

Provisional translation

The 2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons

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Ministerial Meeting Concerning
Measures Against Crime

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Introduction Establishment of the “2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons”

Trafficking in persons is serious human rights abuses and requires a prompt and appropriate response from a humanitarian perspective. This is because trafficking in persons causes serious psychological and physical suffering to its victims, and recovering from the damage is extremely difficult. In addition, trafficking in persons is a serious crime that often crosses borders, and the strengthening of prevention and countermeasures against trafficking in persons is an urgent and common issue that should be addressed by the international community.¹

Article 3 of the “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime” (hereinafter referred to as the “Trafficking in Persons Protocol”) defines trafficking in persons as follows

Article 3

- (a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;
- (b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;
- (c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;
- (d) “Child” shall mean any person under eighteen years of age;

The Japanese government has been working in unison to prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons, which causes serious psychological and physical suffering to these victims, and to protect them. Specifically, in April 2004, the government established an Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee

¹ For example, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also include the prohibition of trafficking in persons (Target 5.2), forced labour (Target 8.7), and exploitation of children (Target 16.2), and the G7 leaders’ communiqué this year also mentions the prevention of such trafficking.

regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons, and in December of the same year, the Committee drew up the “Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons.” In December 2009, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime² drew up the “2009 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons” and in December 2014, the “2014 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons” (hereinafter referred to as the “2014 Action Plan”). In addition, the Cabinet established a Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which is composed of relevant ministers and has held the council annually since 2015. The Government of Japan also concluded the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol in 2017 in order to strengthen Japan’s own initiatives and promote the international community’s united cooperation.

As a result of these initiatives, Japan’s measures against trafficking in persons have made steady progress and achieved certain results. However, trafficking in persons is highly latent, so it is necessary to bear in mind that not all victims can be recognized, and continue to work actively to recognize and protect victims, and to strongly promote the detection of perpetrators.

Proactive efforts to combat trafficking in persons with a view to strengthening the protection of human rights when accepting foreign nationals will contribute to the realization of a society in harmony with foreign nationals. These efforts will also—in light of the fact that women have made up the majority of victims of trafficking in persons protected in Japan to date—contribute to the eradication of violence against women and ultimately to the realization of a society in which all people can feel a sense of purpose in life.

The government has formulated a new “2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons,” which aims to eradicate trafficking in persons. This is because the 2014 Action Plan was formulated with a view to hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, which have already been completed, and also in light of the provisions of Article 9.1 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, in order to appropriately address the situation related to measures against trafficking in persons at this time, and further promote comprehensive and integrated government-wide measures against it.

The latest Action Plan will promote measures against trafficking in persons in accordance with the definition of “trafficking in persons” specified in Article 3 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

² In September 2003, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime was founded as a meeting consisting of all the ministers under the sponsorship of the Prime Minister, to generally and actively promote effective and appropriate measures for reviving “Japan, the safest country in the world.” In December 2014, the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons was put under the Ministerial Meeting.

concluded in 2017, in close collaboration with the relevant government agencies, and in cooperation with foreign countries' relevant government agencies, international organizations and NGOs, etc. The Action Plan also calls for the Council for the Promotion of Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons and prepare and publish an annual report on trafficking in persons, through which the Committee will constantly check the implementation status of various measures and verify their effectiveness.

1. Thorough assessment of the current situation of trafficking in persons

To carry out measures against trafficking in persons effectively, it is essential to understand the situation thoroughly. Keeping in mind the increasingly sophisticated means of trafficking in persons and changing circumstances, it is necessary for the relevant administrative agencies to carefully analyze the actual situation of trafficking in persons cases that they handle, and to share information among themselves. In addition, because trafficking in persons is committed across borders, it is also important to make efforts in cooperation with the international society.

(1) Assessment and analysis of the cases of trafficking in persons

The police will endeavor to assess and analyze the cases of trafficking in persons through their activities, such as on-the-spot inspections of adult entertainment businesses and control of trafficking crimes involving prostitution and adult entertainment-related crimes. When the Immigration Services Agency obtains information on victims and perpetrators of trafficking in persons through various procedures, it is registered in a database of trafficking in persons cases, which helps to understand their actual situation.

The relevant government agencies will share the information gained through their efforts and the information received from foreign embassies in Tokyo, NGOs, lawyers and others to understand and analyze the working conditions of non-Japanese women and workers, cases of trafficking in persons, and the current situation of broker organizations in Japan and abroad.

To protect and support victims and arrest suspects, the Government of Japan will share information by effectively using contact points established among the relevant government agencies, embassies in Tokyo, international organizations, NGOs and others concerning cases of trafficking in persons.

The police will endeavor to identify child victims, including those who may get involved in trafficking in persons, through surveys on the actual status of businesses focusing on the sex of children.

The police will also investigate cases that may be related to trafficking in persons, such as suspected detention of passports of foreign workers.

(2) Sharing information with foreign governments and related institutions

The Government of Japan will send a government delegation consisting of officials from ministries and agencies related to measures against trafficking in persons to countries that send a large number of victims of trafficking in persons to Japan and to countries that are implementing various measures related to trafficking in persons. The government will then endeavor to understand the actual situation and to exchange information with their governments and relevant

organizations, and to establish cooperative relationships with them concerning the prevention of trafficking in persons and the protection of victims. The Government of Japan will continue to implement these initiatives to achieve a broad understanding of the actual situation and information exchange.

2. Prevention of trafficking in persons

Because trafficking in persons causes serious mental and physical pain to victims, and because recovery from such damage is very difficult, it is most important to prevent the occurrence of damage first of all.

To this end, it is important to promote various public relations and awareness-raising activities (see also 6 (2), etc.), to educate people on the demand side of trafficking in persons, and to properly enforce related laws and regulations including control (see also 4, etc.), and the like. In particular, it is necessary to properly manage immigration and residency for foreign nationals and endeavor to prevent illegal employment related to adult entertainment businesses and sex-related amusement special businesses. In addition, when undertaking the Technical Intern Training Program and accepting foreign nationals, appropriate management must be carried out so that systems related to foreigners' work cannot be abused for trafficking in persons.

