

## Japan prepares for many foreign workers

11th December, 2018



Japan is changing its immigration policy because it needs workers. Japan is an aging society. This means it does not have enough workers to work in many jobs. Japan's government has decided to allow

many workers from other countries into the country to help fill the jobs. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said his government will meet on December 28 to approve the plan. If the plan is approved, it will become law on April 1. The new law would allow up to 345,000 foreign workers to help with labor shortages. Many of these workers will work in the construction, fishing, healthcare and agriculture industries. They will be largely low-skilled workers and will need to pass a Japanese language test.

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Saturday that Japan had to change and allow more foreign workers in to help the economy. He said: "If Japan simply continued along the same path, we would find ourselves in a very difficult situation." He also said the government would make sure the foreign workers can quickly adjust to life in smaller Japanese cities and towns. He said: "We want to ensure they have the right environment in which to live and work." Japanese people are having fewer children. The fertility rate is now only 1.4 children per woman. The rate should be 2.1 for Japan to have enough Japanese workers. Japan's population is already dropping by about 400,000 people a year.

Sources: [nikkei.com](http://nikkei.com) / [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com) / [japantimes.com](http://japantimes.com)

## Writing

Everyone should be able to work anywhere in the world. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

immigration / policy / aging / society / workers / country / plan / law / language / test Saturday / economy / path / difficult situation / cities and towns / fertility / population

## True / False

- Japan is changing its policy towards immigration. T / F
- Japan does not have enough workers because too many citizens are old. T / F
- A new immigration plan would not become law until 2020. T / F
- Workers from overseas must pass a Japanese language test. T / F
- A government secretary said Japan must change or face difficulties. T / F
- Foreign workers will not receive help to adjust to life in Japan's cities. T / F
- The fertility rate in Japan is 2.1 children per woman. T / F
- The article says Japan's fertility rate needs to be 1.4. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>policy</b>    | a. accepted         |
| 2. <b>aging</b>     | b. mainly           |
| 3. <b>enough</b>    | c. a smaller number |
| 4. <b>approved</b>  | d. sufficient       |
| 5. <b>largely</b>   | e. route            |
| 6. <b>change</b>    | f. strategy         |
| 7. <b>path</b>      | g. falling          |
| 8. <b>foreign</b>   | h. adjust           |
| 9. <b>fewer</b>     | i. overseas         |
| 10. <b>dropping</b> | j. maturing         |

## Discussion – Student A

- What kind of immigration policy does your country have?
- What do you think of working abroad?
- What workers does your country need?
- What foreign workers are there in your country?
- What are the advantages of foreign workers?
- How would 345,000 foreign workers affect your country?
- What are the negatives of having foreign workers?
- Should foreign workers have to speak the language?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. changing its immigration policy         | a. to 345,000 foreign workers |
| 2. Japan is an aging                       | b. children per woman         |
| 3. his government will meet on December 28 | c. quickly adjust             |
| 4. The new law would allow up              | d. skilled workers            |
| 5. They will be largely low-               | e. to approve the plan        |
| 6. Japan simply continued                  | f. dropping                   |
| 7. make sure the foreign workers can       | g. because it needs workers   |
| 8. right environment in                    | h. along the same path        |
| 9. The fertility rate is now only 1.4      | i. which to live and work     |
| 10. Japan's population is already          | j. society                    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Would you like to work in another country?
- What difficulties do foreign workers have?
- Would you rather work in a town or city?
- How can Japan increase its population?
- How can Japan solve its labor shortage?
- What would the best thing be about working in Japan?
- What questions would you like to ask Japan's Prime Minister?

## Spelling

- Japan is changing its immigration ipoycl
- Japan is an aging csetyoi
- If the plan is vpaoeprd
- to help with labor srtesaohg
- healthcare and agriculture dirnstsuie
- They will be largely low-leklids workers
- Japan's chief cabinet rctsyaeer
- in a very difficult niasituto
- foreign workers can quickly datjus to life
- We want to snreue they have the right environment
- The ilttfrye rate is now only 1.4
- Japan's ltpooipanu is already dropping

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. d	4. a	5. b
6. h	7. e	8. i	9. c	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – Fishing

You think fishing is the best industry to work in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): healthcare, I.T. or oil.

### Role B – Healthcare

You think healthcare is the best industry to work in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): fishing, I.T. or oil.

### Role C – I.T.

You think I.T. is the best industry to work in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): healthcare, fishing or oil.

### Role D – Oil

You think oil is the best industry to work in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): healthcare, I.T. or fishing.

## Speaking – Industries

Rank these with your partner. Put the best industries to work in at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| • Construction | • I.T.      |
| • Fishing      | • Tourism   |
| • Healthcare   | • Education |
| • Agriculture  | • Oil       |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.