

[Preamble]

Higashiosaka City, which was designated a Core City by government ordinance in April 2005, has launched a new city development initiative. Higashiosaka City was formed in 1967 through the merger of three cities: Fuse, Kawachi and Hiraoka. Over nearly half a century since its inception, Higashiosaka has developed into a large city with a population of about 510,000. In the world, the globalization of economic activities, combined with advances in information technology, has increased the cross-border movement of people, goods and money. In the meantime, however, numerous global problems have emerged, such as widespread poverty, economic disparities and environmental destruction. Furthermore, international labor mobility has increased, and the interdependence between Japanese regional cities and other cities and countries around the world has become increasingly important and closer.

Having entered the 21st century, the economic and social situation has been rapidly changing in Japan and abroad. Taking such a situation into consideration, the City has reviewed its Internationalization Principles, which was formulated in 1992, and established new guidelines called the “Higashiosaka City Internationalization Promotion Policy.”

This new policy aims to build local communities where foreign residents of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds can live comfortably; to develop Higashiosaka’s reputation as a “Manufacturing City,” “City of Learning” and “City of Sports, History and Culture” by taking full advantage of social resources of the city; to contribute to opening a new age of multicultural coexistence by promoting interaction and cooperation with people in Asia and other parts of the world; and to promote peace and mutual trust among people around the world.

[1] Basic principles

With the aim of becoming “an international city in Asia, and in the world,” Higashiosaka City will exert its best efforts to promote internationalization, in accordance with the following three basic principles.

- 1. Strive to maintain peace and respect human rights, in close cooperation with the people in Asia and other parts of the world.**
- 2. Promote international cooperation and collaboration, taking advantage of the strength and characteristics of Higashiosaka—a Manufacturing City.**
- 3. Strive to create a multicultural society, where various cultures coexist.**

[2] Basic objectives

The basic objectives of the city’s internationalization promotion efforts are as follows:

1. To foster global citizens

No matter where we are, we all live on the same planet Earth. In reality, however, many people in the world suffer from poverty, discrimination or prejudice. The City will strive to promote internationalization efforts, so as to foster global citizens with a broad perspective and the recognition that all individuals are equal as human beings on Earth.

2. To promote the social participation of foreign national residents, based on the recognition that they are members of local communities

The City will strive to create a mechanism conducive to increased social participation of ethnic minorities (including foreign nationals), without them suffering social discrimination on grounds of nationality, race or creed.

3. To promote international cooperation and exchange by making full use of the knowledge and technologies of Higashiosaka, a “Manufacturing City”

The City will strive to promote technological and production cooperation with Asian and other countries, by making full use of the competitive advantages and characteristics of Higashiosaka, where many small and medium-sized enterprises are concentrated that boast traditional processing techniques and world-leading cutting-edge technologies. As part of such efforts, the City will actively accept technical trainees from overseas and dispatch technical experts overseas, as well as develop a system that responds to the growing globalization of the economy.

4. To pursue efforts to make Higashiosaka a City of Learning, with the aims of promoting cross-cultural understanding among city residents and developing internationally-minded human resources who can play active roles in international society.

The City will strive to encourage residents to develop, through school education and lifelong learning programs, a sense of pride in local culture, by maximizing local resources, including sports, historical, cultural and human resources.

5. To promote collaboration, through an equal partnership, among government, civic groups (NPOs etc.), educational institutions (universities etc.) and the business community, in order to achieve the basic principles and objectives

Higashiosaka City is committed to devoting its utmost efforts into achieving the above-stated objectives, thereby creating a multicultural society, in other words, a society where people of different nationalities and ethnicities can live as equals and according to their own values, while respecting each other's cultural differences and human rights.

[3] Basic measures

- 1. Develop a system within the city office for promoting internationalization efforts and activities, in order to implement the necessary measures comprehensively and systematically in line with the basic principles.**
- 2. Establish a platform for promoting greater collaboration among governmental organizations, citizens' groups such as NPOs, educational circles and the business community.**
- 3. Promote civic participation, collaboration among various sectors and global awareness and cross-cultural understanding among city residents, and improve access to information and consultation services in multiple languages.**
- 4. Promote an effective information collection and dissemination effort that responds to the needs of the era of information and communications technology (ICT) and consider creating a base for promoting cooperation and friendly relations with overseas countries.**

**Higashiosaka City Internationalization
Promotion Policy**

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