

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research



Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research

CENTER
FOR
MULTILINGUAL
MULTICULTURAL
EDUCATION
AND
RESEARCH

Finding solutions to societal problems arising from increased multilingualism and multiculturalism in Japan

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies is committed to fostering human resources that can function effectively abroad. Globalization is revealing problems in Japan caused by increased multilingualism and multiculturalism. In order to develop the high-quality human resources needed to respond efficiently to these problems, the university established the Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research in April 2006.

During the five years from FY2006 to 2010, we defined the direction of the center through the Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research Project, aiming to understand issues related to multilingualism and multiculturalism in Japan through three areas of activity: education, research and social partnership. The project highlighted the need for individuals capable of helping to find solutions to the current and emerging problems arising from increased multilingualism and multiculturalism in Japanese society.

During the five years from FY2011 to 2015, we plan to continue with our education, research and social partnership activities, and to move forward with the Multicultural Society Human Resources Training Project in cooperation with 27 other groups at the university that are engaged in educational research related to language and culture.



Director
Toru Aoyama



Commemorative Symposium Celebrating the
Center's Opening (July 8, 2006)

Overview of the Multicultural Society Human Resources Training Project

With education, research and social partnership as its pillars, this project aims to develop the type of professionals needed for a multicultural society. In terms of education, the center provides undergraduate level programs. In terms of research, the center promotes joint research by researchers and practitioners into issues faced by a multilingual and multicultural society. The aim of this research is to facilitate the development of curriculums for the training of specialists in this field, and the establishment of systems of certification. In terms of social partnership, the center offers social partnership programs that utilize the results of education and research projects to promote activities that contribute to society through continuing education for working individuals and support for foreign residents in Japan.

The table below identifies and provides brief job descriptions for professions that play an important supporting role in a multicultural society.

[Key Professions in a Multicultural Society]

Job Title	Job Description
Multicultural Society Coordinator	Problems that occur in a multilingual society extend over a wide range of fields that are intricately intertwined. By promoting participation and cooperation based on practical, multilingual and multicultural knowledge, multicultural society coordinators work as specialists to create new activities and systems for the resolution of problems that are prevalent in the community as a whole, not just problems faced by individuals.
Community Interpreter	Foreign residents in Japan can encounter problems in a wide range of situations, including during interactions with governmental, educational, medical, and legal institutions. Taking full advantage of their knowledge and understanding of multilingual and multicultural aspects of Japan, community interpreters use their interpreting and translation skills to serve as a bridge between people from a social or linguistic minority and the host society.
Japanese Education Instructors/Coordinators for Children and the Community	With a focus on children and the community, these instructors/coordinators run courses as part of the university's Japanese education curriculum with the aim of helping to develop professionals capable of contributing to Japan's multicultural society.

The Center's Three Core Activities



Background to the Establishment of the Center

Background

As a result of globalization, more and more countries are experiencing increased immigration. Japan is no exception. Approximately 2% of Japan's total population is made up of non-Japanese residents, which increases the multilingual and multicultural nature of its society. Along with the increase in the number of individuals settling down in Japan, various issues have come to light that require our urgent attention.

To address such issues, the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies established the Multicultural Community Learning Support Center in October 2004 to provide support by offering opportunities for students to apply what they have learned at the university through volunteer activities. Such volunteer activities have resulted in great achievements being realized with regard to the provision of learning support for foreign children living in Japan and the conducting of international understanding education in cooperation with the local community, the board of education, elementary schools and junior high schools. Today, the local government requests support from the office.

In order to fulfill its mission of fostering human resources, promoting research and contributing to society, the university established the Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research in 2006, with a firm understanding of the importance of finding solutions to the problems facing Japan's increasingly multilingual and multicultural society. In 2007, the Multicultural Community Learning Support Center was integrated into the center to offer support for students' voluntary activities.

The Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research aims to find solutions to the problems faced by a multilingual and multicultural society through three areas of activity: education, research and social partnership. The center hopes to help people with different languages, customs and cultures to live in peace together by proactively promoting the development of a multilingual and multicultural society that is free of discrimination, prejudice and exclusion.

