



## Initiative Nippon project in Akita: Regional meeting on acceptance of foreign residents

The third regional meeting of the Initiative Nippon project was co-hosted by the Outlook Foundation and Ogata and Senboku municipalities of Akita Prefecture on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Hotel Sun Rural Ogata.

Thirty-six participants from municipalities, organizations, universities, and NPOs from Ogata, Senboku and other areas of Akita engaged in vigorous discussion, with co-hosts also in attendance. Representing the host cities, Ogata Mayor Hiroto Takahashi and Senboku Mayor Mitsuhiro Kadowaki, who are known for their leadership as reformists, kicked off the meeting by presenting their challenges as themes of the meeting.



Participants from Noshiro, Odate, and other cities as well as Ogata and Senboku exchanged views from different perspectives on accepting foreign residents, including a report on foreign workers in elderly care services in Akita. The need for multidimensional discussion on education was one of the focuses of all three meetings we have held so far.

The Outlook Foundation's Chief Executive Director Yoshio Ishizaka closed the meeting by asking for participants' support in the Tokyo round scheduled for this fall.



I would like to express my gratitude to participants and organizers who dedicated their weekend to this meeting. I also thank the members of the Industry and Construction Department of Odate and the Regional Revitalization and Policy Planning Office of Senboku.