(1) Prevention of trafficking in persons by thorough immigration control

(i) Thoroughly strict immigration control

Efforts will be made to prevent traffickers from entering Japan and protect the victims. For example, if the purpose of a foreigner's entering Japan is doubtful, the foreigner will be handed over to a special inquiry officer for a hearing to examine the foreigner carefully. It is necessary not only to carry out immigration examinations thoroughly but also to utilize the databases on trafficking in persons cases, the advance passenger information (API), and the passenger name records (PNR) prepared by each airline for the reservation of air tickets. In addition, efforts will be made to strengthen the system of patrol activities by immigration control officers in direct transit areas at airports and vigilance activities in port areas, and to strengthen cooperation with airlines and other relevant parties in order to monitor and detect suspicious activities such as stowaways and the delivery of forged and altered passports from brokers.

(ii) Strict examination of visas

To cope with cases of sophisticated visa application fraud (including false marriages and impersonation), and to deal with visa applications by persons suspected to be victims, the Government of Japan will conduct individual interviews and strive to prevent trafficking in persons

through rigorous screening.

In addition, if a former victim of trafficking applies for a visa to revisit Japan, careful examination will be carried out to prevent the applicant from being victimized again.

(iii) Improvement of the wide-area visa network

As one of the border control measures, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to improve the information and telecommunications network with overseas diplomatic establishments and the relevant government agencies in order to promptly share information on visa applications by latent victims and to prevent trafficking in persons.

(iv) Strengthening of measures against forged documents

The Government of Japan will make effort to develop advanced anti-falsification technology passports in order to prevent the use of forged documents such as fake passports as a means for victims of human trafficking to enter Japan. In addition, the Forged Documents Control Office established in each of the Narita, Haneda, Kansai, and Chubu Airports, which the majority of those entering or departing from Japan use, will take the lead in strictly inspecting documents suspected of having been forged and providing training to airport and seaport staff concerning the inspection of forged documents in order to improve their inspection techniques, including the effective use of inspection equipment.

(2) Prevention of trafficking in persons through thorough residence management

(i) Prevention of trafficking in persons involving disguised or illegal stays through strict residence management

Trafficking in persons involving disguised or illegal stays will be prevented through strict residence management. In addition, to contribute to the control disguised or illegal stay cases, such as false marriages, and brokers and other perpetrators engaged in such cases, the police, the Immigration Services Agency, and other relevant administrative agencies will strengthen their cooperation by promoting the exchange of information among them, and collect various types of information and analyze such information in order to accurately grasp the status of foreign residents and their working conditions. They will also continue employing the cross-cutting frameworks that have been built up to date to deal with the globalization of crime, as well as the systems for the comprehensive promotion of countermeasures against criminal infrastructure that is used as means of illegal residents' living or disguising of qualifications and identities. When they become aware of such cases of disguised or illegal stay, they will cooperate with each other to actively enforce the law and ensure that offenses of people trafficking are uncovered and victims are protected.

(ii) Strict control of illegal employment

The police, the Immigration Services Agency, the Labour Standards Inspection Offices and other relevant administrative agencies will strengthen their cooperation to exchange information that is useful for the control of illegal employment. If a vicious employer or broker who forces trafficking victims to work illegally is found, the relevant administrative agencies will carry out active control in cooperation to uncover the trafficking cases and protect the victims. Especially, because many trafficking victims have been forced to work illegally for adult entertainment businesses or sex-related amusement special businesses, the control of illegal employment for such businesses will be strengthened.

In addition, as a countermeasure against the extremely sophisticated counterfeiting of residence cards, the relevant agencies will continue their efforts to prevent illegal employment. For this purpose, the authorities will distribute a residence card checker app that displays the information recorded in the IC chip in the residence card on a terminal and allows easy and reliable confirmation that the card is genuine.

(iii) Promotion of active public relations and raising awareness for the prevention of illegal employment

In order to ensure proper employment of foreign nationals and prevent illegal employment, the Immigration Services Agency had previously designated the month of June as the “Campaign Month for Measures against Illegal Employment of Foreign Nationals” in conjunction with the government-wide “Awareness Month for Foreign Workers”, and has been conducted public relations activities. From FY 2022, with the theme of “Month to Promote Proper Employment of Foreign Nationals for the Realization of an Inclusive Society”, the Agency will conduct educational activities for the public, companies employing foreign nationals, and related organizations, on points to keep in mind when recruiting foreign nationals and measures to prevent illegal employment.

The government also holds explanatory meetings and sends written requests to industry associations and other relevant parties regarding the prevention of illegal employment of foreigners, and also utilizes opportunities for various awareness-raising activities such as crime prevention classes attended by foreigners, in an effort to provide guidance and awareness for the prevention of illegal employment.

(3) Prevention of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation

(i) Further promotion of proper Technical Intern Training Program

In order to ensure a proper Technical Intern Training Program and to protect technical intern trainees, the government will conduct various types of training programs for officials in charge of

inspections. At the same time, based on the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees (Act No. 89 of November 28, 2016; hereinafter called the “Technical Intern Training Act”), the Organization for Technical Intern Training (OTIT) will conduct on-site inspections of supervising organizations and implementing organizations employers that provide training (implementing organizations) and makes recommendations for improvement when violations of laws and regulations are identified. The government will take resolute actions to make Technical Intern Training Program even more proper. For example, if a supervising organization commits a malicious violation of laws and regulations, the competent ministers will take administrative dispositions, such as invalidating its license.

In light of the increasing number of consultations from trainees, the OTIT has established a “Technical Intern Training SOS/ Emergency Consultation Desk” to further protect them. Through this contact points, the OTIT will quickly identify cases that require urgent action, such as assaults and threats, and provide temporary protection for trainees and conduct on-site inspections of implementing organizations. Furthermore, especially to promptly identify and respond to human rights abuse cases, when a supervising organization becomes aware of an act of human rights abuse, it will promptly protect the technical intern trainees involved, conduct an extraordinary audit quickly and surely, and immediately inform the OTIT of the summary of the audit. In addition, if necessary, such as when a supervising organization is unable to adequately fulfill its obligation to protect trainees, the OTIT will provide protection for the trainees and support for changing the training sites.

