



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

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**2019/SMEWG48/006**

Agenda Item: 10.1.1

## **Recent Situation of Start-up Promotion in Japan**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Japan



**48th Small and Medium Enterprises Working Group  
Meeting  
Qingdao, China  
30-31 May 2019**

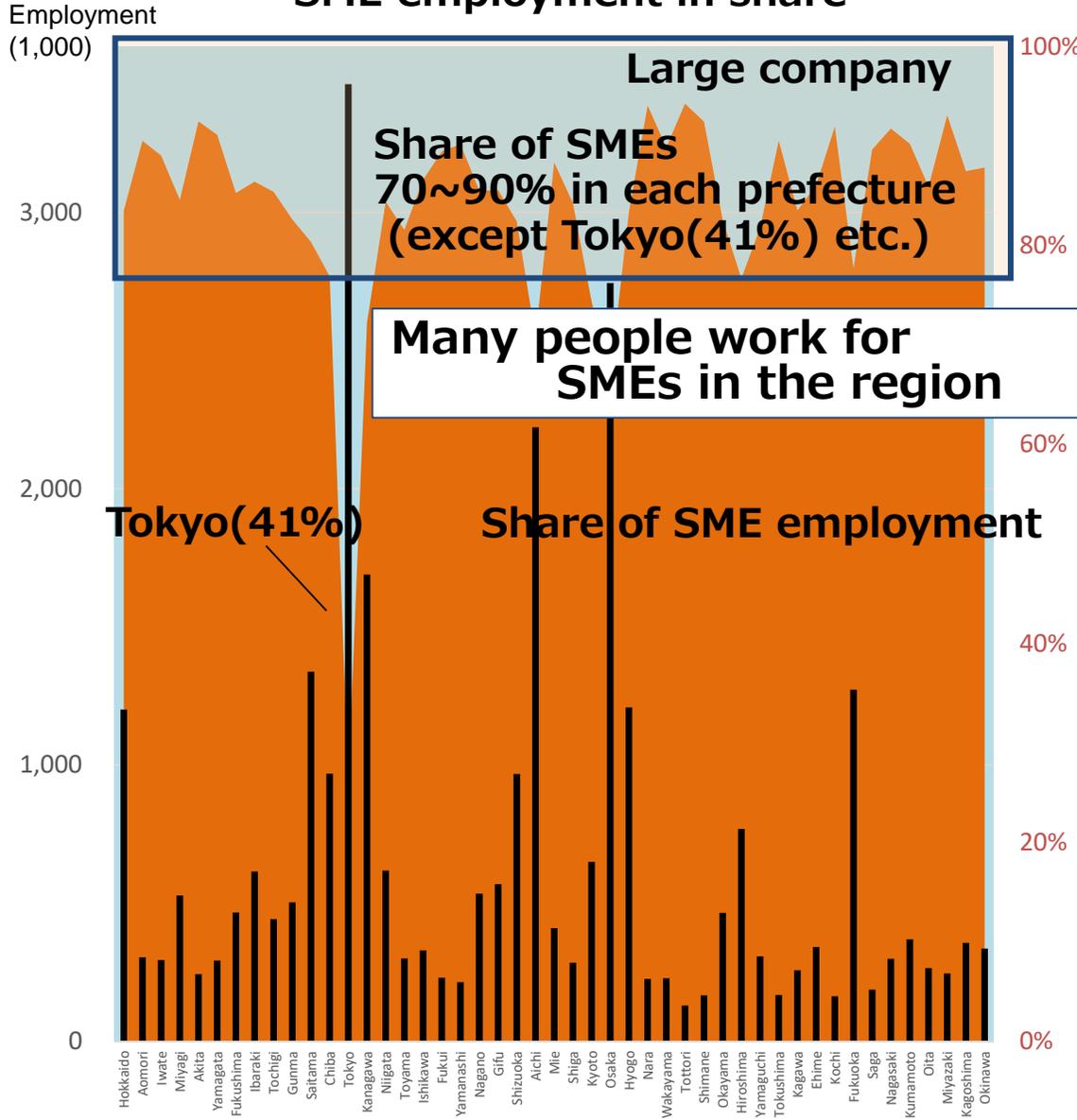
# Recent situation of start-up promotion in Japan

