

多民族日本 - 在日外国人の暮らし -

Multicultural Japan - Life and History of Immigrants -

The purpose of the Special Exhibition

Focusing on the changing Japanese society with the rapidly increasing number of foreign residents in Japan, this special exhibition aims to explore the path to harmonious co-existence with them in the future.

Japan has seen kaleidoscopic changes over the past twenty years dubbed as the time of the bubble boom or globalization. In hindsight, the fast-growing population of foreign residents in Japan has contributed to remarkable changes in Japanese society. It has become quite common to happen to have friends, colleagues, neighbors, or family members from abroad in such living circumstance as schools or work places, let alone out on the streets and transport facilities.

Today, the number of foreign residents is 1.8 million, which is about double what it was fifteen years ago and it accounts for 1.5 percent of the total residents of Japan. Japanese society is undergoing a drastic change towards harmonious co-existence with immigrants on the initiative of local communities, governments and NGOs. There truly exist some social problems including conflicts or misunderstandings between the local Japanese and foreign residents. At the same time, however, the activities of foreign residents have served to revitalize the local economy and exerted refreshing cultural influences to people in the host communities.

While the idea of harmonious co-existence with foreign people has been gradually accepted along with the upsurge of immigrants to Japan, there is still the sense of discrimination against foreign people. To examine Japan's ongoing trends toward a multiethnic society, particularly during the past fifteen years, this special exhibition traces back the history of the foreign population through their personal experiences and belongings, and speaks out on the importance of tolerance, which is vital in order to get along well with others in an ethnically diversified society.

Guide of Exhibition Hall

◆ First Floor

The historical background of multiethnic Japan, response of Japanese society including local

governments and NGOs to deal with the developing society, and activities of foreign residents are focused on this floor.

● **History of “Multiethnic Japan”**

Today’s “multiethnic Japan” has a long history since its early stage of the creation of foreign settlement. It was followed by outflow of Japanese emigrants to the new world, and a host of coming and going people, sometimes in a forceful manner, under Japan’s policy of colonization. Combined with the era of the bubble economy, an upsurge of foreign population appeared after the World War II. Tracing the history of today’s “multiethnic Japan”, administrative and legal systems concerning foreign matters including immigration control are examined here.

● **Thematic corner of “Multiethnic Japan”**

This corner illustrates important topics vital to understand the present picture of “multiethnic Japan”. Topics included are complicated procedure for immigration, jobs mainly engaged by non-Japanese, Islamic people living in Japan who maintain Islamic customs and practices in their daily life, and deep-seated discrimination against foreign residents in Japanese society.

● **Foreign residents-concentrated Cities**

Foreign residents depending on the host community’s demand for labor are inclined to concentrate in certain area by occupation. Restaurants, video shops and other reciprocal community networks emerge from these areas, attracting foreign residents all the more. Such dynamism promotes activities in view of harmonious co-existence involving the local people and governments.

● **An Ethnic Arcade**

Lots of grocery stores selling Korean, Vietnamese, and South Asian goods can be found today. Playing the role in providing people of respective community with necessary goods, these stores also serve as a place of exchanging information or a place of recreation and relaxation, as well as a junction for the Japanese people to meet different cultures.

● **Administrative Projects and NGOs’ Activities**

As the foreign residents take root in Japanese society, they have come to face legal and institutional problems concerning medical care, employment, dwellings, and education. In addition, linguistic barrier and the differences in customs have caused cultural friction between foreign residents and the local Japanese people. Under the situation, NGOs and local governments have helped foreign

residents in various ways to fit in local communities.

● **Multiethnic Festival Square**

Religious and cultural events originated in foreign descent are on display here. Such events as Lion Dances, Dragon Dances, and the procession of the Catholic Saints by Peruvians offer good opportunity of cultural exchange and have greatly contributed to activating local communities.

● **Children's Corner**

In this corner, children with various cultural backgrounds send messages to visiting children to the special exhibition through essays, pictures, and art works.

● **Satellite Studio of "FM waiwai" Radio Station**

Multilingual radio station, "FM waiwai" based in Kobe sends a program concerning the exhibits and events of the special exhibition in various languages every Sunday afternoon from Minpaku Satellite Studio.

● **Multiethnic Media**

Newspaper and magazines in various languages targeting foreign residents are increasing in number. More than two hundred publications printed in sixteen languages including Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog are put into circulation today. In this corner, visitors are free to reach out to foreign publications on display.

● **Panda Room · Ethnic Schools**

Reproduced in this corner is that a classroom for Children or grand children of Chinese returnees who have the Chinese descent. Other ethnic schools are also taken up. You can experience variety of play activities of ethnic groups.

