

# ASHIYA CITY

## Foreign National Resident Discussion Meeting Summary · FY 2025

Issued by the International and Cultural Promotion Section · Ashiya City · March 2026

Sessions held on February 7 and March 7, 2026  
Disaster Response Room · East Wing 3F · Ashiya City Hall

Facilitated by Margarita Morales Flores

## Session Schedule

Date	Time	Theme
February 7, 2026 (Saturday)	10:00–12:00	Challenges and Opportunities for Foreign Residents in Ashiya
March 7, 2026 (Saturday)	10:00–12:00	Fostering Foreign Resident Integration in Ashiya

## Discussion Format

Each session was held on a Saturday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 at the Disaster Response Room in the East Wing of Ashiya City Hall. Discussions were conducted in English with summary interpretation into Japanese available as needed.

The format combined open facilitated dialogue with individual written reflection sheets completed at the end of each session. This approach allowed participants to contribute through both spoken conversation and written responses, ensuring that a broader range of perspectives could be captured. Session 1 explored ongoing challenges and their underlying causes. Session 2 focused on practical ideas and possible first steps toward community-level action. All participant contributions are presented anonymously in the body of this report.

## Summary and Proposals

The following proposals reflect the ideas and directions that emerged most consistently across the two sessions. They are offered as input for Ashiya City's consideration, based on what participants described as realistic and meaningful. Some of these challenges can be addressed in the short term; others will require sustained effort and broader engagement over time.

### Summary of Proposals

#	Area	Key Direction
1	<b>Information Dissemination</b>	Multilingual service point on floor 1 · clearer signage · AI-accessible digital formats
2	<b>Newcomer Orientation</b>	Practical guide to daily life · repeatable and digital formats
3	<b>Japanese Language Learning</b>	Qualified instructors · specific-needs classes · flexible scheduling
4	<b>Community Connection</b>	Regular low-pressure formats · city events as entry points · volunteer pathways
5	<b>Community Connection Group</b>	City-facilitated foreign resident group · dedicated staff coordinator
6	<b>Continued Dialogue</b>	Annual meetings · reflection tools · follow-up on previous proposals

### 1. Information Dissemination

1. Establish a clearly marked multilingual service point on the first floor of City Hall, more visible and accessible than the current signage directing residents to the third floor. When newcomers visit City Hall, ensure that available services and resources are clearly communicated.
2. Develop a practical orientation resource for newcomers covering daily life topics such as garbage disposal, school procedures, community rules, and local services — available in formats that can be consulted repeatedly, not only at the time of arrival. Consider a digital format such as a dedicated webpage that can be updated regularly.
3. Ensure that important official communications are accompanied by multilingual information, and that key web content is formatted to be accessible to AI translation tools.

### 2. Japanese Language Learning

4. Offer systematic Japanese language classes taught by qualified instructors, complementing the existing volunteer program.
5. Expand course offerings to address specific learning needs — including reading and writing skills, medical vocabulary, conversational Japanese for older beginners — with flexible scheduling options, including online formats, for residents who cannot attend in person.

### 3. Support for Foreign Residents

6. Encourage and facilitate opportunities for foreign residents to participate in local community activities, and to contribute their knowledge, languages, and skills.
7. When foreign residents register with the City, ask about their specific areas of expertise and interest — beyond general categories — to enable better matching for events, volunteer opportunities, and mentoring activities.

### 4. Community Connections and Interaction

8. Support regular multicultural events — such as a monthly marché, cultural booths at existing city festivals, or human library-style exchanges — that create low-pressure, repeated opportunities for interaction between foreign and Japanese residents.
9. Include a section in the city newsletter featuring foreign residents' experiences and cultures, helping to build awareness within the broader Japanese community.
10. Conduct regular surveys to understand residents' evolving needs and to follow up on previous proposals.
11. Continue holding opinion exchange meetings on a regular basis.

### 5. Community Connection Group

12. Consider establishing a small Community Connection Group — an organizing group of foreign residents, supported by a dedicated staff member within City Hall — to coordinate and sustain community initiatives.
13. Ensure a clear purpose, transparent communication, and consistent support from the City.
14. Recognize that even small-scale coordination requires designated time, a budget line, and a clear point of contact within the City.

In addition to the above, the City is encouraged to continue working with citizens, community organizations, Hyogo Prefecture, and national government to address these issues over time. Foreign residents who participated in these sessions expressed willingness to contribute to this shared effort as residents of Ashiya City.

---

Administered by the International and Cultural Promotion Section  
International and Cultural Promotion Office · Planning Department · Ashiya City