

*The Current Status of and Challenges for the Overseas
Exchange Student Job-Placement Assistance
in Niigata Prefecture:
Analysis of the case example of the "Niigata Prefecture
International Students' Job Fair"*

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Summary

Accompanying the internationalization of regional economies in Japan and the acceleration of the overseas development of firms, the local firms recruiting overseas exchange students has increased. Niigata Prefecture has Niigata City, the biggest city in Honshu on the Sea of Japan coast, economic exchange with China, the ROK, Russia and ASEAN is taking place actively, and firms within the prefecture are proactively recruiting overseas exchange students in order to secure international human resources. The "Niigata Prefecture International Students' Job Fair", which is a joint job-placement fair by firms, targeting exchange students, has been held every year since 2005, and a system for the assistance of exchange students has been formed, with firms, local government, economic bodies, universities, international exchange institutions, and the media, among others, having taken part.

This paper sheds light on the actual situation and challenges for exchange student job-placement assistance in Niigata Prefecture, by way of the case example of the "Niigata Prefecture International Students' Job Fair" which specializes in job-placement assistance for exchange students. In addition to ascertaining the job-placement situation for exchange students in Niigata Prefecture using statistics from the Immigration Bureau, I point out the characteristic features of the Niigata Prefecture local initiative on exchange student job-placement assistance. I introduce the scene of the staging and the outcomes of the "Niigata Prefecture International Students' Job Fair", and while analyzing the funding, the system for cooperation, and the methods for its implementation, I shed light on the actual situation of the overseas exchange student job-placement assistance. In addition, using the results from a questionnaire that was conducted on firms and exchange students, I present the issues for the company side and the student side, and I make proposals toward the promotion of the recruitment of exchange students. In this paper, starting with Niigata Prefecture, I would like to offer material for decision-making by the local authorities, economic organizations and universities undertaking the promotion of job-placements for exchange students.

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