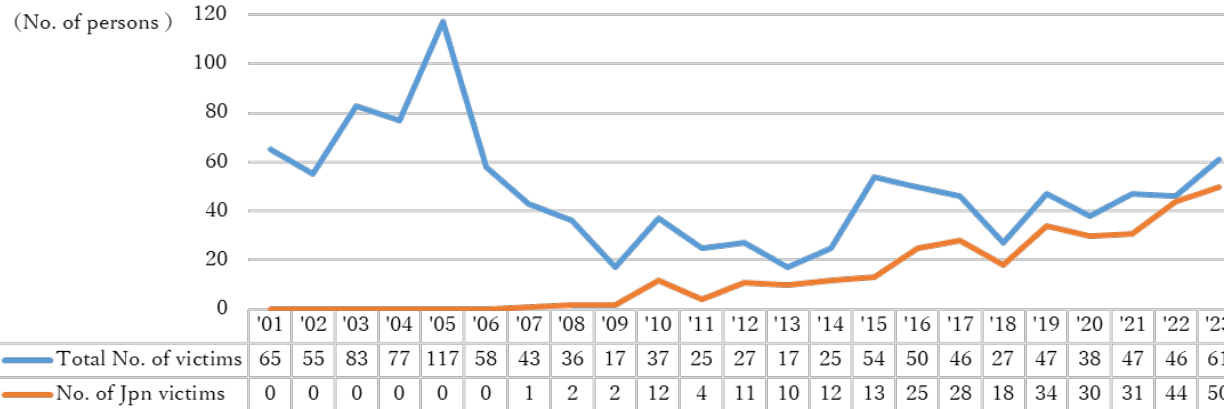


Overview of the Measures to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Annual Report)

--Status of Measures Based on the 2022 Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons--

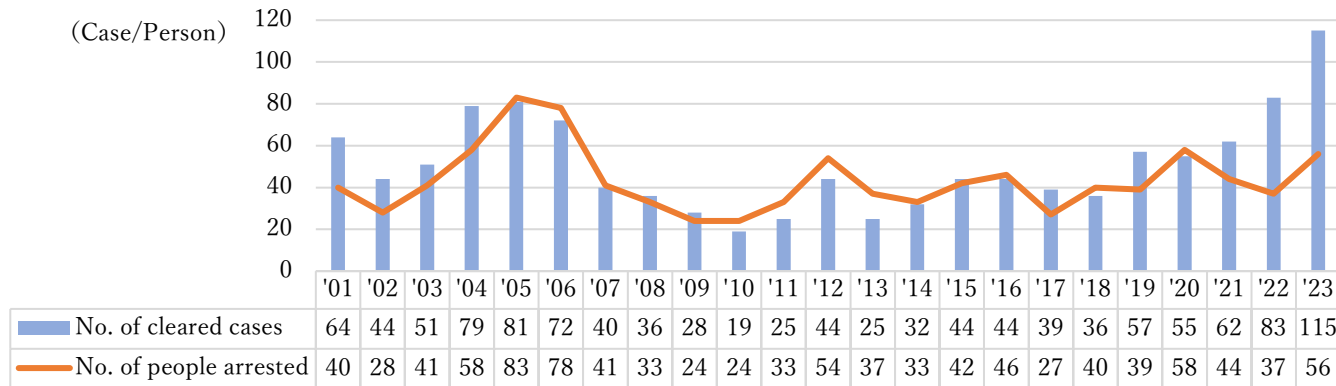
1 Gaining a thorough understanding of trafficking in persons

(1) Data relating to victims of trafficking in persons



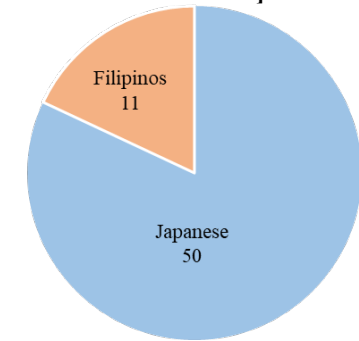
- In 2023, the number of victims of trafficking in persons who were put under protection was 61 (increased by 15 Year-on-Year)
- Gender: 10 were male, 51 were female
- Nationality: 50 were Japanese, 11 were foreign nationals
- Age: 37 were minors (under 18 years of age)

(2) Data relating to those accused of trafficking in persons

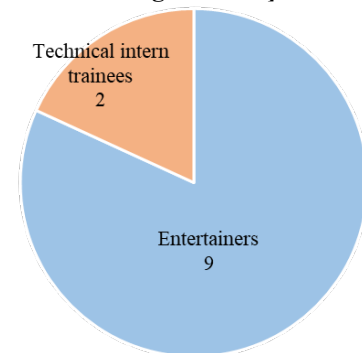


- In 2023, 56 suspects (increased by 19 Year-on-Year) were arrested for 115 cases (increased by 32 Year-on-Year) of trafficking in persons
- Gender: 51 were male, 5 were female
- Nationality: 55 were Japanese, 1 was a foreign national
- 43 suspects were prosecuted (33 were found guilty, the cases of 8 are still pending, 1 was dismissal of prosecution (defendant death), and the remaining 1 was sent to the family court)

