

Your Voice Counts: Kobe Diversity & Inclusion Idea Contest (Reference Material)

**Community Engagement and
Development Bureau
Kobe City Government**



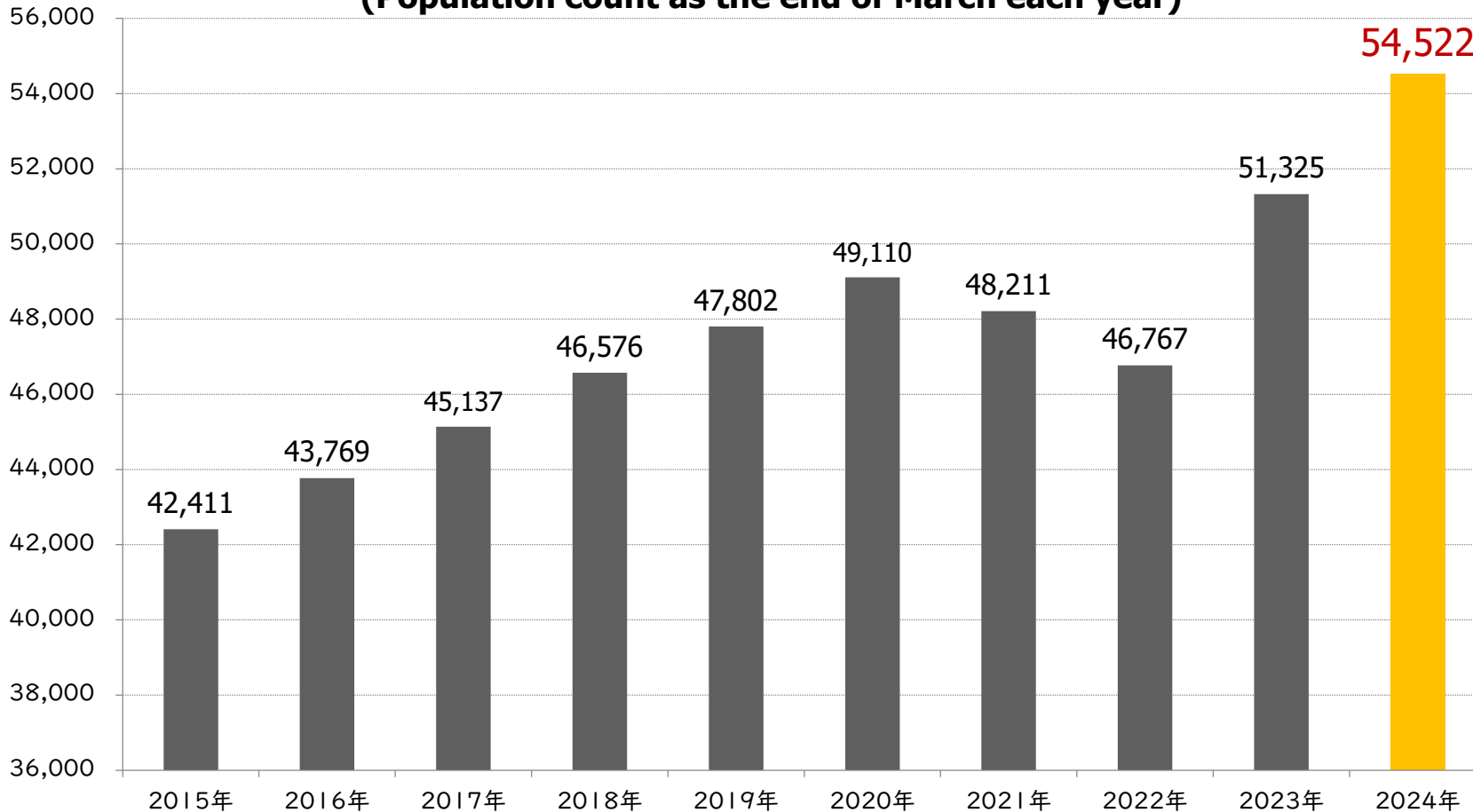
Current Status of Foreign Residents in Kobe City (Population growth and nationality)

