

# Proposals for Japanese Language Education for Foreign Workers

## Background & Problems

We tried to think about Japanese language education for foreign workers

Old system: The Technical intern Program (TITP)

New system: The Employment for Skill Development Program (ESDP)

### Features

- Aimed at workers who want to stay long term in Japan
- Japanese language tests are a new requirement for entry and promotions

❓ Do foreign workers have enough support to pass the tests?

We wondered if these changes would affect Japanese language education for foreign workers, so decided to explore ways to improve Japanese language education for foreign workers

### Research Question

“How can the Japanese language education system be improved to give foreign workers the skills they need for life in Japan?”

## Research method

- Interview with key stakeholders
- Literature review

### Hyogo International Association (HIA)

Target: 4 employees Date: 2024/8/26 Format: a face to face interview  
 -Public interest incorporated foundation that aims to promote of international exchange in Hyogo  
 -In charge of Japanese language education business  
 ->The new system will have little influence on their work because of they make a priority on everyday Japanese.

### Hanshin Metal Cooperative

Target: 2 employees Date: 2024/8/28 Format: a face to face interview  
 -Supervising organization that supports companies accepting the technical intern trainees  
 -Supports the technical intern trainees from arrival in Japan to return to their homeland  
 ->The new system will not lead to a burden on foreign workers in light of language learning.

“Population decline, Super-aging society and Inclusion of foreigners : Foreign workers, Japanese language education, Ethnic cultural succession”

Yoshitaka Kumatani, Akashi Shoten, 2022  
 -Explored the current situation and problems: how local communities can accept foreigners

### The Japan Foundation

Target: 3 employees Date: 2024/9/12 Format: online interview  
 -Incorporated administrative agency  
 -Supports Japanese language education activities both in Japan and overseas  
 ->CEFR A1 is a standard that can be passed without much effort.

### JFT-Basic

- A new test that is administered from 2019
- Can be taken almost every day and the results can be seen immediately
- By passing JFT-Basic foreign workers can become Specified Skill Workers

Test level we want to suggest

CEFR	JLPT	JFT-Basic
C1	N1	C1
B2	N2	B2
B1	N3	B1
A2	N4	A2
A1	N5	A1

	JLPT	JFT-Basic
Test start	1984	2019
Number of applicants in FY2023	1,480,000	107,000
Number of tests	Twice a year	Almost every day
Time until results are announced	About 2 months later	Immediately

※ Created with the information obtained with the interview of HIA

## Research method

## Findings

### Language Learning and Society

- Language learning is one of the key factors in foreigners' accomodation in Japan (Book)
- There are problems caused by foreigners' manners (Hanshin Metal Cooperative)
- It is important to learn manners in everyday life within the neighborhood (HIA)

### Problems in Japanese Classes

- Shortage of Japanese teachers in regional classes (HIA & The Japan Foundation)  
 →It is one of the reasons why Japanese classes cannot meet individual demand (HIA)
- Shortage of Japanese teachers because of increasing demand for Japanese language education overseas (The Japan Foundation)

### Learner's Motivation

- JFT-basic is more suitable for foreign workers than JLPT, and should be spread more in Japan (The Japan Foundation)
- Learners are not highly motivated to study because of lower necessity to communicate in manufacturing industry (Hanshin Metal Cooperative)

### What is needed?

- An opportunity to communicate locally  
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 Good for language learning
- An increase in certified teachers  
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 Classes for foreign workers
- The use of JFT-Basic  
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 Effective for improving the motivation

## Conclusion



The new system should not have a big influence on future Japanese language education for foreigners  
 However, there is still room for improvement in the current Japanese language education system

### Suggestions

1. Prepare more opportunities to interact with neighbors
2. Build recognition of JFT-Basic in Japan
3. Nurture more Japanese language teachers