History

- 2004: Multicultural Community Learning Support Center established [FY2004–2006]
Learning support for foreign children living in Japan implemented as a Support Program for Contemporary Educational Needs
- 2006: **Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research established** [FY2006–2010]
Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research Project launched
2007: Multicultural Community Learning Support Center integrated into the Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research
The following projects were conducted without using the Project's budget
FY2006–2008
Development of teaching tools for children from Brazil living in Japan (joint project with Mitsui & Co., Ltd.)
FY2007–2009
Multicultural Society Coordinator Training Program (project commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology)
(FY2011–2015 [present day])
Multicultural Society Human Resources Training Project



Learning support activities to help children with non-Japanese ethnicity



World Multilingual Multicultural Society Research Symposium

Comprehensive Multilingual Multicultural Program

In FY2012, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies began offering two new study programs: School of Language and Culture Studies and School of International and Area Studies. (See the diagram below.) The center offers the Comprehensive Multilingual Multicultural Program, a multifaceted program that studies Japan's increasingly multilingual and multicultural society, as part of the Global Liberal Arts Program and the Applied Language and Communication Studies. In the Global Liberal Arts Program, courses* are offered to

ensure that all students graduating from the university acquire general knowledge about the nature of a multilingual and multicultural society. The Applied Language and Communication Studies offers specialized subjects* that teach the basics of this course for the creation of a society that can be shared by members of different cultures.

*See "Content of Comprehensive Multilingual Multicultural Program" below.



Content of the Comprehensive Multilingual Multicultural Program

Global Liberal Arts Courses

- Multilingual Multicultural Society: Introduction I
- Multilingual Multicultural Society: Introduction II
- Theory of Multilingual Multicultural Society
- Multilingual Multicultural Society: Past and Present
- Multilingual Multicultural Society: Practical Training

Features:

- Classes in the above courses have the following features:
- Participatory-type learning to deepen student understanding
 - Guest lecturers active in the field of multicultural society
 - Service learning (acquiring practical learning through participation in community service)

Specialized Courses

- The Applied Language and Communication Studies in School of Language and Culture Studies are further sub-divided into the Community Interpreter and Multicultural Society Coordinator programs. These programs are offered in addition to courses in the Japanese Education for Children and the Community program that correspond to Japan's increasingly multilingual and multicultural society.
- Introduction to Applied Language and Communication Studies
 - Survey of Multicultural Society Coordination
 - Survey of Community Interpreting
 - Practical English
 - Practical Language (languages other than English)
 - Multicultural Society Coordinator Internship
 - Community Interpreter Internship
 - Multicultural Society Coordinator Seminar
 - Community Interpreter Seminar



Multilingual Multicultural Society: Introduction



Encouraging Student Volunteering (Volunteer Action Space)

The Tokyo University of Foreign Studies is the only national university that offers education in 27 different languages. Providing a place in which the characteristics of students studying the languages and cultures of the world can shine, the university encourages students to engage in volunteer activities that serve the community through Volunteer Action Space known as VOLAS (Research and Lecture Bldg. 206) managed by a volunteer coordinator.

In collaboration with nearby municipalities, the activity

center organizes learning support activities to help children with non-Japanese ethnicity and runs international understanding activities with students from abroad. The center also offers workshops such as the Introduction to Student Volunteering to encourage students to independently create and engage in volunteer activities and develop other new programs.



Introduction to Student Volunteering

Social Partnership

Multilingual Multicultural Society Human Resources Training Programs

With Japanese society becoming increasingly multilingual and multicultural, differences in language and culture can cause misunderstandings and friction, and problems can arise due to differences between the institutions of Japan and those of other countries. Given this, there is an urgent need to foster people who can deal with such problems. The center aims to respond to these needs by offering the Multicultural Society Coordinator Course and the Community Interpreter Course as Multilingual Multicultural Human Resources Training Programs at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Open Academy. (See the diagram on the right.)

■What is a Multicultural Society Coordinator?

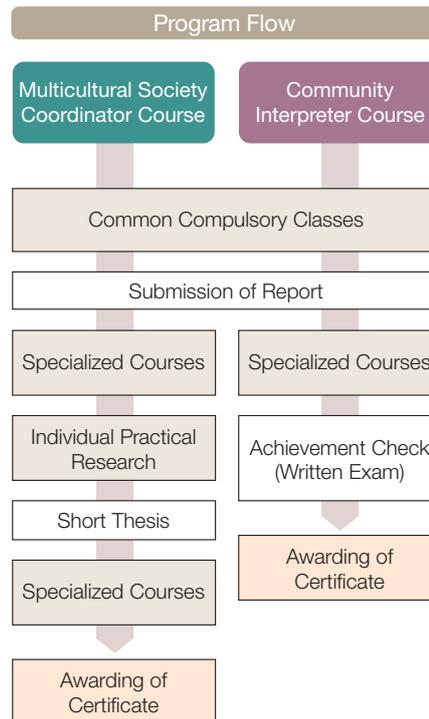
A multicultural society coordinator designs the process of Participation→Cooperation→Creation in order to communicate and sympathize with a diverse range of individuals and bring out practical solutions. It is a profession in which individuals create, develop and promote programs to realize a society where all people can live comfortably by overcoming differences in language and culture.