Foreign population: **54,522** from **143 countries or regions** as of March 2024

※ Kobe City 「Population of Foreigners」

<https://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/a47946/shise/toke/toukei/jinkou/kokusekibetsu.html>

Total population of foreigners living in Kobe City (Population count as the end of March each year)



〔Population by Nationality〕

Rank	Nationality	Population
1	China	15,109
2	Korea	14,626
3	Vietnam	8,398
4	Nepal	3,638
5	Philippines	1,700
6	Myanmar	1,374
7	United States of America	1,239
8	Indonesia	1,076
9	India	968
10	Bangladesh	797

Current Status of Foreign Residents in Kobe City (By Status of Residence)

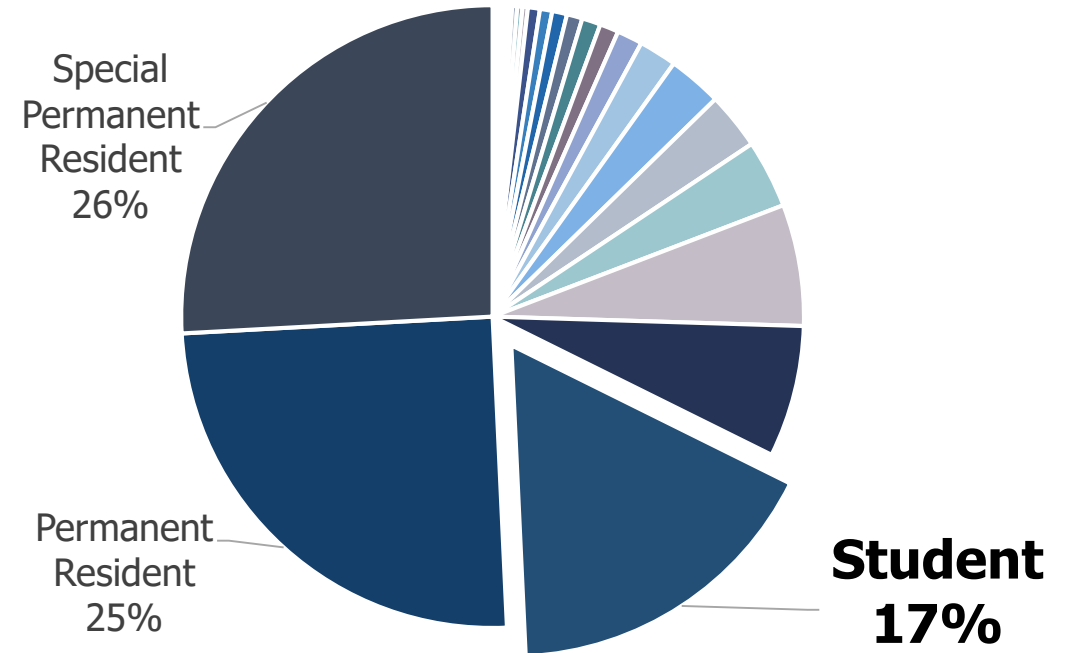
Foreign Population: **53,771** as of June 2023

[Population by Status of Residence]

Status of Residence	Total population
1 Special Permanent Resident	13,355
2 Permanent Resident	13,296
3 Student	9,371

[Population of Students by Nationality]

Nationality	Estimated population
China	29%
Vietnam	19%
Nepal	19%
Bangladesh	8%
Myanmar	7%



※ Immigration Services Agency 「List of Status of Residence」

<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/qaq5.html>

Immigration Services Agency 「Statistics on Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan」

https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/policies/statistics/toukei_ichiran_touroku.html

Multicultural Coexistence in Kobe City

Vision:

A community where both Japanese and foreign residents can live safely and securely.

Intermediate Goals:

To address various issues related to foreigners in the community, the following solutions are proposed:

- ① Promote mutual understanding and interact with foreigners in the community
- ② Provide comprehensive and systematic living information to foreigners



Theme A : Getting Connected with Everyone in Kobe! (Promoting Mutual Understanding and Interaction with Foreigners in the Community)

● Ideas Sought

We are looking for ideas that will connect Japanese and foreign residents in the community.