**Purpose: Information**

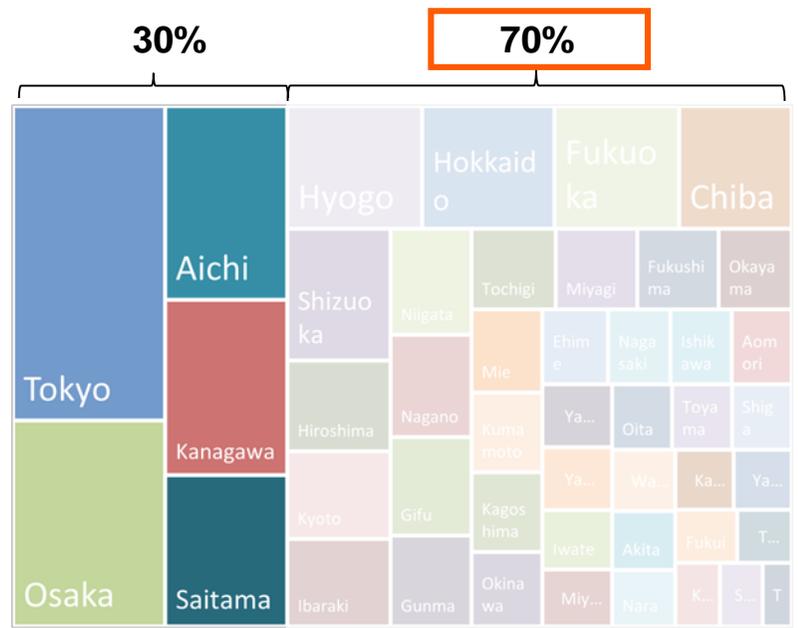
**The Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, Japan  
May, 2019**

# SMEs in Local Economies

SME employment in share



Number of SME by Japanese prefecture



(source) White paper on SMEs in Japan

Local area in Japan



(source) SME Agency, Japan

# SME Support by Municipality, Case

## Hachioji-city(八王子市)



### SME support measures

#### - Entrepreneur Support Project Hachioji

- With Hachioji City playing a key role, the project started in 2012 aiming to share information on entrepreneurs and provide a one-stop service that leverages the respective supporting organization's strengths.
- Currently, business startup support is carried out in collaboration with five organizations: Hachioji City, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Industry Support Organization, a local credit association, and Japan Finance Corporation.



#### <Specific efforts>

- Startup school to train entrepreneurs
- Startup seminar for women
- Incubation business



### Status of SMEs in the city

- A total of 99.7% or more of enterprises in the city are small and medium-sized.
- Many manufacturing enterprises, especially R&D-oriented companies in the fields of electrical machinery and electronic devices, are located in the city.

# Start-up in Japan: Research by a academic researcher

## Question to students

“ Wish to be an entrepreneur” & “ Confident to be an entrepreneur”



- ✓ Research by Dr. Takeru Ohe, Waseda University, Research Promotion Division, ASEAN SME/Entrepreneur Education Industry-University Cooperation Promotion Project(2014-17)
- ✓ Research method and coverage: Data researched ASEAN countries: BRN, KHM, IDN, LAO, MYS, MMR, PHL, THA, VNM. Asked University student by google forms, a part of countries response by questionnaire. (Replied N=2,499)