■What is a Community Interpreter?

A community interpreter is a professional that supports linguistic minorities through interpreting and translating, thereby acting as a bridge between the individuals and the host society.

Community Interpreter referral system

Students who complete the course can, if they wish, register as community interpreters and be referred to public entities, such as bar associations.



Language Volunteers

Staff, graduate students and alumni of the university are registered as language volunteers. These volunteers participate in activities coordinated by the Tokyo Supporting Network for Foreign Residents (such as the Professional Consultation for Foreign Residents service), a multilingual interpreting service, interpreting and translation for legal consultations brought to bar associations, and other activities involving public institutions.

Workshops are held with specialists active in their fields with the aim of building a nationwide network of Language Volunteers from the university.



Language Volunteer workshop



Legal consultation by telephone

Creation of Educational Materials for Children with Non-Japanese Ethnicity

A project begun in 2006 to develop educational materials for children from abroad that enables them to study core subjects and Japanese together.

The material, which can be downloaded for free, is posted on the Internet in Portuguese, Tagalog, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

URL for Educational Materials for Children with Non-Japanese Ethnicity:

http://www.tufs.ac.jp/blog/ts/g/cemmer/social_02.html



外国につながる子どもたちのための教材

検索

Multilingual Multicultural Society Human Resources Training Programs

The center's research program is designed to find solutions to problems arising in Japan's increasingly multilingual and multicultural society. The most prevalent feature of the program is the cooperation between the practitioners and researchers that brings their specialized knowledge to the table.

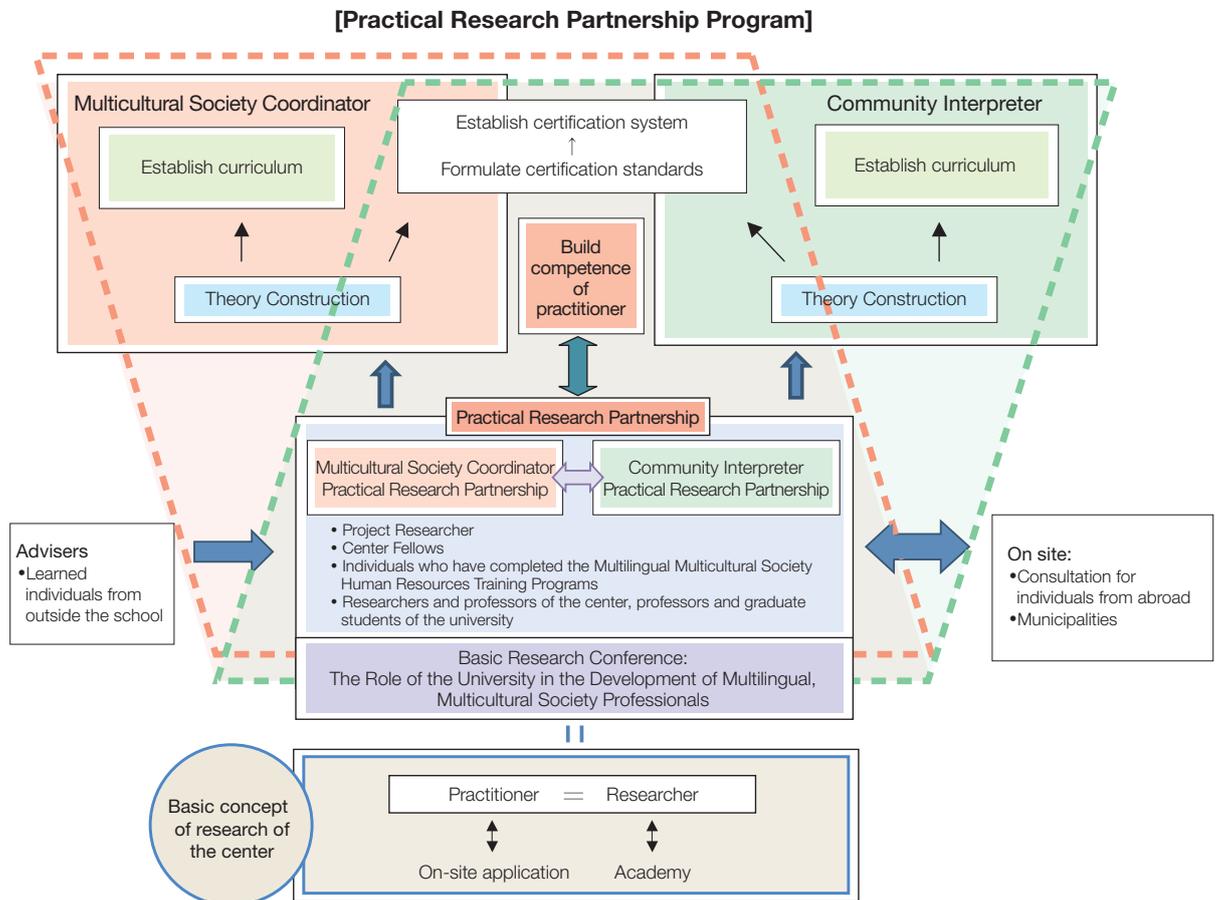
This program promotes:

