



... Photos from the Tokyo Round ...



**Tokyo Round on Acceptance of Foreign Residents**

- Date and time: Saturday, November 12th, 2016, 13:00–17:00,
- Place: JA Kyosai Building Conference Hall, 2-7-9 Hirakawa-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
- Theme: Future vision on acceptance of foreign residents
- Organizer: The Outlook Foundation

Mr. Kozo Yamamoto, Minister of State for Regional Revitalization and Regulation Reform, opened the meeting with a speech.



Mr. Kazuyuki Furuya, Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary, gave the keynote speech. He presented the current status, challenges, and future prospects for acceptance of foreign residents in depth, using a range of data. His speech assured us of the government's positive approach toward this issue. The topics of the keynote lecture were developed further in the discussions that followed.

Mayor Mitsuhiro Kadowaki of Semboku (left) and Mayor Hiroto Takahashi of Ogata (right). The extremely busy reformist leaders participated in a day trip from Akita.



From Kasumigaseki (where all central government offices are located), Mr Yutaka Fujiwara, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination at the Cabinet Office; Mr Isao Negishi, Director of the General Affairs Division of the Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice; and Mr Akira Miyakawa, Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare presented their views.



Young and powerful debaters represented the service sector. Mr Soichiro Nishimura (left), President of Nishimuraya Honkan at Kinosaki Onsen. Mr Tadayuki Toki (right), Representative Director of Daiko Planning Corporation at Omura, Nagasaki.



Mr Nishimura explained that traditional Japanese hotels are understaffed and so are unable to take reservations for all available rooms. Mr Toki said that the food industry in Omura and neighboring towns is also suffering a critical manpower shortage. He also expressed his expectation that foreign employees will positively affect their business.



Mr Yuya Toda (left), a member of the Foreign Residents Policy Study Group and President of Aramahoshi, summarized the views presented by the 132 participants in our six regional meetings involving seven local municipalities. Right: Mayor Kadowaki and Mr Shigeru Oe,



Director General of the Outlook Foundation.



Mr Masayuki Ota (left), a teacher at Wadahigashi Elementary School in Hamamatsu, shared an educator's views on the current status and challenges of Hamamatsu, a city with one of Japan's highest proportions of foreign residents. Mr Yoshiaki Ishizuka (right), Manager of the International Affairs Division of Hamamatsu (Departamento de Planejamento, Divisao de Relacoes Intemacionais) , spoke about foreign residents in their communities.



Ms Yuko Kitagawa, Representative of the Noshiro Noshiro Japanese Language Class. Noshiro, Akita Prefecture, is a regional hub. Associate Professor Takeshi Akiba of Akita International University explains that it is difficult to employ elderly care workers effectively without an organized acceptance system, regardless of how the legislation and systems are improved at the national level.

Five of his fifteen seminar members are foreign students, contradicting this country's premise that our society is without immigrants.

Mr. Yoji Nagasaki (left), President of Nagasaki Industry. The 81-year-old metal processing company operates in Japan, China and Singapore. Of its 210 employees, 10% are foreigners. They have almost no prospect of hiring new employees next year, because of the labor shortage in the market. Ms Ayumi Minami (right) of Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting summarized our discussion in the first half of the event.



Mr Tsuyoshi Mano, Deputy Mayor of Toyooka (left) and Mr Takashi Otsuki, Director of the Mayor's Office in Omura. Both cities are facing serious labor shortages.



In our national government, there are four conferences that can potentially discuss foreign resident issues — the National Strategic Special Zones, the Future Investment Meeting (formerly the Industrial Competitiveness Council), the Work Style Meeting, and the Council for Regulatory Reform. Mr Eiji Hara (left), a non-government member of the Council for Regulatory Reform and Representative President of Public Policy Planning and Consulting Co., asserted that these organizations are important in making the proposals which government offices hesitate to make.



Professor Eriko Suzuki (left) of Kokushikan University overviewed the foreign resident issues from a researcher's perspective. Mr Eiji Odagaki (center), Representative Director of Novita, expressed

his views as a Tokyo business operator. Mr Toshihiro Menju (right), Managing Director of the Japan Center for International Exchange as well as a member of the Foreign Residents Policy Study Group and Director of the Outlook Foundation, summarized today's discussion.

From left: Chairman Takaji Kunimatsu, Ms Suzuki, Chief Executive Director Yoshio Ishizaka of the Outlook Foundation, and Mr Tomoyuki Isoyama, coordinator of this event.

Now we are going to tackle the task of drawing up our proposals for the national government.