From April 2022, with a view to further protecting trainees, the OTIT established a system to promptly identify emergency response cases of assault, threats, and other human rights abuses, offer temporary protection to trainees and conduct on-site inspections of implementing organizations in an integrated manner. The system is centered on the Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, and Hiroshima offices, which have jurisdiction over implementing organizations where many trainees are enrolled.

The government will also take various steps to reduce the disappearance of trainees through steadily implementing the improvement measures presented by the project team on the operation of Technical Intern Training Program compiled in March 2019 and further improvement measures presented in November 2019. Specifically, the government will improve an initial response in the event of a disappearance or death, strengthen on-site inspections of implementing organizations and supervising organizations by focusing on the rate of disappearance of trainees, and ensure that the support system for trainees is well known.

Prompt and effective on-site inspections will continue to be carried out. For this purpose, the Immigration Services Agency and OTIT will coordinate information; Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and Offices will conduct investigations of supervising organizations and

implementing organizations in cooperation with the OTIT as necessary; and prefectural police and the OTIT will work to steadily identify cases of suspected violations of the Technical Intern Training Act through the mutual reporting system.

Moreover, Article 2 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Technical Intern Training Act states that the provisions of the law shall be reviewed when deemed necessary. In addition, Article 18 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice (Act No. 102 of 2018; hereinafter called the “Amended Immigration Control Act”) also stipulates that the relationship with the Technical Intern Training Program shall be included in the consideration of the ideal form of the Specified Skilled Worker System.

From February to July 2022, the Ministry of Justice held a “Minister of Justice Study Session on the Specified Skilled Worker System and Technical Intern Training Program” to identify issues and discussion points. On November 22 of the same year, the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” decided to hold meetings of an “Advisory Panel of Experts for the Ideal Form of the Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System.” In line with this, the entire government will continue to comprehensively review the programs, taking into account the opinions of various persons concerned.

(ii) Provision of relevant information such as legal protection for technical intern trainees

The government will inform technical intern trainees and other relevant parties of the latest relevant laws and regulations, where to report violations of laws and regulations, application procedures, and consultation services in their native languages through the website of OTIT, social media, and the app of “Technical Intern Trainee Handbook.” The government will also disseminate the updated and accurate information through embassies in Tokyo and governments of sending countries.

The government will create an environment where trainees can seek support or advice easily. If trainees become difficult to but wish to continue their training and cannot obtain the cooperation of their supervising organization, they can receive support from OTIT for changing their training sites. The government will indicate specific cases in which this support is available for trainees. In addition, the government will prepare and widely distribute the leaflets on the prohibition of disadvantageous treatment of trainees due to pregnancy or childbirth.

Immigration officers at ports will steadily confirm whether or not the trainees who are leaving Japan before completing their training are not being forced to return against their will with the “Confirmation of Intention to Leave Japan for Technical Intern Trainees” prepared in their native language, thereby preventing the so-called forced return. In addition, the government will further make sure trainees are informed of the fact that if trainees are forced to return against their will,

they can consult with or report to the OTIT, and they can also report to an immigration officer at the time of departure procedures at ports.

(iii) Strict enforcement of labor standards-related laws and regulations

Labour Standards Inspection Agencies and other agencies will make efforts to prevent violations of labor standard-related laws and regulations and trafficking in person-related crimes by informing and educating organizations providing technical intern training about labor standard-related laws and regulations, etc. Focused supervision and guidance will be given to organizations providing technical intern training that are suspected of violating labor standard-related laws and regulations. In cases where trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation is suspected, Labour Standards Inspection Agencies will conduct joint supervision and investigation with OTIT to clarify the facts and thereby eliminate trafficking in persons. Furthermore, the system will be strengthened to ensure the establishment of a law-abiding status.

(iv) Cooperation and collaboration with sending countries of technical intern trainees

Based on the memorandum of cooperation with 14 sending countries of technical intern trainees to eliminate sending organizations that engage in improper activities, such as collecting deposits and imposing penalties, Japan will share information and hold meeting on issues arising in both countries. If the Japanese side obtains information on an improper sending organization, the Japanese side will notify the country concerned and request necessary actions, including investigation, guidance, and revocation of its license. The Government of Japan will also take strict action against sending organizations that do not conform to the Technical Intern Training Act, such as suspending the acceptance of new trainees. The government will continue discussions with countries sending trainees without a memorandum of cooperation to promptly sign a memorandum of cooperation.

Meanwhile, it is pointed out that one of the reasons for disappearance of trainees is their economic problem, such as difficulties in recovering the cost to enter Japan. The government will thus conduct proactive information providing and awareness-raising activities for trainees and candidates for trainees before coming to Japan to prevent their disappearance with, for example, the videos in their native languages that explain the purpose of the program and places for consultation.

(v) Optimization of the Specified Skilled Worker System

The government will discourage intervention by malicious intermediary businesses that take advantage of the lack of knowledge of foreign candidates in the Specified Skilled Worker System by disseminating and publicizing information on the system (operating a special website and

releasing publicity videos) in the local languages of major sending countries to potential specified skilled worker candidates.

In the construction field, in addition to cross-industry standards, the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism has set standards for accepting organizations (host companies) based on the characteristics of the construction field. The standards require companies that accept specified skilled workers to provide a wage level equal to or higher than that of Japanese nationals, a monthly salary system, and salary increases commensurate with skill development. The standards also stipulate that the Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism will certify worker acceptance plans of accepting organization, and through such measures as checking through patrolling guidance, efforts are made to ensure a proper working environment for foreign skilled workers.

