

# **Trainee System and Multicultural Society in Japan**

**Kento Watanabe, Yoshio Oh, and Alex Agopyan-Miu**

# Introduction

- Trainee System and Japan's Current Demographic Trends
- How to provide better environment for trainee
- What should Japan do to be a multicultural society.

# Japan's Demographics

- During 2004-2006 period Japan's annual population growth rate was recorded as negative.
- Fertility rates in all prefectures as of 2005 below replacement level of 2.1
- By 2050 the amount of persons aged 65 or over will increase by 20%

# Replacement Migration: Trainee System

1 (Lowest Score) - 5 (Highest Score)

Effectiveness: 2

Equity: 1

Social Cohesion: 3\* (More research needed)

Other Ethical Concerns: Immigration as a means to an end

# Points about the issues

## **Language & Communication**

- Difficulty in communicating with employer and Japanese coworkers
- Feel uneasy with the communication styles

- ## **Local Community**
- Feel isolated from the local community
  - Feel difficult to adapt to the local community

- ## **Personal Problems**
- Have no idea where and whom to consult with
  - Unfamiliar with Japanese culture and customs

### **Japanese Education**

- Japanese education in trainee faculty
- Focus on more practical Japanese
- Japanese culture & Japanese Custom



### **Community Development**

- Increase Japanese class in the local community
- Community & Association of foreigners



**Sense of Belonging**



### **Supportive Associations**

- Labor condition & issue
- Daily life
- Personal problems



**Japanese Government & Local Government  
Government Official & Local Community**



# Multi-Cultural Society 多文化共生社会

The society where people from different nationality and ethnicity admit the cultural difference and living as a member of a local community while pursuing an equal relationship.

(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication)

- Political Participation
- Japanese Language Education
- Cultural Pluralism / National Identity



# Political Participation

- Neighborhood council
- Youth association
- Women's association...

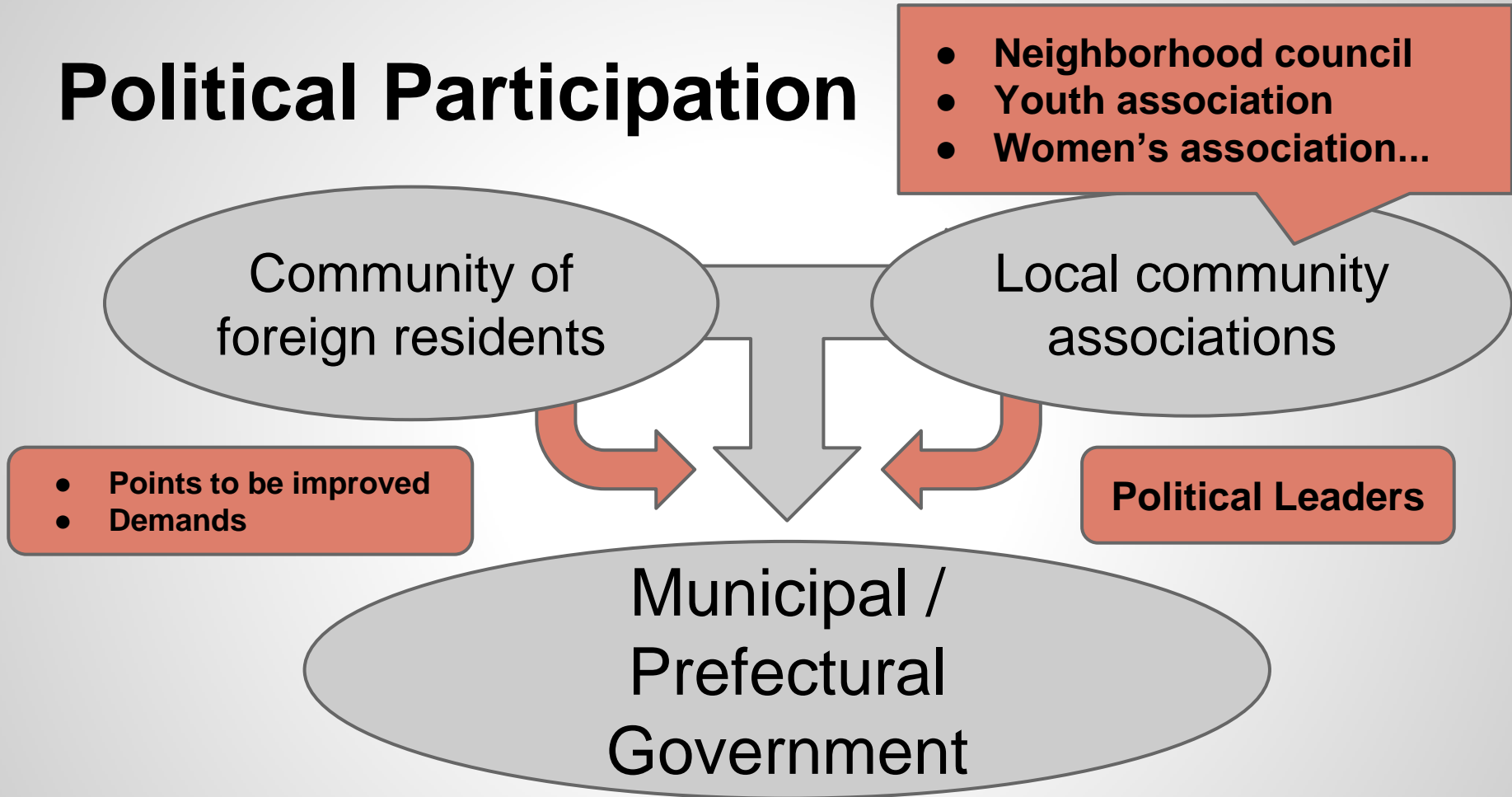
Community of  
foreign residents

Local community  
associations

- Points to be improved
- Demands

Political Leaders

Municipal /  
Prefectural  
Government



# Japanese Language Education

Increase the number of  
Japanese language  
teacher

Reduce the burden of the  
teachers

eg. People who  
don't have time to  
go to the class

Supporting system for  
underprivileged foreign  
residents

- Teaching Japanese
- Interpretation
- Paper work
- Other supports in daily life.

# Cultural Pluralism & Japanese Identity

## Internal Internationalization

