

The purpose of plan-making

In order to further enhance the local Japanese language education (learning support) environment unique to Yokohama in response to the increase in the number of foreign residents and changes in their Japanese language learning needs, this plan was formulated to grasp the actual situation and needs for Japanese language learning support in the city area, and to promote efforts toward multiculturalism in cooperation with related organizations and citizens, including foreign residents, in the future.

Period : Roughly 5 years from FY2025 to FY2029

To be reviewed as necessary based on changes in the social environment and trends in systems and related plans.

Basic Concept

●Philosophy

To promote a multicultural community through seamless Japanese language learning support for children and adults.

●Vision of the Community

Through communication in Japanese, foreigners and Japanese people deepen mutual understanding and live together as members of society while trying to build equal relationships.

Direction of measures

Measures will be promoted based on the following three directions.

The direction of the measures 1:
Ensure and enhance opportunities for learning Japanese

The direction of the measures 2:
Fostering and supporting of local Japanese language supporters

The direction of the measures 3:
Strengthen cooperation with each entity

Specific actions to realize the measures (Action Plan)

The direction of the measures 1: Ensure and enhance opportunities for learning Japanese.

In the city, there are many efforts to support learning, centering on local Japanese classes, but with the increase in the number of foreign residents, learning needs are increasing and diversifying. To provide Japanese language learning opportunities that meet the needs of students in terms of accessibility and purpose, in cooperation with local Japanese language education specialists, etc., so that students can choose where to study, and to improve the Japanese language learning environment, and to enhance the collection and provision of information.

Action	Contents
1-1 Establish a Japanese language learning environment tailored to learners' needs	●Start-up support for Japanese language classes To support the establishment of new Japanese language classes in areas where there is a shortage of Japanese language classes and ensure learning opportunities.

	<p>● Efforts to meet diverse learning needs</p> <p>To hold Japanese language classes for parent-preschool child and Japanese language classes for children in cooperation with related organizations. In addition, classes based on local conditions and needs will be held.</p>
<p>1-2 Collection and provision of information on Japanese language learning opportunities</p>	<p>● Enhancement of information posted on the database of local Japanese language classes, and improvement of access to information.</p> <p>To enhance class information in the database to make it easier and more convenient for learners to access local Japanese language classes that meet the learners' needs.</p> <p>● Maintenance of information on Japanese language education institutions other than local Japanese language classes in cooperation with each institution.</p> <p>To provide a variety of options for Japanese language study to those who wish to study, information on Japanese language institutions, including those in the private sector, will be developed.</p>

The direction of the measures 2: Fostering and supporting of local Japanese language supporters

As the need for Japanese language learning expands, Japanese language institutions and local Japanese language classes are facing the challenge of fostering and securing supporters who provide learning support. In order to enable a variety of supporters who can respond to individual learning objectives to participate and play an active role in learning support, approach to foster and secure supporters of local Japanese language education in cooperation with International Lounges, local Japanese language classes, local residents, and involved-foreigners.

Action	Contents
<p>2-1 Foster diverse supporters in local Japanese language education</p>	<p>● Promote participation in local Japanese language classes, etc.</p> <p>To hold information sessions for those who are interested in supporting Japanese language learning and expand the base of learning supporters.</p> <p>● Foster new supporters</p> <p>To create opportunities for young people and foreigners with experience as Japanese language learners to be connected to Japanese language learning support, and foster a variety of supporters.</p>
<p>2-2 Activity support for local Japanese language classes, etc</p>	<p>● Support for local Japanese language classes, etc.</p> <p>To provide training for operators of Japanese language classes and supporters of Japanese language learning, as well as operational support to solve problems in the classes.</p> <p>● Support for International lounges, etc.</p> <p>To conduct training sessions and networking for the international lounge staff. In the wards without the international lounges, work together with wards to enhance support for Japanese language study in the area, tailored to individual circumstances and other factors.</p>

The direction of the measures 3: Strengthen cooperation with each entity

In order to respond to diversifying needs for Japanese language learning, it is necessary to share issues with each entity and strengthen cooperation toward solutions. To further enhance the adjustment and coordination function by assigning coordinators to the "Yokohama Nihongo Support Center", which is the promotion base for this project, and is going to support the establishment of a system of cooperation and collaboration with each entity.

Action	Contents
3-1 Strengthen cooperation with each entity involved in local Japanese language education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthen cooperation with Japanese language institutions, etc. In cooperation with Japanese language schools, universities, and other specialized institutions to promote understanding of local Japanese language education and to encourage the utilization of local supporters by introducing and dispatching teachers and having students participate in Japanese language classes. ● Strengthen cooperation with ward offices and facilities for citizen use. To promote information exchange and project-cooperation with groups that provide services to residents like ward offices, facilities for citizen use and organizations and local communities that are related to local welfare. ● Strengthen cooperation with businesses Liaison meetings and information exchange meetings will be held in cooperation with related organizations and institutions. To strengthen networking by sharing case studies of efforts by companies that employ foreign nationals and know-how on cross-cultural communication, and through exchanges among companies and related organizations. ● Strengthen cooperation with each organization in other related fields To implement programs related to local Japanese language education that take advantage of the strengths of different entities, such as childcare support groups, welfare groups, and NPOs, and support the establishment of collaboration and cooperation among entities that share the same needs.

Promotion structure

To arrange a promotion system centered on Yokohama City, Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges and the “Yokohama Nihongo Support Center” (hereinafter referred to as “the Center”) and promote local Japanese education with related organization involved in local Japanese language education (learning support), including International lounges, organizations that operate local Japanese language classes, Japanese language institutions(Japanese language schools, etc.), Japanese language teacher training institutions, businesses, and local organizations.