Japan will strictly examine specified skilled worker contracts under the Specified Skilled Worker System, as well as the standards to be met by accepting organizations and registered support organizations, with the aim of detecting possible signs and symptoms of trafficking in persons. It will also strive to prevent malicious intermediaries and host companies from entering the system through a mechanism to eliminate accepting organizations, etc. that do not meet the standards.

The Government of Japan is required by Article 18 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Amended Immigration Control Act to consider the ideal form of the Specified Skilled Worker System, including its relationship with the Technical Intern Training Program. From February to July 2022, the Ministry of Justice held a “Minister of Justice Study Session on the Specified Skilled Worker System and Technical Intern Training Program” to identify issues and discussion points. On November 22 of the same year, the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” decided to hold meetings of an “Advisory Panel of Experts for the Ideal Form of the Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System.” In line with this, the entire government will continue to comprehensively review the programs, taking into account the opinions of various persons concerned.

(4) Prevention and relief of damage caused by appearing in sexually explicit video productions

The issue of damage from performing in sexually explicit video productions is serious human rights abuses that has a long-lasting negative impact on the victims’ physical, psychological and personal lives, and is a grave issue. On June 23, 2022, the Act on Special Provisions concerning Performance Contracts Contributing to the Prevention of Harm Associated with Performing in Sexually Explicit Video Productions and to the Remedy of Harm to Performers, thereby Contributing to the Formation of a Society in which the Sexual Dignity of Individuals is Respected

(Act No. 78 of 2022) was enacted. Accordingly, the Government of Japan will prevent damage from appearing in sexually explicit video productions and provide relief to those who have appeared in such materials. Specifically, it will strive to strengthen the consultation system of the One-Stop Support Center for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence, to promote publicity and awareness for the prevention of damage, and to control violations of the Act.

(5) Consideration of tougher penalties to prevent trafficking in persons

In order to further prevent trafficking in persons in which children are victims, the Government of Japan will consider the possibility of imposing heavier penalties for the relevant provisions of the Child Welfare Act (Act No. 164 of 1947), one of a relevant laws of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

(6) Efforts in regard to programs aimed at greater participation of foreign nationals

The Government of Japan will endeavor to appropriately operate the program to accept “foreign nationals conducting housekeeping services” in National Strategic Special Zones.

(7) Efforts to reduce the demand for trafficking in persons

(i) Raising awareness of the demand side for sexual exploitation

Many victims of trafficking in persons are sexually exploited through prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. The Government of Japan will promote awareness raising to reduce the demand for sexual exploitation by creating awareness-raising media and actively publicizing it through traffic advertisements, SNS, and other public relations media.

In accordance with the “2022 Basic Plan on Measure against Child Sexual Exploitation,” the Government of Japan will promote awareness raising to reduce the demand for child sexual exploitation by displaying posters to inform that child prostitution and other child sexual abuse are malicious crimes that violate the human rights of children. In addition to the said countermeasure, the police will promote efforts to post messages to alert the public when cyber patrols find inappropriate posts that may lead to child sexual abuse.

(ii) Raising awareness of employers

Japan is putting effort into publicity and awareness-raising among employers, etc. through activities that include site inspections of places of adult entertainment business facilities etc., as well as through opportunities for management training, etc. in accordance with the Act on Control and Improvement of Amusement Business (Act No. 122 of 1948). These activities are intended to raise awareness related to trafficking in persons, to promote understanding of and compliance with laws and regulations governing trafficking in persons, and to prevent complicity in trafficking in

persons.

Activities to prevent disappearances are being implemented with cooperation among the Immigration Services Agency and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare that have jurisdiction over the Technical Intern Training Program, and other ministries and agencies that have jurisdiction over industries where many workers have disappeared.

Information on measures against trafficking in persons will be disseminated to industries that accept foreign nationals through the industry technical intern training business councils, Specified Skilled Worker Councils by field and other opportunities in relation to the Specified Skilled Worker System.

3. Promotion of identification of trafficking victims

Because trafficking in persons is a highly latent crime, it is not easy to find the victims. In addition, it has been pointed out that some victims have not recognized themselves as being victimized or needing rescue. To arrest and eradicate traffickers and to protect trafficking victims, it is first of all necessary to identify the victims without fail.

For this purpose, it is necessary to further improve the environment in which victims can easily report their trafficking problems, including through the use of various means of publicity, while ensuring that those working on measures to combat trafficking in persons recognize victims and respond to their complaints in foreign languages.

(1) Promotion of efforts based on “Measures for Identification of Victims”

At an Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons in June 2010, the relevant ministries and agencies agreed on “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Identification of Victims).” Based on this and in order to ensure that no case of suspected trafficking in persons is overlooked by any relevant organizations, when a victim of trafficking in persons or a person concerned requests consultation or protection, the relevant ministries and agencies will respond proactively by promptly notifying or contacting the relevant organization as necessary, keeping in mind the protection of such persons and taking appropriate measures to recognize the victim.

When OTIT becomes aware of a case where trafficking in persons is suspected, such as where technical intern trainees are forced to work in a situation where they have no choice but to comply due to violence against them or confiscation removal of their passports by their employer, OTIT will share the case with Labour Standards Inspection Agencies and other relevant parties, and if necessary, in cooperation with Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and Offices, conduct a joint investigation of the employer.

Various contact points of relevant organizations that receive consultations, damage reports, and reports from women, children, and foreign nationals who have been sexually or labour exploited will cooperate with each other after understanding the roles and responses of each contact point, and strive to respond appropriately to each case, so that cases of suspected trafficking in persons will not be overlooked. These contact points include police contact points such as the Police Consultation Line (#9110) and anonymous reporting hotline; Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, District Immigration Services and Offices and consulting counters at Immigration Information Centers; consultation services for human rights protection; consultation services for technical intern trainees at OTIT; Labour Standards Inspection Offices; women's consulting offices and child guidance centers.

Consultations will be conducted in the native language as much as possible, and efforts will be made to create an environment in which those who come for consultation feel they can easily seek advice, for example, they can consult with a staff member of the same gender, if they want to.

