# Part II

## Major Policies Related to Immigration Control Administration

# Chapter 1. Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

## ❶ Outline

In order to establish a new status of residence pertaining to foreign nationals qualified as a certified care worker to realize the acceptance of foreign nationals engaging in nursing care, and as a countermeasure against imposter residents, to establish a penalty to be imposed against those who received landing permission, etc. through deception or other wrongful means, and expand the grounds for revocation of statuses of residence, the Bill for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act which incorporated such measures was submitted to the 189th session of the Diet on March 6, 2015.

This was later collectively deliberated together with the "Bill on Proper Implementation of Technical Intern Training for Foreign Nationals and Protection of the Technical Intern Trainees" (described in the Chapter 2 ) by the Legal Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives for the 190th session of the Diet in 2016, and subsequently became subject to continued deliberations at the next Diet session. The outline of this bill is as follows.

## ❷ Establishment of the New Status of Residence of "Nursing Care"

Foreign students studying in Japan cannot engage in nursing care in Japan even if they have graduated from a Japanese institute of higher education and have acquired the designated national qualification of a certified care worker, etc. except in permitted cases under the framework of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Indonesia, the Philippines or Viet Nam.

However, because of the progressively aging population, there is great demand for high-quality nursing care, and therefore, both the "Japan Revitalization Strategy (Revised in 2014)" (approved by the Cabinet on June 24, 2014) and the recommendations of the 6th Immigration Policy Discussions Panel called for a system enabling foreign students who have graduated from a Japanese institute of higher education and who have acquired the qualification of a certified care worker to be allowed to work in Japan.

On the basis of such requests, a new status of residence of "Nursing Care" was established to enable foreign students, who have graduated from a Japanese institute of higher education designated as a certified care worker training facility and acquired the qualification of a certified care worker, to engage in the work of nursing care or the instructions of nursing care as a certified care worker based on a contract with a Japanese nursing care facility, etc.

## ❸ Strengthening of Countermeasures Against Imposter Residents

While the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay has been decreasing because of the strengthening of border measures and the promotion of exposure, a problem of so-called imposter residents who illegally acquire a status of residence and reside in Japan by disguising their status or activities through filing a false declaration or false documents exists, and the "Strategy to Establish 'Japan as the World's Safest Country'" (approved by the Cabinet on December 10, 2013) also referred to proactively working on the promotion of countermeasures against imposter residents.

In light of this, a penalty will be established to punish imposter residents, and measures will be taken to expand the grounds for revocation of the status of residence.

Specifically, while previously there was no penalty with regard to persons who obtained landing permission or permission to change the status of residence, etc. through deception or other wrongful means, a penalty will be imposed on the foreign national, through this amendment, which is equivalent to the current penalty for illegal entry or illegal landing, and a penalty will also be established against those persons who facilitate the execution of this act for the purpose of profit, while the associated grounds for deportation and the grounds for revocation of the status of residence will be also revised.

In addition, with regard to the system of revocation of the status of residence, while previously revocation of the status of residence was possible only in cases where the foreign national had not engaged continuously for three months or more in the activities corresponding to the status of residence that had been granted, through this amendment, in such cases as a technical intern trainee who has left the training location without permission in accordance with the solicitation of a broker, it will be possible to immediately revoke the status of residence even before the elapse of three months in the case where the suspect resides engaging in or attempting to engage in other activities without engaging in the original activities, because it is deemed inappropriate that the suspect retains the status of residence. Moreover, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that foreign natinals whose status of residence has been revoked for the reasons mentioned above will flee, it will be possible to immendiately switch to the deportation procedures, without setting a grace period for departure, in order to prevent such foreign nationals from concealing their whereabouts and remaining illegally in Japan.

Moreover, immigration control officers in addition to immigration inspectors will be able to conduct inquiry into the facts relating to revocation of the status of residence.

# Chapter 2. The Bill on Proper Implementation of Technical Intern Training for Foreign Nationals and Protection of the Technical Intern Trainees

With regard to the system of technical intern training, existing circumstances required a vast overhaul of the entire system, and therefore the basic direction of institutional revision was indicated in June 2014 in the "Results of the Study on the Direction of the Revision of the System of Technical Intern Training (Report)" compiled by the Sub-Panel for Discussion on the System of the Acceptance of Foreign Nationals of the Sixth Immigration Policy Panel Discussion, while the "Japan Revitalization Strategy (Revised in 2014)" (approved by the Cabinet on June 24, 2014) set out "optimization of the system to ensure thorough understanding of the intent, which is the aim of making an international contribution, and fundamental revision of the system of technical intern training for foreign nationals such as expansion of the subject occupations, extension of the training period, expansion of the fixed quota for acceptance and other matters, and submission of the necessary bill" with "the aim of transition to the new system within FY 2015".