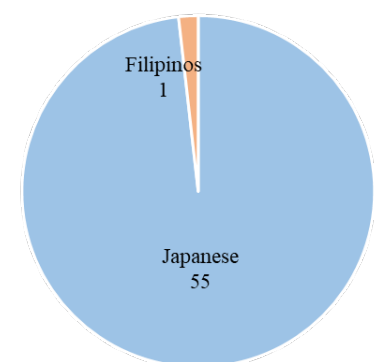
[Nationalities and regions of the victims]



[Status of residence of the foreign victims]



[Nationalities of the suspects]



2 Prevention of trafficking in persons

- Considering “the Governmental Response Based on the Final Report of Advisory Panel of Experts on Ideal Form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System” determined at the Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals, the status of residence of “Employment for Skill Development” has been established and a relevant law to take measures to ease restrictions on employer change, such as approval for employer change based on foreign worker’s will in the new program, and to allow only registered support organizations to become organizations entrusted with support services for specified skilled workers in Specified Skilled Worker System, etc. was enacted at the 213th Diet.
- We promoted reporting of improper sending organizations based on the Memorandums of Cooperation (MOCs) with countries that are sending technical intern trainees (in 2024, we newly signed the MOC with Nepal, bringing the total number of MOCs signed to 15).
- We promoted public relations and awareness activities for employers including business people of entertainment/amusement trade and technical intern training implementing organizations.

3 Promotion of identification of trafficking victims

- The National Police Agency prepared and distributed a compact leaflet with an easy-to-understand design in ten languages that called for victims to report their victimization to the police and the Immigration Services Agency, etc. and carried out public relations activities using advertisement posted on social media.
- With regard to the contact points for consultation and telephone consultation service for foreign nationals set up in the Immigration Services Agency, Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus, and Prefectural Labor Bureaus, and emergency calls to police (“Dial 110”), we have promoted the development of an environment that facilitates consultations and reporting by providing multiple language services, etc.

4 Eradication of trafficking in persons

- Utilizing the “Handbook on Measures against Trafficking in Persons,” the police, Immigration Services Agency, prosecutors, Labor Standards Inspection Offices, and Japan Coast Guard have tightened the crackdown on trafficking in persons and related offenses.
- Promoted strict measures against sexual exploitation of children and crackdown on malicious “host clubs”.
- Implemented on-site inspections by the Organization for Technical Intern Training and joint investigations in cooperation with the organization, immigration services organizations, and labor standards inspection bodies, etc. to promote strict measures against violations of the Technical Intern Training Act, etc.

5 Protection and support of trafficking victims

- The Immigration Services Agency implements measures for foreign victims of trafficking in persons who are under protection, such as changing their status of residence or granting them special permission to stay, while giving full consideration to their standpoints.
- Women’s Consulting Offices (the name changed to Women’s Counseling and Support Centers in April 2024) temporarily protect female victims of trafficking in persons, regardless of nationality and age. The offices provide living support, interpretation support, and medical care, etc.
- Efforts are being made to stabilize and enhance the operation of the One-Stop Support Center for Victims of Sex Crimes and Sexual Violence through subsidies, as well as to publicize the nationwide number for One-Stop Support Centers (# 8891) and to promote the dissemination of the nationwide number for sexual crime victims, which connects the consultation hotline of each prefectural police (# 8103).
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides return and reintegration assistance to foreign victims of trafficking in persons through the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which protects and supports foreign nationals.
- The consultation systems for victims of malicious “host clubs” has been strengthened.

6 Development of foundations for promotion of measures against trafficking in persons

- Through JICA and contributions to international organizations, Japan has been providing assistance to carry out training and programs for other countries, particularly in Southeast Asia, in order to strengthen their capacity to combat trafficking in persons. Furthermore, Japan has participated in international conferences to discuss and share information with other countries regarding trafficking in persons.
- Promoting public relations and awareness activities by preparing and distributing posters and leaflets for users and victims.
- With regard to the Technical Intern Training Program, sending countries are encouraged to make it more appropriate through consultations based on the MOCs. In addition, in order to reduce illegal and unnecessary handling charges, JICA has been developing the designing of a new recruitment information system with local authorities.
- On its website, an attention is given not to apply for so-called an illicit part-time job by introducing cases where people take part in a special type of fraud in Southeast Asia and other regions and are detained by local police.
- Exchanges of opinions and provision of information were conducted with the relevant organizations and NGOs.