(2) Informing potential victims of agencies to which they can report the crime and the measures to protect them

Posters and leaflets will be prepared in multiple languages in order to encourage potential victims to report the crime, and will be posted in places of examination of landing, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and Offices, food shops for foreigners, and other places conspicuous to trafficking victims. This will be helpful for informing potential victims who do not acknowledge that they are being victimized or are unable to report the crime of the agencies to which they can make a report or consult with. In addition, the government will make efforts to publicize victim protection measures, encourage victims to report victimization, and use various opportunities such as events and training to widely disseminate the contents of the said leaflet to the public to raise their interest in trafficking in persons and to encourage them to provide information.

The government will also make efforts for technical intern trainees. For example, the government will disseminate the information on the Technical Intern Training SOS/Emergency Consultation Desk, a dedicated consultation service for urgent cases such as assaults and threats established under the "Native Language Consultation Hotline," by using the Technical Intern Trainee Handbook, which all trainees receive when entering Japan, the app format of this handbook, and OTIT'S website.

(3) Strengthening of consultation in foreign languages

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, provide consultation on human rights issues, including trafficking in persons, in person, by telephone and via the Internet at the Legal Affairs Bureaus across the country. The Bureaus have just made it possible to respond to consultation in 82 languages at all times in person and in 10 languages at all times by telephone and via the Internet. They will continue to respond appropriately so that foreign nationals in Japan can consult in their

native language as much as possible.

The Immigration Services Agency will provide information to foreign nationals and related persons on immigration related procedures and give guidance on how to fill out necessary documents in multiple languages at a uniform nationwide number (0570-013904 (IP, overseas 03-5796-7112)). At the same time, counselors will be assigned to Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and District Immigration Services Offices (excluding airport offices) to provide consultation to visitors.

Prefectural police departments have a “three-way call system” in which a caller, communications command center staff, and interpretation center staff communicate with each other so that they can respond promptly and accurately to 110 calls (110 is the emergency number in Japan) from foreigners. The police departments will promote further utilization of the system. In order to respond to urgent appeals from foreigners at the scene of an incident or accident, prefectural police departments will also make use of devices and materials with multilingual translation capabilities, assign personnel who can respond in foreign languages, and provide language and other training programs to their personnel.

OTIT provides “native language consultations” for technical intern trainees in eight languages on set days of the week by telephone and e-mail, and also provides consultation services at regional and branch offices, either by telephone or in person. OTIT will handle each trainee’s complaint with care.

(4) Cooperation with foreign embassies in Tokyo

Some foreign victims of trafficking in persons consult with the embassy of their home country in Tokyo. The Government of Japan will send leaflets and other materials on Japan’s measures against trafficking in persons to these embassies in Tokyo, request for the dissemination of information to their own citizens, and provide information on contact points of relevant Japanese organizations, to encourage cooperation with relevant Japanese organizations when such victims are identified.

(5) Promotion of raising awareness of potential victims to trafficking in persons through overseas diplomatic establishments

The government of Japan will raise awareness of potential victims on the risk of trafficking in persons when they leave for Japan from countries which have many victims of trafficking. Moreover, to make it easier for them to report the crime after entering Japan, leaflets for victims will be distributed through the Japanese overseas diplomatic establishments, local government agencies, and other relevant parties in such countries.

In addition, leaflets will be distributed to visa applicants interviewed at an overseas diplomatic establishment during the process of visa examination. If overseas diplomatic establishments receive a visa application and issue a visa through accredited agencies, the agencies will be requested to cooperate in bringing the matter to the attention of latent trafficking victims.

4. Eradication of trafficking in persons

To eradicate trafficking in persons, it is necessary to exclude traffickers through the control of trafficking in persons and carry out effective measures by clarifying the actual situation. It is also necessary to actively deal with related cases where trafficking in persons does not seem to be committed, but may exist latently, in order to discover human trafficking cases.

(1) Thorough control

(i) Strengthening of cooperation among relevant administrative agencies by the Law

Enforcement Task Force against Trafficking in Persons

The Law Enforcement Task Force against Trafficking in Persons, which was established in 2014 and consists of the Cabinet Secretariat, the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, the Immigration Services Agency, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Japan Coast Guard, will strengthen the communication system between the departments in charge of trafficking in persons at the prefectural level, and share information about human trafficking cases and actively control specific problematic cases through the cooperation of relevant government offices.

(ii) Thorough control of trafficking in persons by use of the Handbook on Measures against Trafficking in Persons

The staff of the police, the Immigration Services Agency, the Public Prosecutors Office, the Labour Standards Inspection Office, and the Japan Coast Guard will share information on cases that may fall under trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual or labour exploitation and cases of potential trafficking in persons, effectively using the “Handbook on Measures against Trafficking in Persons,” which was revised by the above-mentioned task force in 2022 and in which the laws and regulations applicable to trafficking in persons, concrete cases of application, etc. are put together. If such a case is found, they will closely cooperate with each other as necessary for thorough control and to impose strict punishments on traffickers.

(iii) Thorough control of prostitution

Strict control will be exerted over offenses related to trafficking in persons, such as prostitution and adult entertainment offenses to find any trafficking in persons cases, and efforts will be made to impose strict punishments on offenders related to trafficking in persons.

(iv) Strict response to sexual exploitation of children

Based on the amendment of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child

Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children (Act No. 52 of 1999) amended in June 2014, the Government of Japan will actively and thoroughly enforce appropriate controls on violations of the said Act, including the application of the provisions for punishment of crimes committed outside Japan, in order to uncover offenses of people trafficking and to impose strict punishments on perpetrators of offenses of trafficking in persons.

(v) Thorough control of vicious employers and brokers

Efforts will be made to enforce relevant laws and regulations without fail, including the Act on Control and Improvement of Amusement Business, etc., the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Cabinet Order No. 319 of 1951), and the Labor Standards Act (Act No. 49 of 1947). If an act that seems to fall under trafficking in persons is found, the relevant administrative agencies will closely cooperate with each other to crack down on trafficking in persons and related offenses, taking into consideration the arrest of malicious employers involved in illegal employment, brokers involved in disguised and illegal stays, and other parties. In this case, efforts will be made to impose strict punishments on offenders of trafficking in persons and related offenses, including the deprivation of crime proceeds.