Therefore, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare studied specific measures for revision of the system, and submitted a "Bill on Proper Implementation of Technical Intern Training for Foreign Nationals and Protection of the Technical Intern Trainees" to the 189th session of the Diet on March 6, 2015 after hearing the views of the labor and management organizations, academics and other experts at the Joint Experts Discussion Panel of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare established in November 2014. During the Diet session, an explanation was given on the intent of the system followed by questions at the plenary session of the House of Representatives, and the bill was later collectively deliberated together with the "Bill for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act" mentioned in the Chapter 1 by the Legal Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives at the 190th session of the Diet in 2016, and subsequently became subject to continued deliberations at the next Diet session. The outline of this bill is as follows.

## ❶ Measures for Optimization of the System

### (1) Strengthening of the System of Supervision and Management

In order to enable the technical intern training to be implemented in line with the intent of the system, which is the promotion of international cooperation through the transfer of skills, etc. to the developing countries, etc., a system of certification of the technical intern training plans, which the implementer of the technical intern training prepares a plan for respective trainees describing the goals and contents of the technical intern training as well as other matters such as the treatment of the trainee and then receives certification from the competent Minister, is to be introduced, furthermore, provisions will be laid down to the effect of the competent Minister being able to issue an order for improvement or to render a disposition on revocation of certification where there is a problem in implementation or acceptance. Moreover, a framework is to be developed to check whether or not the skills, etc. are being appropriately acquired in line with the intent of the system, through an objective skills assessment which examines whether or not each trainee has passed a public skill evaluation exam which is included in their individual technical intern training program as their goals to be achieved,

depending on the stage of the training.

Moreover, with regard to the supervising organizations, in order to exclude unsuitable organizations in advance, a permission system is to be introduced, and a provision is established to the effect that if a problem arises after the permission has been granted, the competent Minister may issue an order for improvement or a disposition on revocation of permission, etc.

In addition, in order to ensure the effectiveness of these mechanisms, provisions are to be laid down vis-à-vis the implementers of the technical intern training and the supervising organizations for the collection of reports to the competent Minister, the authority to conduct on-site inspections and prescribed penalties for procedural violations.

### (2) Protection of the Technical Intern Trainees

As well as provisions for prohibition of such acts by an implementer of the technical intern training or a supervising organization as those taking away the passports or residence cards of the trainees or those unduly restricting freedom in the private life of the technical intern trainees, and penalties for such acts, provisions will also be established for prohibition and penalties pertaining to the supervising organizations with regard to acts forcing the technical intern trainees to undergo training and acts imposing fines; penalties for which are provided for by the Labor Standards Law, but which cannot be enforced against the supervising organizations due to the fact that the supervising organizations are not in a relationship of labor and management vis-à-vis the trainees.

In addition, a provision is to be established enabling technical intern trainees to file a report to the competent Minister in cases where the implementer of the technical intern training or the supervising organization commits an act of violation, and disadvantageous treatment owing to having made the report will be prohibited through a penalty.

### (3) Establishment of Organization on Technical Intern Training

In order to ensure consistent supervision and management of the system of technical intern training which extends over the jurisdiction of both the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, an organization on technical intern training will be newly established as an authorized corporation under the jurisdiction of both ministries, and it is to perform the administrative affairs relating to certification of the technical intern training plans and permission for the supervising organizations, on-site inspections for the implementers of the technical intern training and supervising organizations, and advice and assistance for the technical intern trainees.

## ❷ Measures for Expansion of the System

The technical intern training thus far has been divided into the two stages of Technical Intern Training (i) (one year) and Technical Intern Training (ii) (two years), but Technical Intern Training (iii) (two years), which is the third stage of the technical intern training will be added, and technical intern trainees who will have reached the goal of completion of the technical intern training (ii) will be able to proceed to (iii) on the premise that the technical intern training will be implemented by a trustworthy implementer of the technical intern training and supervising organization, enabling the technical intern training to be implemented for a maximum total of five years.

# Chapter 3. Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and Immigration Control Administration

## Section 1 ◆ Promotion of the Acceptance of Highly-Skilled Foreign Nationals

### ❶ Outline of Points-Based Preferential Treatment for Highly-Skilled Professionals

Japan introduced preferential immigration treatment based on a points' system for highly-skilled professionals (hereinafter referred to as "points-based system for highly-skilled professionals") in May 2012, and has since been promoting the acceptance of highly-skilled foreign nationals. The points-based system for highly-skilled professionals is aimed at foreign nationals who have advanced capabilities and qualities that are expected to contribute to Japan's economic growth, and divides the contents of the activities of the highly-skilled professionals into the three categories of "advanced academic research activities", "advanced specialized/technical activities" and "advanced business management activities", and according to the characteristic features of each category, points are awarded for each item, such as "academic background", "professional career" and "annual salary", and if the total number reaches 70 points, such a foreign national is recognized as a "highly-skilled foreign national" and becomes eligible for preferential immigration treatment.

Following the introduction of the system, a recommendation was made by the 6th Immigration Policy Discussions Panel to the Minister of Justice to revise the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals in May 2013, and even in the "Japan Revitalization Strategy" approved by the Cabinet on June 14 of the same year, a goal was set out to revise the system and to start the new system within the same year. Based on these, the Immigration Bureau amended the Ministry of Justice public notice on December 17 of the same year with the aim of revising the criteria for recognition pertaining to highly-skilled professionals and revising the preferential treatment.

