In order to lead the round to success, we also decided to meet to exchange views with local regions of Japan on the acceptance of foreign residents and to proceed with negotiations and discussion with municipal governments which are highly interested in this issue.

The subcommittee has named its current effort the Initiative Nippon Project.

We confirmed that the Tokyo Round will be an opportunity to link the opinions of metropolitan and regional Japan, referring to the study results of various symposia, discussion meetings, etc.

In the subcommittee, we identified issues for which we would like to gather opinions; these are summarized below. We concluded that further study is required.



Some issues for discussion with local regions of Japan

1. Number, nationality and characteristics of foreign residents accepted by local regions
2. Outline of administrative services and private organizations (including Japanese language instruction) to support foreign residents
3. Opinions about outcomes of multicultural operations and related challenges
4. Major challenges confronting foreign residents (education, Japanese language learning, employment, medical care, housing, communication with Japanese, etc.)
5. Positive or negative awareness of local residents toward foreign residents in general
6. Need, by area and occupation, for foreign resident workers in local regions
7. Opinions about Outlook's proposals for acceptance of foreign residents in Japan