(vi) Thorough control of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation of technical intern trainees, etc.

Prefectural Labour Bureaus newly assigned officials in charge of countermeasures against trafficking in persons, and they will take the lead in uncovering cases of suspected trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation, based on various pieces of information, including consultations from technical intern trainees, etc., information from OTIT, and information obtained in the course of supervision and guidance. Labour Standards Inspection Agencies will send to the prosecuting agency serious and malicious cases suspected of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation against technical intern trainees, etc., out of the cases in which a violation of labor standard-related laws and regulations is found.

The government prohibits the act that may result in trafficking in persons such as confiscating the passports and other identification documents from foreign nationals who have the status of residence of technical intern trainees or specified skilled workers. If OTIT, any Regional Immigration Services Bureau or Office, or other relevant authority becomes aware of such a case and the case is found out to contain a malicious violation of the Technical Intern Training Act, the competent ministers or other authority will implement administrative penalties, such as revoking the accreditation of the training plan or invalidating the license of the supervising organization, and making public the details of the penalties. With regard to specified skilled foreign nationals, the authorities will take appropriate measures such as suspending the acceptance of specified skilled

foreign nationals by the employing company and other parties involved.

(2) Crime control across borders

(i) Strengthening of cooperation with relevant foreign organizations

If necessary, the National Police Agency will exchange information on crime related to trafficking in persons, child prostitution, and child pornography through the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO) with investigative organizations in countries of origin from which victims of trafficking in persons came or countries where Japanese nationals are suspected of committing child prostitution. The National Police Agency will hold Specialist Group Meeting on Child Sexual Exploitation for relevant domestic agencies, foreign investigative agencies, and embassies in Tokyo that are working on the issue, and introduce their respective initiatives and share information and knowledge at the seminars to strengthen cooperation among them.

When a human trafficking case involving Japanese nationals occurs abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will respond to the local authorities and the concerned individual, and provide information to the National Police Agency.

(ii) Enhancement of international mutual legal assistance

When a foreign authority requests Japan to provide mutual legal assistance based on international comity or a relevant agreement such as a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters in prosecuting a Japanese national involved in a human trafficking case in that foreign country, such as child prostitution or a crime related to child pornography, Japan will promptly and appropriately provide assistance pursuant to relevant domestic laws, such as the Act on International Assistance in Investigation and Other Related Matters (Act No. 69 of 1980). Among others, consideration will be given to concluding a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters with countries with which Japan frequently provides and receives request for assistance.

5. Protection and support of trafficking victims

Because trafficking victims might have suffered great psychological or physical damage, it is first of all necessary to secure their safety and take supportive measures based on their feelings and their position. In addition, effective measures will be taken through the utilization of existing support systems for victims of crime, women, children, and foreigners so that every victim can be covered by protective and supportive measures.

(1) Promotion of efforts based on “Measures for Protection of Victims”

Relevant administrative agencies will mutually cooperate to properly carry out the measures for protection of victims pursuant to the “Methods to Deal with Trafficking in Persons (Measures for Protection of Victims)” agreed at the Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons in July 2011.

The government will inform victims of trafficking in persons of protection services. If victims are non-Japanese, in particular, the government will fully inform them of legal procedures for special permission to stay in Japan. The government will also give due consideration to the position of foreign victims of trafficking in persons and, based on the victim’s wishes and other factors, seek to stabilize their legal status by extending their period of stay, changing their status of residence, or granting them special permission to stay in Japan. Furthermore, for victims who wish to stay in Japan or who are unable to return to their own country, the government will respect their wishes and, upon comprehensive consideration of their individual circumstances, grant them status of residence that allows them to work as needed.

(2) Strengthening of protection

With regard to the investigation and remedies carried out by the human rights organs of the Ministry of Justice, the system will be appropriately operated to provide temporary accommodation to victims of trafficking in persons, including men, as an emergency measure.

If a technical intern trainee who is considered to become unable to continue the training under the implementing organization properly and safely due to human rights abuse or other reason has the will to continue training, the supervising organization will support the trainee in transferring to a new implementing organization. If the supervising organization only gives insufficient support, it will be advised and instructed by OTIT. In cases where the supervising organization fails to provide necessary support, such as securing accommodation until restarting the training or where it is inappropriate for the supervising organization to provide support, OTIT will support the trainee by providing accommodation for a certain period as well as helping change the training sites.

(3) Provision of support to victims

(i) Raising awareness to support trafficking victims

Since all people, regardless of gender, can be victimized, all relevant administrative agencies will strive to improve the knowledge and awareness of the need to protect victims, and to respond to their wishes as much as possible.

(ii) Further improvement of temporary protection and assistance at women's consulting offices

Women's consulting offices will provide protection for female victims of trafficking in persons, ensuring their safety and providing psychological care that takes into consideration their physical and mental health conditions. For non-Japanese female victims, the Offices will work in coordination and cooperation with the embassies of the countries of origin, private organizations that provide support to foreigners, and related organizations such as the IOM, to provide detailed support by appropriately addressing language problems and differences in lifestyle and diet.

(iii) Enhancement of support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence, including the establishment of a system of One-Stop Support Centers

Based on the "Fifth Basic Plan for Gender Equality" (Cabinet decision on December 25, 2020) and the "Intensive Policy for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women 2022" (Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Shine and the Headquarters for the Promotion of Gender Equality decision on June 3, 2022) the Government of Japan will work to improve the support system and enhance support for victims of sexual crimes and sexual violence. Specifically, One-Stop Support Centers for Victims of Sexual Crimes and Sexual Violence (hereinafter called "One-Stop Support Centers"), which provide consultation immediately after the victimization, prescribe emergency contraceptives, medical assistance such as evidence collection, and psychological support in one place as much as possible so as to alleviate the physical and mental burden of victims. The government will improve the treatment of counselors at these Centers, promote 24-hour, 365-day service, and establish and operate a "Nighttime Holiday Call Center for Victims of Sexual Violence."

