The Enterprise of *Yasashii Nihongo*:
For a Sustainable Multicultural Society in Japan

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As foreign residents in Japan grow in number, the question of how to guarantee their human rights is becoming increasingly important. Our research group is examining this problem from linguistic viewpoints, and *yasashii nihongo* is the key concept.

In this article I introduce the concept of *yasashii nihongo* in as much detail as possible. It has two main aims, one for adult foreign residents and the other for their children. For adults, *yasashii nihongo* should enable them to live safely in Japan, while for children, it should be a device with which they can acquire Japanese in order to live in Japan.

*Yasashii nihongo* is an essential concept for Japan to become, in the near future, a sustainable multicultural society, or *tabunka kyousei syakai* as we say in Japanese.