# Inbound:

## Attracting Entrepreneurs from around the world

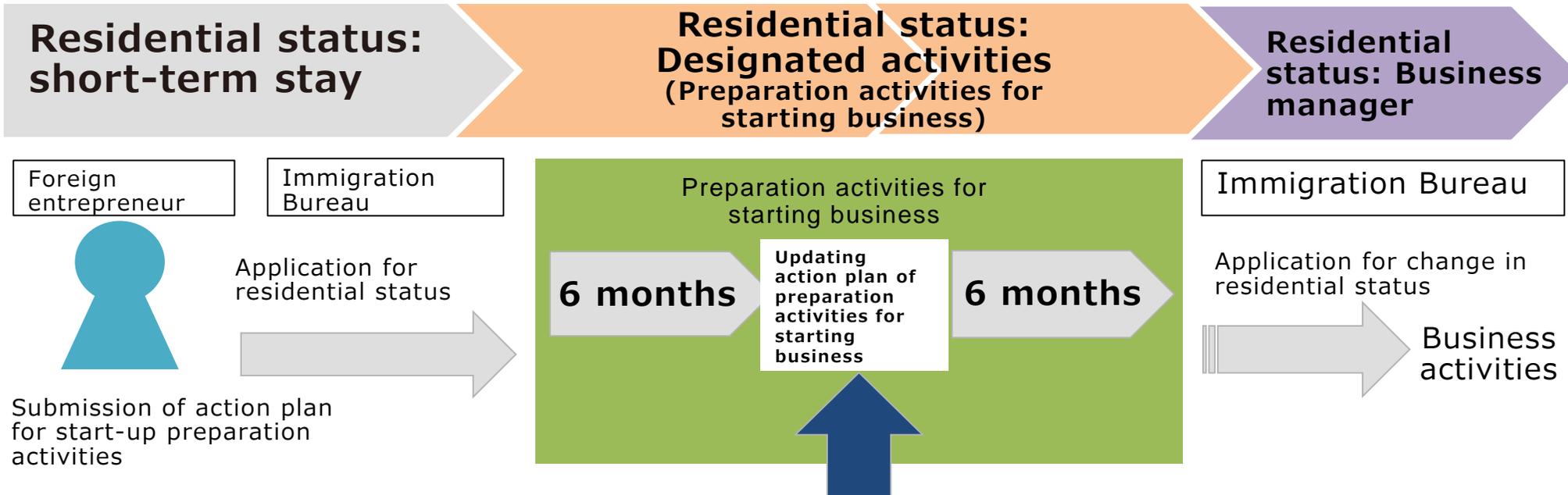
### Startup VISA (Status of Residence)

- ✓ Certified local governments will give support to the foreign entrepreneurs starting their business in Japan.
- ✓ The 6 months period that entrepreneurs are able to stay in Japan to prepare for launching is expanded to 1 year under the new program.



# Inbound: Support by Municipalities

## Projects for encouraging foreign entrepreneurs to start business



## Projects for encouraging foreign entrepreneurs to start business (through municipalities)

### Comprehensive support

- Selection of foreign entrepreneurs
- Formulation and implementation of a program for managing and supporting business start-up activities
- Support for preparation activities for starting a business

- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI): To approve the program for managing and supporting business startup activities prepared by municipalities

# T20 (Think20): SME Policy: Key Recommendation, excerpt

<Reference>

## ➤ Promote SME Innovation and Internationalization.

- ✓ Improve understanding of the conditions under which global start-ups are likely to prosper as well as start-up internationalization through appropriate support programs.

(<https://t20japan.org/task-forces>)



Policy recommended to SME Agency Japan on May 2019.



THINK20: The research and policy advice network for the G20. In 2019, Think20 (T20) is convening in Japan under its G20 presidency. Together, the world's leading think tank will drive policy innovation to help G20 Leaders address pressing global challenges and seek a sustainable, inclusive and resilient society.

# Towards Achieving the Goals set by APEC



- **Collaboration between municipalities and supporting organizations**
  - ✓ **Promote innovation and local ecosystems**
  - ✓ **Help achieve the goal defined in the APEC Initiative and declarations**



# Thank you for your attention



**If you have any comments, please contact:**

1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, 100-8912 Tokyo

Tel: +81-3-3501-9093

URL: <http://www.meti.go.jp/English/index.html>