

次の文章は、2018年12月25日に THE JAPAN NEWS by Yomiuri Shimbun に掲載された “Utilize local resources better to attract more foreign visitors” という見出しの記事である。これを読み、以下の設問に答えよ。なお、*のついた語(句)には注がある。

The continued increase in foreign visitors to Japan in recent years should be followed by steady efforts to better utilize local resources in regional areas, so the country can truly ① through its tourism. The key to achieving this goal is working to end our nation’s current reliance on hosting international events, including the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, as a (A) of attracting foreign travelers.

On Dec.18, the number of foreign visitors to Japan in 2018 exceeded 30 million, marking the first time the figure topped that benchmark. This shows that a good measure of progress is being made in sustained efforts to turn Japan into a country that can prosper as a major destination of international tourism.

(1)However, the fact remains that the increase owes a great deal to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and other international large-scale events to be held here. It is therefore necessary to promote joint efforts by the public and private sectors to rectify* the situation, through such means as attracting more foreign sightseers to regional areas nationwide.

“Despite a slowdown in the increase in foreign visitors since July [due to a series of natural disasters], we’ve been fortunate to greet this memorable day,” Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister* Keiichi Ishii said at a ceremony at Kansai Airport on Dec.18, marking the rise in foreign visitors above 30 million. After his speech, Ishii gave a commemorative item to a tourist from Taiwan.

The government is aiming to increase the number of foreign visitors to 40 million in 2020 and 60 million in 2030. This means it is vital to ensure the number of such visitors rises at a faster pace. At a press conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary* Yoshihide Suga expressed his confidence in achieving these goals, saying, “(2)The target of raising the figure to 40 million in 2020 has come within range.”

Large-scale international events that will take place in Japan are providing a favorable tailwind for these objectives. They include the 2019 Rugby World Cup, the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and the 2025 World Exposition in Osaka. All this has raised expectations for a further increase in the number of foreign visitors to Japan.

Despite having ②surpassed the 30 million benchmark, however, Japan is still falling behind other countries that are abundant in tourist resources, such as France, Spain, the United States and China. For instance, France attracted 86.91 million visitors from overseas in 2017, the highest number in the world. The 2017 figure for Japan was about one-third of that of France.

Airline, sea routes being shored up

The government is trying to shore up airline and sea routes as part of efforts to (B) the number of foreign visitors. The tourism ministry intends to raise the number of daytime takeoffs and landings for international flights at Haneda Airport from the current 60,000 or so annually to about 99,000 in 2020.

In 2017, a total of 2.52 million foreign nationals visited Japan by cruise ship. To raise the figure to 5 million in 2020, the government will work to refurbish* domestic terminal ports.

The government is also trying to ensure the nation is better prepared to accept foreign tourists through various means, including setting up multilingual information boards at tourist spots. Starting on Jan. 7, 2019, the government will collect 1,000 yen in international tourist taxes per person from anyone departing this country.

The government faces questions about whether it will be able to ③implement effective measures, using such tax revenue as financial resources.

In the private sector, active efforts are also being made to attract more foreign visitors to tourist spots in regional areas, in addition (C) such long popular destinations as Tokyo, Kyoto and Mt. Fuji. In recent years, local communities in regional areas are trying to advertise their tourist spots, by focusing on the selected purpose of a trip to each location. Participants in “sakagura tourism” (sake brewery tourism) can enjoy brands of sake popular among foreign nationals. ④Meanwhile, “Anime-tourism” visits places linked to hit animation films.

Sakagura tourism organizers include Suehiro Sake Co. in Aizu-Wakamatsu, Fukushima Prefecture. “③To make sure more people visit Fukushima, it’s important to continue such steady efforts as calling on foreign tourists staying in Tokyo to come here,” said Suehiro President Inokichi Shinjo, 68.

Tokyu Fudosan Holdings Corp., an operator of ski resorts nationwide, has set up a barbecue garden at a ski resort in the Niseko area in Hokkaido. This was part of Tokyu’s efforts to attract people to the area even during the summer, an off-season period for ski resorts.

“We couldn’t utilize our valuable tourist resources [during past summers], but we had lots of visitors [during that period] this year,” said a Tokyu employee (D) charge of the project.

[注] rectify 「(間違っただことや状況など) を正す」

Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister 「国土交通大臣」

Chief Cabinet Secretary 「内閣官房長官」

refurbish 「～を一新する」

[設問]

問1 下線部①～④の語の意味を、当該の文脈において最も正しく表している日本語を次のア～エから一つずつ選べ。

① thrive

- (ア) 繁栄する (イ) 努力する
(ウ) 停滞する (エ) 衰退する

② surpass

- (ア) 上回る (イ) 下回る
(ウ) 記録する (エ) 維持する

③ implement

- (ア) 中止する (イ) 延期する
(ウ) 考案する (エ) 実施する

④ meanwhile

- (ア) しかしながら (イ) 一方では
(ウ) ある意味で (エ) それゆえに

問2 空所(A)～(D)にふさわしい語を次のア～エから一つずつ選べ。

(A)

- (ア) result (イ) deal
(ウ) means (エ) touch

(B)

- (ア) boost (イ) count
(ウ) grasp (エ) transmit

(C)

- (ア) for (イ) of
(ウ) to (エ) with

(D)

- (ア) with (イ) from
(ウ) by (エ) in

問3 下線部(1)を和訳せよ。

問4 下線部(2)とあるが、これはどのような意味か。最も適切なものを次のア～エから一つ選べ。

- (ア) 外国人旅行者数を 4000 万人に増やす目標はすでに達成したので、2020 年の目標値を変更するという事。
(イ) 2020 年までに外国人旅行者数を 4000 万人に増やすという目標は、達成可能だと思われるということ。
(ウ) 外国人旅行者数を 2020 年までに 4000 万人に増やさなければ、国や地方自治体の財源が危ういということ。

- (エ) 2020年までに外国人旅行者数を4000万人に増やすという目標は、もはや実現不可能であるということ。

問5 下線部(3)を和訳せよ。

問6 本文について正しく述べているものを、次のア～オから二つ選べ。

- (ア) 2018年12月に外国人旅行者数が初めて3000万人に達し、国土交通相は記念式典で台湾からの観光客に記念品を贈呈した。
- (イ) 2019年にはラグビーW杯、2020年には東京五輪・パラリンピックが開催されるが、外国人旅行者数の増加は期待できない。
- (ウ) 2017年に外国人旅行者数が最も多かったのはフランスで、同年に日本を訪れた外国人旅行者数の約5倍であった。
- (エ) クルーズ船による外国人旅行者数を500万人まで増加させるため、政府は発着回数を約9万9000回まで引き上げる予定だ。
- (オ) 政府は出国時に1人1000円を国際観光旅客税として徴収し、外国人旅行者の受け入れ態勢強化のために活用する方針である。