

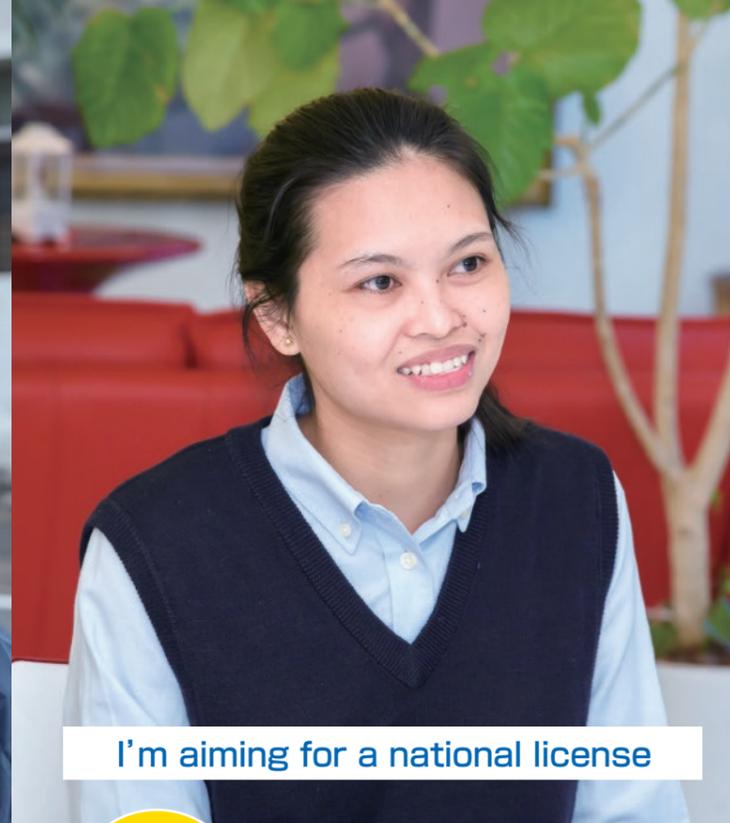
INTERVIEW



Working happily with a beautiful view



Learning a lot from my experience of Japanese food culture



I'm aiming for a national license



I'll stay in Kagoshima forever

Agriculture

LABANON HAYDEE MONTAÑO
 Age : 34 From Davao
 Length of stay : 3 years 7 months
 Work : Growing tea and vegetables
 (pictured left)

I was born in a farming village, and the atmosphere here is very similar to that of my hometown. It's easy for me to do my current work since I have farming experience. Everyone is kind and I have quickly grown accustomed to my work. This is an employee-friendly workplace. I have a 5-year-old child in the Philippines. I can see her grow as I see her face and talk with her every day through video call. Although I feel lonely because I cannot meet her, I'm going to work hard until the end of the period of stay. I will consider what to do next when I go back to the Philippines and see my child. I also think that I might want to work in Japan for a long time.

Agriculture

VILLAREAL JENALYN CHAN
 Age : 34 From Manila
 Length of stay : 3 years 7 months
 Work : Growing tea and vegetables
 (pictured right)

The farm on which I'm working is an expanse of tea fields, and I can also see the ocean. It is beautiful. Every day passes in a fulfilling manner as I learn agriculture and Japanese language. I am comforted that there are many Filipinos working here, and my co-worker Haydee and I help each other out. The Japanese people kindly help us when we have troubles and they teach me the work carefully. I get cheered up when I video call my family in the Philippines every day. Supported by those around me, I can work hard with a smile on my face.



Food Manufacturing

MICHELLE BENTILLO
 Age : 31 From Bulacan
 Length of stay : 1 year 7 months
 Work : Manufacturing dried bonito

I wanted to come to Japan since my childhood and my sister's staying in Japan encouraged me. At first, I stayed for half a year in Yamagata Prefecture where she lived, in order to learn Japanese language. And then, I came to Kagoshima by happy chance. I work at a dried bonito factory in Makurazaki City. Dried bonito is an indispensable ingredient in Japanese cuisine because bonito soup stock make dishes delicious. Flakes can be used as toppings on takoyaki (octopus balls). At the factory, we cook, smoke and dry the sliced bonito. It's very laborious work, but I work while picturing the delighted faces of people eating the bonito. Dried bonito is delicious. I like it very much and frequently use it as miso soup stock. Recently, I have also started adding it to Filipino dishes. The factory is very lively and I have a lot of conversations with my colleagues, which helps me learn Japanese naturally while working. Locals are also very kind, which makes it easy to live here. Besides sending money to my parents, I am also saving money for myself. I intend to use those savings to launch my own business in the future. But my entrepreneurship can wait since I still have a lot to learn here. I want to work here for a long time if I can.



Caregiving

BATAYOLA SARAH JANE OYOS
 Age : 26 From Manila
 Length of stay : 1 year and 2 months
 Work : Caregiver

I care for residents at a nursing home for the elderly. It's encouraging that the residents depend on and thank me. Although things can get tough now and then, I enjoy my work every day. Caregivers must respond appropriately to residents' needs, so Japanese proficiency is essential. It's a very nice environment for me to learn Japanese, and I have begun to understand most conversations. I first came to Kagoshima to learn Japanese language. I was interested in Japanese language and culture, and I studied for 1.5 years here. It was this nursing home where I worked part time back then. It was very comfortable to work here. I got along with the staff and became interested in caregiving. I also thought that I could make good use of what I learned since I have a nursing licence from a Filipino university. I told them I would like to work here and was accepted as a technical trainee. It's been 1 year since my training has begun and I have gotten accustomed to my work. My next aim is to be a Certified Care Worker. It isn't just to improve my skills but also so that I can work longer in Japan with this license, because technical trainees' period of stay is 5 years at most. I want to gain more experience in Kagoshima for the time being.



Construction

SANTOS MENARD MOISES
 Age : 26 From Nueva Ecija
 Length of stay : 6 years and 3 months
 Work : Reinforcing iron & rebar work

I am a rebar worker. Reinforcement bars are used as frameworks of buildings. The building process starts with assembling reinforcement bars. I'm proud of my work. I was a construction worker in the Philippines as well. I decided to work in Japan to learn advanced skills. Communication is important at construction sites. You cannot work without understanding instructions accurately, so learning Japanese language is essential. We talk a lot while we are working. We ask again and again when we can't understand something, and the Japanese staff keep responding until we understand. I check unfamiliar words with my smartphone after work and use them in conversation. I have learned Japanese quickly through my work. The company is easy to work with and treats us kindly. I wanted to work in Japan longer and extend the period of technical traineeship. When the period of stay was supposed to expire, I considered marriage with a Japanese woman. My company supported this and hired me as a permanent employee. I also got permanent resident status in Japan. I have a good and fulfilling job, and I enjoy every day with my family. I'm happy.