The government will promote awareness and publicity of the One-Stop Support Centers' nationwide abbreviated number (#8891, which can mean "immediate one-stop" in Japanese). The government will also improve the system for SNS consultation and support services (called "Cure time") to make it easier for young victims to use.

The government's ongoing support to reduce the psychological damage of child victims often requires expertise, so the police will establish a system whereby police personnel in charge of the

support can receive advice from experts outside the police as needed, such as by commissioning experts in clinical psychology, psychiatry, etc. in advance.

The police will properly operate the nationwide unified number “#8103,” the consultation hotline of the prefectural police, and further publicize the number to the public.

(iv) Provision of information to victims during the process of investigation

Efforts will be made to instruct victims plainly about the systems for protecting and supporting them, such as systems concerning compensation for damages, systems for protecting the victims of trafficking in persons or similar crimes, and the system whereby victims can be sheltered when they appear in court as a witness. For example, a pamphlet for crime victims entitled “For Victims of Crime” (in Japanese and English) explaining the systems simply will be prepared and handed to them during any interview with them.

(v) Provision of legal support to victims and popularization of legal support

The Japan Legal Support Center will refer victims of trafficking in persons in need of legal assistance to attorneys who are well-versed in assisting victims of crime. The Center will also publicize the fact that civil legal aid is available to victims who have an address in Japan, are legally residing in Japan, and meet certain requirements such as income, in order for them to file a claim for damages against the perpetrators. The Center will also provide information in multiple languages to inform the public that, when using the victim participation system in criminal proceedings, travel expenses for attending court appearances are covered, and that it is possible to request the selection of a court-appointed attorney at law for victim participation if certain requirements such as income are met, and will provide legal assistance in these areas.

(vi) Support for foreign victims’ voluntary repatriation and their social reintegration

In order to further facilitate the return of foreign victims who wish to return to their home countries, the Government of Japan will work to protect victims and support their return to their home countries while promoting close communication and cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), embassies of the victims’ countries of origin, women’s consulting offices, private shelters, and other relevant parties, and will continuously exchange information and maintain communication through various meetings, training, and daily operations. In addition, information exchange with the relevant countries will be promoted so that their embassies can promptly issue travel documents for returning to the home country.

By providing counseling expenses, airfare for return, and expenses to support social rehabilitation after their return (job training, medical expenses, etc.), the Government of Japan, through its contribution to the IOM, will provide optimal support for the smooth return of victims

protected in Japan and their reintegration into society and prevention of re-victimization, in cooperation with the embassies, governments, and NGOs of the victims' countries of origin.

6. Establishment of foundations for promotion of measures against trafficking in persons

To eradicate trafficking in persons, it is essential to increase people's awareness of the fact that "We do not tolerate trafficking in persons." The Government will cooperate with international society and take both integral and comprehensive measures. Moreover, if needed, the Government will reconsider the measures to be taken, checking the status of the relevant administrative agencies' efforts.

(1) Strengthening of cooperation with relevant countries and international organizations

Since most foreign victims of trafficking in persons identified in Japan are from Asia, cooperation on measures against trafficking in persons with Asian countries will be further strengthened through the following measures. In addition, enhancement of necessary cooperation will be considered, taking account of the situations of their home countries:

- (i) The Government of Japan will provide support to Southeast Asian countries through official development assistance (ODA) in such fields as education about trafficking in persons, care for victims, improvement of vocational ability, and improvement of law enforcement ability. When providing support to these countries, the Government of Japan will cooperate with international organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), JICA and NGOs, in order to reduce poverty which is one of the underlying factors behind trafficking in persons. In addition, cooperation will be given to these countries in their efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and to provide support to the victims.
- (ii) Fostering bilateral cooperation and information exchange frameworks, which makes it possible to exchange information appropriately, will be promoted with the victim's countries of origin.
- (iii) The sharing of information about measures against trafficking in persons will be strengthened further in the Asia-Pacific region through the Bali Process (process of follow-up the Ministerial Regional Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime in Bali).
- (iv) The Government of Japan will support the development of legal systems and strengthen

practical operation of Asian countries in the field of measures against trafficking in persons, and enhance the capabilities of their relevant agencies, through various types of training and information-sharing activities led by the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), and other international cooperation efforts led by Japan.

- (v) The Japan Coast Guard and JICA will jointly provide training for maritime law enforcement agencies and others in Asia on knowledge and skills necessary for maritime crime control, including measures against trafficking in persons.

(2) Acquisition of people's understanding and cooperation

(i) Further promotion of public relations and awareness activities

The Government of Japan will consider disseminating information by the following methods and carrying out public relations more effectively in order to widely share awareness of the problem through the provision of information to the people covering what trafficking in persons is, and the actual situation.

- (i) The relevant ministries and agencies will strengthen awareness-raising activities on trafficking in persons via the Internet and other means, including expansion of publicity measures.
- (ii) To prevent young people from being victimized by sexual violence such as pornography, “JK business” (teenage prostitution), and paid dating, the Government of Japan will effectively conduct awareness-raising activities using public relations media that can easily reach young people such as SNS, including the “Youth Sexual Violence Prevention Month” in April every year, and make consultation centers well known.
- (iii) The government will prepare posters, leaflets, and other materials in various languages calling for victims to report trafficking in persons, and post them in places easily seen by victims of trafficking in persons, such as landing port of entry, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, food stores for foreigners, embassies of major origin countries of foreign victims to Japan and Japanese embassies abroad. In this way, the government will inform potential victims who are unaware that they have been victimized or who are unable to report their victimization, of where they can report their situation and where they can seek advice in multiple languages.
- (iv) During the “Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign” from November 12th to 25th every

year, public relations campaigns will be carried out in cooperation with municipal governments and private organizations, etc. concerning the eradication of violence against women, including trafficking in persons. Taking into consideration the fact that the victims themselves may not recognize that they have been victimized and that it may be difficult for victims to reveal that they have been victimized, the Government of Japan will raise awareness of violence against women and foster a social norm that it is the perpetrators, not the victims, who are at fault and that violence cannot be forgiven.