● **Yokohama City**

By the International Affairs Bureau playing a central role, promote the creation of a comprehensive local Japanese language education system through cross-departmental collaboration.To work with relevant bureaus such as the Ward Office for international lounges, cooperation with local organizations and provision of information to foreign residents, the Economic Affairs Bureau for cooperation with businesses, the Board of Education for Japanese language education for children, and the Child and Youth Bureau for support for foreign parents raising their children.

● **Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges(YOKE)**

As a core organization involved in local Japanese language education and multiculturalism, it functions as the “Yokohama Nihongo Support Center” and provides comprehensive coordination in the Yokohama City area, including understanding the needs and situation of Japanese language education for foreign residents, and demonstrating coordination and networking among various entities.

● **Yokohama Nihongo Support Center (YNC)**

The Center has two roles: “a base to promote the creation of a comprehensive local Japanese language education system” and “a base to support foreign residents in learning Japanese”, and carries out each of these activities. The Center functions as a base by establishing a general coordination council and assigning coordinators.

• **Establishment of the General Coordination Council**

At the experts' meeting consisting of the international associations, experts in various fields such as local Japanese language education and multiculturalism, and representatives from local Japanese language classes, Japanese language schools, businesses, and foreign residents, etc., results and issues in the project will be shared, information from various fields will be shared and discussed. The council will also manage the progress of the project and confirm the achievement of its goals.

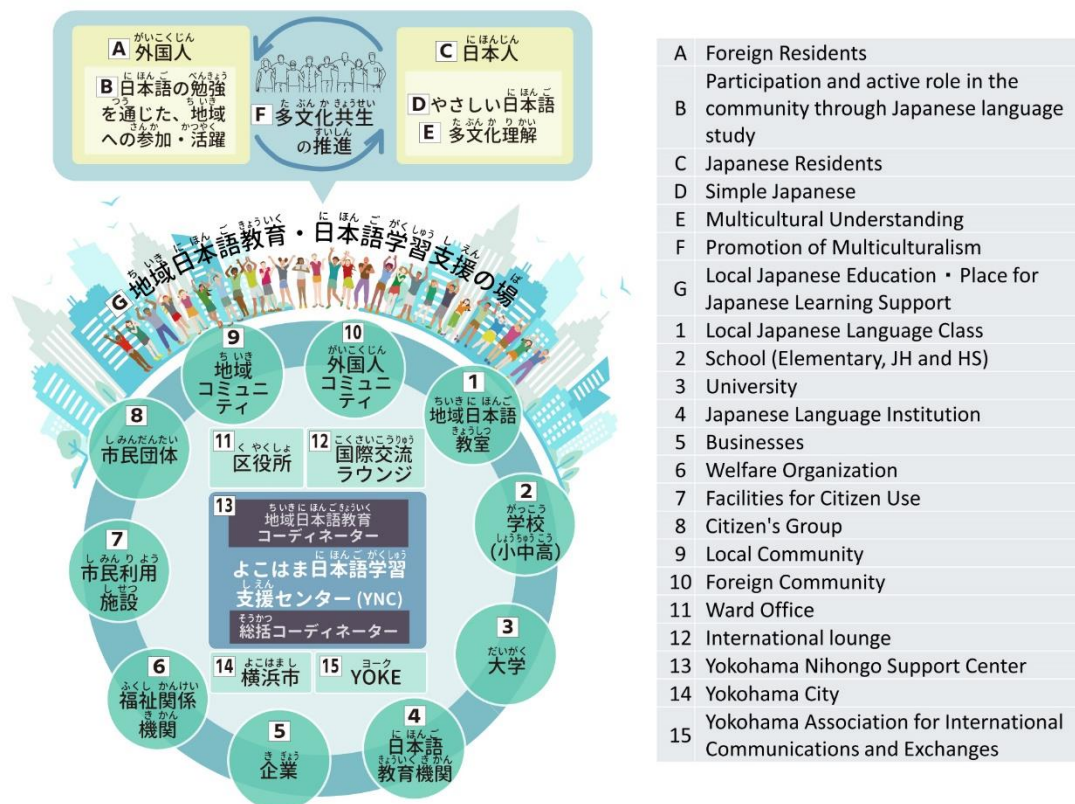
• **Assignment of general coordinators and local Japanese language education coordinators**

To promote local Japanese language education by coordinating and cooperating with necessary related organizations, providing advice to Japanese language classes in the area, building a network of support-related organizations and groups, and providing outreach support such as assistance in creating Japanese language education programs.

● **International Lounges**

Understanding the purpose of this Action Plan, and as part of its role as a center for multiculturalism and international exchange within the ward and by responding of the needs of the ward, provide information on Japanese language learning (support), provide operational support such as holding liaison meetings for Japanese language classes, foster Japanese language supporters, and operate Japanese language classes.

Yokohama City Local Japanese Language Education Promotion System



【Local Japanese Language Classes】

- Local Japanese language classes provide a variety of support opportunities for foreign residents to live as a member of the community, including “a familiar place to learn Japanese language necessary for daily life,” “a place to understand the structure of the Japanese social system and to consult on daily life,” and “a place to meet and interact with other residents living in the same community. These activities are the result of local residents' initiative based on their mutual support, and are indispensable for the promotion of multiculturalism in Yokohama.
- Local Japanese language classes provide an opportunity to grasp various issues closely related to daily life, in addition to issues related to the acquisition of Japanese. While valuing the autonomy of each local Japanese language class, it is important to share issues with a wide range of entities and link them to support for foreign residents so that local Japanese language classes do not hold onto the issues they have grasped.

Publishing: Yokohama City, International Affairs Bureau March, 2025