

# Japan's Experiences with Japanese Brazilians

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# Japan a Closed Country

- There is, proportionally speaking, a very small foreign population, especially those working, in Japan.
- Now it is being discussed whether Japan should open its door a little more widely.
- However, we have one experience recently.

# Background



# Japanese Brazilians in Japan



# Present Issues



# Present Issues



# Efforts by Local Governments in Japan

- (Basic Philosophy)
- To aim at creating "a society with multiplicity of culture," where people understand and respect different cultures and customs, respect human rights and live in a comfortable and secure environment.
- (Main Policies)  
Support on communication
  - Provision of Japanese language classes
  - Provisions of information about living in the city
  - Information through different languages (via guidebooks, etc.)
  - \*Orientation meetings about living rules were given.
- Support on living
  - Support on education
  - Support on health care, welfare
  - Consideration in disaster prevention, crisis management
  - \*Teachers who can teach Japanese in Portuguese are hired and classes of Japanese are given in primary and junior high schools.
  - \*City government have employed six Portuguese speaking staff.

# Efforts by Local Governments in Japan (continued)

- Creating "a society with a multiplicity of culture"
  - Creation of hubs and networks
  - Enlightenment movement for "a society with a multiplicity of culture"
  - Creation of opportunities to take part in the local community
- Support on interchanges between communities
  - \*Liaison Committee for Foreign Residents was established.
- Enlargement of the development force for "a society with a multiplicity of culture"
  - \*The Konan City International Society was established.

# Conclusion

- It would be wrong to say that Japan should not admit foreign labour due to the frictions that doing so may entail, but the country must quickly learn from these forerunning problems in order to prepare itself for the future – which almost inevitably will bring this situation into the forefront of the debate on social/labour stability.
- Importantly, the fact that Japan is the only developed country where a non-western language (which does not use an alphabet) is spoken seems to have a profound effect. In a world where globalisation is fast moving forward, it seems unlikely that Japan can keep its isolated position in terms of population migration. Therefore, Japan needs to think of how to deal with it without delay.