1. Multicultural Society Coordinator Research
2. Community Interpreter Research
3. Basic Research: The Role of the University in the Development of Multilingual, Multicultural Society Professionals

The objective of the project is to foster multilingual, multicultural professionals working in the fields of multicultural society coordination, community interpreting, and Japanese education for

children and the community. Further development in the first two of these professions is expected. Directions are to be set for the training of multicultural society coordinators and community interpreters, as well as preparation of curriculums for their training programs. The center aims to establish certification standards and systems for these two professions.

As basic research supporting the development of the two professions, the center will move forward with research on the role of the university in the development of multilingual, multicultural society professionals. The objective of this basic research is to identify the contribution that higher education can make in the creation and diffusion of specialized knowledge regarding Japan's increasingly multilingual and multicultural society.



National Forum on Practical Research Partnership

The results of the center's practical research partnership are shared with all participants, and discussions are held among researchers and practitioners involved in multicultural society issues from throughout Japan to form a nationwide network.



Publication of Research Journals

Multilingual Multicultural Society - Research and Practice is a peer-reviewed journal published by the center. The journal offers diverse perspectives to help readers better understand multilingual and multicultural society through research that stretches beyond the current framework of academic fields, by inquiring into the meaning of the research conducted by researchers and practitioners and providing feedback.

Center Fellowship System

Young researchers and practitioners that do not belong to specific research institutes are commissioned as Center Fellows. Supporting their research enables the center to gain further impetus to its operations.

シリーズ 多言語・多文化協働実践研究 (A5判111～140ページ)

本センターでは2006年から多分野の専門家と現場の実践者が協働することにより、日本の多文化社会の課題解決をめざす「協働実践研究プログラム」を展開してきました。06年度には課題の抽出を行い、07-08年度は5つの研究班によって課題を掘り下げ、09-10年度は3チーム編成でより実践的な研究に取り組みました。その成果を「シリーズ多言語・多文化協働実践研究」全14冊にまとめました。

1. 時はいま、「協働実践研究」はじめての歩
—非取寄型研究と社会参加—第1回 協働実践研究全国フォーラム・全体会
2. 共生社会に向けた協働のモデルを目指して
—長野県上田市 在住外国人支援から見えてきた課題と展望—
3. 越境する市民活動～外国人相談の現場から～ 行政区を超えた連携
—東京都町田市・神奈川県相模原市—
4. 外国につながる子どもたちをどう支えるのか
—当事者も参加した拠点・ネットワークの構築 —川崎市での実践— (残部なし)
5. 地域日本語教育から考える共生のまちづくり
—言語を媒介に共に学ぶプログラムとは—
6. コーディネーターって、なんだ!?
—多文化社会での役割・専門性・育成プログラム—
7. 共生社会に向けた協働のモデルづくり
—長野県上田市、企業・日系ブラジル人家族の調査から見えてきた第二世代育成の視点—
8. 越境する市民活動と自治体の多文化共生政策
—外国につながる子どもの支援活動から—
9. 外国につながる子どもたちの教育を地域から育む試み
—地域、学校、行政、当事者の協働実践モデルの構築を目指して—
10. 共生のまちづくりに向けた地域日本語教育プログラム
—長野県上田市と東京都足立区の実践から—
11. これがコーディネーターだ!
—多文化社会におけるコーディネーターの専門性と形成の視点—
12. 地域における越境的な「つながり」の創出に向けて
—横浜市鶴見区にみる多文化共生の現状と課題—
13. 共生社会に向けた協働の地域づくり
—「協働型居場所づくり尺度」の開発～長野県上田市における実践と研究—
14. 多文化社会コーディネーターの専門性をどう形成するか



シリーズ 多言語・多文化協働実践研究 別冊 (A5判112～155ページ)