- (v) In order to deepen public understanding of trafficking in persons, the National Police Agency will prepare materials on the main methods of trafficking in persons and post them on its website, as well as conduct publicity for the prevention of victims through SNS and other means.
- (vi) The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice have set “Stop Trafficking in Persons” and “Respect the Rights of Foreign Nationals” as priority targets of human rights awareness-raising activities, respectively, so as to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against trafficked persons and non-Japanese, and will continue to conduct various human rights awareness-raising activities such as distributing awareness-raising booklets.
- (vii) Commissioned by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the National Women’s Education Center will conduct training for government and private sector personnel involved in countermeasures against trafficking in persons in Thailand and other ASEAN countries to strengthen cooperation and countermeasures against trafficking in persons among these countries.
- (viii) To ensure that Japan’s efforts are properly communicated to the international community, the Government of Japan will post English translations of materials on the websites of the Cabinet Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and participate in international conferences related to countering trafficking in persons.

(ii) Efforts through school education

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will make efforts to promote education in order to develop respect for human rights through both school education and social education. In addition, in accordance with the National Curriculum Standards, the Ministry will promote education that emphasizes respect for one’s own and others’ life. The Ministry will also promote “Life safety education” to prevent children from becoming perpetrators, victims, or

bystanders of sexual violence. Specifically, the Ministry will promote initiatives aimed at helping children, at their stage of development, to learn the sanctity of life, correctly understand the misconceptions and behaviors that underlie sexual violence, as well as the effects of sexual violence, and acquire the idea of valuing life and an attitude of respect for themselves, their partners, and each and every person.

The Ministry will also promote awareness-raising activities that contribute to the prevention of sexual victimization, such as preparing leaflets on the prevention of sexual victimization of children through the use of the Internet and encouraging relevant institutions, organizations, and schools to make use of these leaflets.

(iii) Public-private cooperative efforts to eliminate sexual exploitation

The public and private sectors will work together to eliminate sexual exploitation, such as damage caused by appearing in pornographic materials, the “JK business,” and paid dating, and promote efforts to prevent damage and provide relief to victims.

(iv) Raising awareness of associations of small and medium-sized enterprises

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry holds the “Conference on Guidance for Training of Foreigners” in June every year in order to share information with associations of small and medium-sized enterprises (Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, National Federation of Small Business Associations, Central Federation of Societies of Commerce and Industry, and the National Federation of Shopping Center Promotion Associations). This information includes the proper implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program and the Government’s efforts for foreign workers, including measures against trafficking in persons in cooperation with the relevant government agencies in order to raise awareness of the issues relating foreign workers.

(v) Raising awareness of overseas travelers

The Travel Agency Act (Act No. 239 of 1952) prohibits the provision of services that violate laws and regulations, such as unsound travel, and such service providers will be guided through self-inspections by travel agencies and others and on-site inspections by the national and local governments. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has identified prostitution as a case in which Japanese nationals become “criminal offenders” and continues to warn the public not to be involved in these crimes overseas through the “Handbook of Safety Tips in Foreign Countries” for travelers abroad and the basic data on safety measures posted on its overseas safety website.

(3) Strengthening of the system for promoting measures against trafficking in persons

(i) Implementation of ministerial-level meetings

The Inter-Ministerial Liaison Committee regarding measures to combat trafficking in persons will hold meetings to promote measures to combat trafficking in persons.

(ii) Improvement of relevant administrative officers' knowledge and awareness

Technical and practical training in methods of identifying, protecting, and supporting trafficking victims will be provided to relevant officers so that they can acquire knowledge and skills necessary to promote measures for trafficking in persons and increase their awareness. For example, lecturers will be invited from administrative agencies related to trafficking in persons, the IOM and other relevant organizations, and NGOs.

Public prosecutors will be encouraged to improve their knowledge and awareness necessary to promote countermeasures against trafficking in persons. For this purpose, they will be given lectures on trafficking in persons through various training opportunities, and be informed of the need to respond proactively to trafficking in persons cases at various meetings where prosecutors from across the country gather, and share information about specific cases of trafficking in persons.

(iii) Promotion of cooperation and information exchange with relevant administrative agencies

The relevant ministries and local administrative agencies involved in trafficking in persons cases will exchange contact information of their respective trafficking in persons officers, hold liaison meetings at the regional level as needed to closely share information, and strengthen cooperation in the series of procedures from recognition to protection of victims.

The Immigration Services Agency, the National Police Agency, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare will exchange information smoothly and actively so as to strengthen strict control of illegal employment offenses as a measure against international organized crime such as trafficking in persons, in accordance with their agreed document concerning measures against illegal employment and other foreign nationals.

(vi) Cooperation with NGOs, the IOM, private companies, and other organizations

Exchange of opinions between relevant government agencies and NGOs will continue. In addition, cooperation with the IOM and other relevant organizations will be enhanced so that public and private sectors can promote measures for trafficking in persons in unity.

The relevant government agencies will promote public-private partnerships in combating trafficking in persons by strengthening cooperation with NGOs, the IOM, and other relevant organizations through such measures as holding contact point liaison meetings on trafficking in

persons.

Authorities will receive information from airlines about passengers who are suspected to be victims of trafficking in persons to prevent them from being trafficked.

(v) Producing an annual report on trafficking in persons

An annual report will be produced and issued to present Japan's efforts to counter trafficking in persons, such as the status of implementation of measures against trafficking in persons and crackdown on trafficking. In addition, the annual report will be explained to foreign embassies in Tokyo that are interested in Japan's current measures against trafficking in persons so as to widely demonstrate Japan's efforts to carry out measures against trafficking in persons.

Moreover, during the preparation of the annual report, the latest situation on trafficking in persons and the status of progress of each measure and its result will be checked and inspected. Whenever needed, the implementation of necessary additional measures will be considered and the action plan will be reviewed.