Examples:

- Ideas which will encourage international students to participate more in community activities.
- Ideas for local residents and children to interact with nearby international students.

~Overview~

It is essential for residents of different nationalities and ages to increase opportunities for understanding each other`s cultures and customs to build a better community.

● Current Programs of Kobe City

• Kobe City Multicultural Exchange Volunteers

Dispatching international students to local events in Kobe to promote interaction between Japanese and foreign residents

<https://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/a78534/kyousei.html>

• Multicultural Festival

Hosting events to deepen understanding about multicultural coexistence through enjoying various cultures and interacting with people of different nationalities

<https://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/d49614/620805701137.html>



Free talk about multicultural topics



Intercultural Events for Children



Clean-up activities



Mochi Pounding Event

Theme B : Learning the Ways of Kobe (Provision of Daily Life Information)

● Ideas Sought

We are looking for ideas that will help international students adjust to life in Kobe and overcome cultural and habitual differences.

Examples:

- Making Kobe's waste disposal rules understandable for international students
- Preparing international students for common disasters in Japan

~Overview~

It is important to provide foreigners with easy-to-understand information on essential aspects of daily life in Kobe, such as rules about garbage disposal and disaster preparedness. It is also essential to introduce organizations that support foreign residents in Kobe.

●Current Programs of Kobe City

- Multilingual information provision
<https://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/a04164/kurashi/recycle/gomi/gaikokujin.html>
<https://city-kobe.my.salesforce-sites.com/>
https://www.kicc.jp/ja/living_guide
- Providing daily life orientation at school entrance ceremonies
- Cooperation with real estate agencies to provide daily living information, such as rules about garbage disposal at the time of signing lease agreements
<https://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/a04164/kurashi/recycle/gomi/gaikokujin.html>
- Creation and dissemination of list of group that support foreigners
<https://www.city.kobe.lg.jp/a78534/kyousei.html#ShienshiteiruDantai>
https://www.kicc.jp/ja/living_guide/living/counseling/shien_g
- Information provision through social media
<https://x.com/kobecityPR>
https://www.facebook.com/kobemadoguchi/?locale=ja_JP
https://www.instagram.com/kobe_kicc/



Daily life orientation at School Entrance Ceremony



Collaboration with real estate agents



Multilingual Consultation Services

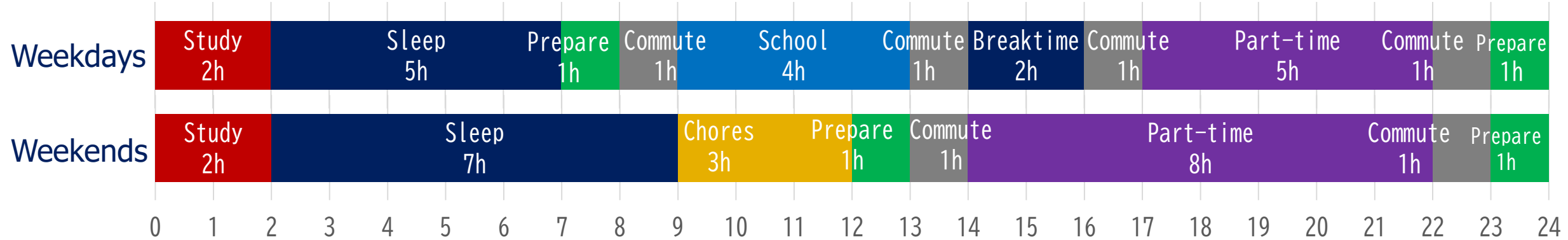


Disaster Preparedness Programs for Japanese Language Schools

Daily life of an International Student



Below is an example of a 1-day schedule of an international student doing part-time job while studying intermediate level Japanese.



Lifestyle

- Many students share dormitories or apartments with 2-4 friends
- Most of the students use bicycle when going to school.



Part-time job

- Students are only allowed to do part-time job for 28 hours per week
- Students often have limited free time due to school and part-time jobs.

Source of Information

- International students' main source of information are their school teachers and seniors from the same country or community.