

## The Future of Japan's Foreign Language Education

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In recent years, there have been pessimistic reports about the 'inward-looking' attitude of Japan's youth. One of the major underlying reasons causing this tendency is the lack of confidence in using foreign languages. In order to remedy this situation, a paradigm shift in foreign language education is proposed—a change from the concept of 'bilingualism' to the more practical goal of implementing the principle of 'plurilingualism' as the goal of foreign language education. Some major impacts brought about by this change will be the shift in focus from the teaching of linguistic 'knowledge' to the teaching of 'Can-do' criteria, as well as redirecting focus from native-speaker criteria to the more practical criteria of communicability in international communication situations.