◆ **Second Floor**

Distinctive groups of foreign people who reside in Japan – Korean, Chinese, Brazilian, Filipino, and Vietnamese, are introduced through their history of immigration, and their actual life in Japan are displayed on this floor.

◇ **Chinese residing in Japan**

Since the time of the Meiji Restoration, overseas Chinese left their country and have established own life and culture in Japan with spirit of mutual aid. While they settled and assimilated into Japanese society, indications of change are arising in their society due to the increase of new population who has different customs and consciousness.

◇ **Filipino residing in Japan**

Philippine people who came to Japan before or after the World War, those who immigrated into Japan after the 1970s, and those who grew up in Japan as the second generation are covered in this section. It is very interesting to learn about Filipino who lived in Japan before and after the World War, because it clarifies relevancy and irrelevancy between their life and that of the contemporary generation.

◇ **Brazilian residing in Japan**

There are 270,000 Brazilian in Japan at present. They have a root in those who migrated to Brazil from Japan and their families. This section focuses on what they, who came to the country of their ancestors to seek employment, have looked forward to and how they are living in Japan now.

◇ **Vietnamese residing in Japan**

This section introduces life history of several Vietnamese together with photographs of their life in Japan, cultural activities in the community such as Lunar New Year and mid-autumn harvest festival, and educational and religious activities. Their typical living room is duplicated to illustrate how they live in Japan.

◇ **Korean residing in Japan**

Under the half-century Japanese control over Korea, there were people who directly or indirectly compelled to immigrate into Japan. This biggest minority group in Japan, who is referred to as “zainichi”, has continued four generations to date. Despite their adverse circumstances, they have laid the solid base in the Japanese society. They are seeking new ways of living in Japan with those who newly emigrated from Korea.

General Information

Duration: March 25—June 15, 2004

Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (entry permitted up to 4:30p.m.)

The regular closing day is Wednesday.

When Wednesday falls on a national holiday, the museum will be closed instead on the following day.

(The museum will be open on May 5, a national holiday, though it is Wednesday. It will be closed instead on May 6.)

Admission Charges:

	Individual	Group (more than 20 people)
Adults	¥420	(¥350)
Students(Senior High School and College)	¥250	(¥200)
Children(Elementary and Junior High School)	¥110	(¥90)

No additional payment is required for entry to the permanent exhibition.

Student of elementary, junior, and senior high school schools can enter the museum for free on Saturday.

Contact details:

National Museum of Ethnology

10-1, Senri Expo Park, Suita Osaka 565-8511

Phone: 06-6876-2151

Website: <http://www.minpaku.ac.jp>

Host

National Museum of Ethnology

Cooperators

Patronage:

Suita City, Osaka Prefectural Board of Education, Suita City Board of Education

Cooperation from:

Commemorative Association for the Japan World Exposition 1970,

Senri Foundation, Hankyu Bus Co., LTD

Supporter:

Korea Plaza

Events related to the Special Exhibition

◆ Minpaku Seminars

◇ The 312th

Date: April 17, 2004, from 14:00 to 15:30 (Doors open at 13:30)

Lecture Title: Multiethnic Japan viewed from China Lion Dance

Lecturers: Chen Tien-shi (Minpaku)

Hsie Hsieng-Rong (Yokohama Oversea Chinese School O.B. Association, Instructor of China Lion Dance)

◇ The 313th

Date: May 15, 2004, from 14:00 to 15:30 (Doors open at 13:30)

Lecture Title: Entertainment of Brazilian Residing in Japan

Lecturers: Angelo Ishi (Musashi University)

Hiroshi Shoji (Minpaku)

Place: Auditorium of National Museum of Ethnology, first-come basis (450 seats)

Although attendance is free of charge, admission to the special and permanent exhibition is charged.

For the details, please contact Public Relations Section, National Museum of Ethnology

Phone: 06-6876-2151

◆ Events

◇ "Gallery Talk" on every weekend

◇ "Capoeira" April 18, 2004

◇ "San-Ta" April 25, 2004

◇ "Concert of Lee Jeongmi" May 9, 2004

◇ "Bailando Peru - Folklore Dance" May 23, 2004

◇ "Philippine Dance" May 30, 2004

◇ "Performance of the Saesparam Company" May 30, 2004

For the details, please contact Information Planning Section, National Museum of Ethnology. Phone: 06-6876-2151

※Please note that contents, date and hour of the above performances may be altered for certain reasons.

◆ **The Minpaku Associates Group Lecture**

Date: May 8, 2004

Lecture Title: Immigrants in Japan – people of Chinese descent

Lecturer: Chen Tien-shi (Minpaku)

For the details, please contact Senri Foundation Phone: 06-6877-8893