



*Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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(Check Against Delivery)

It is necessary also to face to the reality of population decline and to formulate municipal plans and policies accordingly. Cities and towns are encouraged to create so-called “Appropriate Location Plans” to make populated areas more efficient, compact and better connected to transportation networks.

As for international migration, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan has been steadily increasing. As of June 2017, there were 2,471,458 foreign nationals from 197 countries and territories residing in Japan. Replacement migration has not been the national policy of Japan, but in reality some 48% of Japan’s population decline in 2016 was offset by the increase in the number of foreign nationals living in the country.

Regarding short-term foreign tourism, the Government of Japan’s initial target to receive 20 million visitors per year was easily attained and the target has been raised to 40 million per year by 2020. To this end, enhancing the efficiency of customs and border control is important, and new measures have been introduced such as fingerprint and face recognition systems, as well as the biometric data card (BIOCART) system.

International migration should not cause a brain drain but should benefit human development for all through mobility. Since 2016, under the Asia Health and Wellbeing Initiative (AHWIN), we have been promoting the migration of care workers within Asia for the regional development of long-term care systems to cope with region-wide population ageing. New visa status of care workers and care work interns were created, and it is intended that these workers will be able to apply the knowledge and experience that they acquire in Japan in their home countries after they return. International migration should be managed through collaboration between sending and receiving countries in order to benefit all, including most especially the migrants themselves.

Thank you.