2007-2009年度に文部科学省委託事業として実施した「多文化社会コーディネーター養成プログラム」と、本学語学ボランティアが参加している「外国人相談事業」についてそれぞれまとめました。

- 別冊 1 多文化社会に求められる人材とは?
「多文化社会コーディネーター養成プログラム」
—その専門性と力量形成の取り組み—
- 別冊 2 外国人相談事業 —実践のノウハウとその担い手—
～連携・協働・ネットワークづくり～
- 別冊 3 多文化社会コーディネーター 専門性と社会的役割
—「多文化社会コーディネーター養成プログラム」の取り組みから—



研究誌 多言語多文化—実践と研究 (A5判)

多言語・多文化化する社会における課題を直視し解決策を考える研究者と実践者による投稿論文集(年刊)



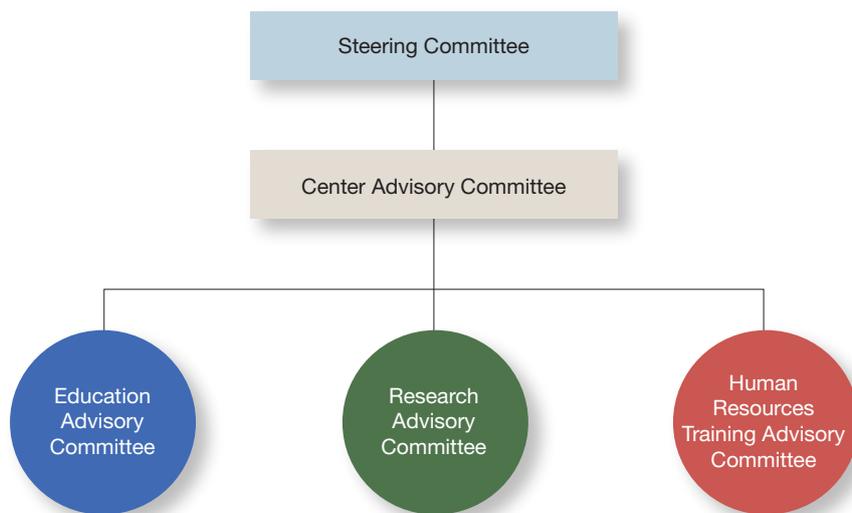
多言語・多文化ブックレット (A5判55～69ページ)

1. 多言語・多文化社会の到来に向けて
—多言語・多文化教育研究センター開所記念シンポジウム—
2. 外国人労働者をどう受け入れるのか?
—「くにかた」と「まちづくり」—
3. 外国とつながりのある子どもたち
—多言語・多文化化する教室と心理臨床の現場から—
4. 異言語・異文化の中で暮らす
—情報流通と法律相談の現場から—
5. 多文化社会への「構想力」を身に付ける
—コーディネーターの資質と役割—
6. 文化間対立の超克を目指して
—現場で考える教育と人材養成—



Organization of the Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research

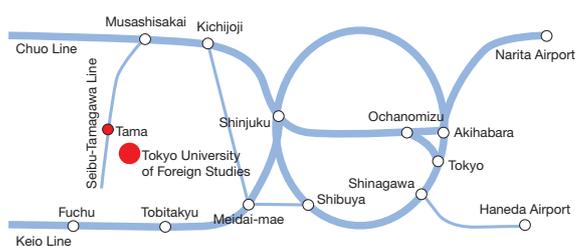
The projects conducted by the center are approved by the Steering Committee, which is made up of faculty members of the university, and enforced by the Center Advisory Committee. Activities related to education, research and social partnership are run by the advisory committee for the respective field.



Center Advisory Committee members

Toru Aoyama	Director (Faculty of the Institute of Global Studies)
Chika Takeda	Deputy Director (Faculty of the Institute of Global Studies)
Michiko Sugisawa	Project Coordinator (Center Researcher)
Minoru Naito	Project Lecturer (Center Faculty)
Mika Hasebe	Project Lecturer (Center Faculty)

Access



- ◆ Transfer from the Chuo Line to the Seibu-Tamagawa Line at Musashisakai Station and get off at Tama Station. It is a 5-minute walk from there. (It takes about 40 minutes from JR Shinjuku Station.)
- ◆ Take the Keio Bus bound for Tama Station at North Exit, Tobitakyu Station on the Keio Line and get off at the Tokyo Gaikokugo Daigaku-mae stop. The bus ride takes about 10 minutes.



* Information about events and recruitment are posted in the email magazine (issued once or twice monthly). Register on the site to have the magazine sent to your email address.

Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research (Published: April 2012)

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