



Toward a Multicultural Symbiotic Society

“It is important to construct an environment for accepting foreigners to realize a vibrant, symbiotic society in which the Japanese people and foreigners can respect each other,” says Shoko Sasaki, Commissioner of the newly established Immigration Services Agency (see Interview, p. 6). In this issue, we home in on a number of national- and local-level initiatives aimed at achieving the goal of multicultural symbiosis, beginning with a Q&A with the aforementioned Sasaki about the revised Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which came into effect in April this year. We introduce case studies of towns that have successfully implemented unique integration programs for foreign residents. We visit Fukuoka to find out why the city has become such an attractive location for foreign start-up businesses and Osaka to meet the people behind an ingenious international café concept. Halal certification, multilingual translation services and education for children of foreign nationals are the other hot topics for contemporary Japan highlighted in this month’s Feature.

Photo: Junichi Ota