In order to further promote the acceptance of foreign human resources who possess a high degree of professional competence, the statuses of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)" and "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)" were newly established through an amendment of the Immigration Control Act in 2014 for those highly-skilled professionals who had previously been granted the status of residence of "Designated Activities".

### ❷ "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)" and "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)"

The new statuses of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)" and "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)" established through the 2014 Amendment Act are both limited to those foreign nationals who meet the criteria prescribed by an Ordinance of the Ministry of Justice, and in response, the Ordinance to Provide for the Criteria in the Right-Hand Column Corresponding to "Highly-Skilled Professionals as Specified in the Appended Table I (2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act" (Ministerial Ordinance No. 37 of 2014) was enacted and the criteria were set. With regard to "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)", the criteria for the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals operated previously through the status of residence of "Designated Activities" are be followed, and the total number of points set for each of the categories of "academic background", "professional career" and

"annual salary" must reach 70 points or more. In addition, with regard to "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)", the total number of points must be 70 points or more as with "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)", and moreover, the requirement was set that the foreign national must have been residing in Japan for three years or more with the status of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)" and to have engaged in the activities for that status, to have demonstrated good behavior and to be deemed to suit Japan's interests.

## (1) Preferential Treatment for "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)"

A. Grant of the "five years" period of stay
B. Permission for multiple purposes of activities
C. Permission for the spouse of the highly-skilled professional to work (*1)
D. Permission for the parent(s) to accompany the highly-skilled professional to Japan under certain conditions (*2)
E. Easing of requirements for permanent residence
F. Permission for a domestic worker to accompany the highly-skilled professional to Japan under certain conditions (*3)
G. Preferential processing of entry and residence procedures

## (2) Preferential Treatment for "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)"

A. In conjunction with the activities of "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)", permitted to engage in almost all of statuses of residence based on employment
B. Granted an indefinite period of stay
C. Eligible for the preferential treatment of the abovementioned (1) from C. to F.

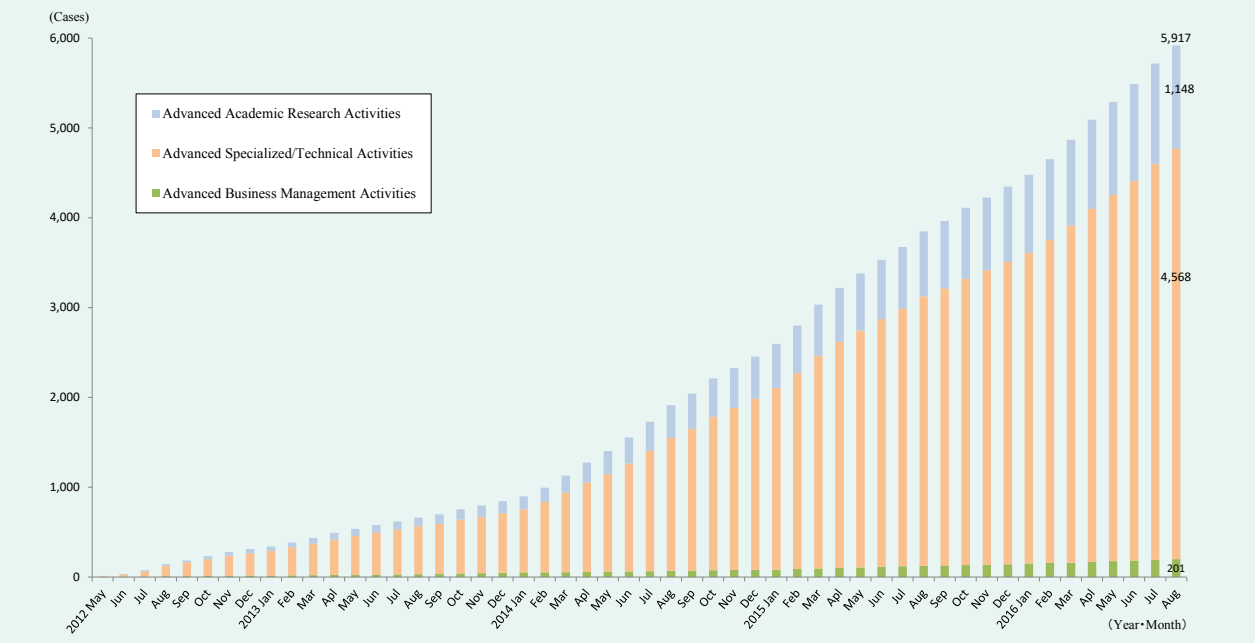
Although the status of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)" has no restrictions on the period of stay and cannot be granted at the time of landing similar to the status of residence of "Permanent Resident", it differs from the status of residence of "Permanent Resident" which has no restrictions on activities, because the status of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)" requires engaging in activities as a highly-skilled professional. As a result, if a foreign national residing with the status of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)" does not engage in the activities as a highly-skilled professional for an ongoing period of six months or more, this may become grounds for revocation of the status of residence, and there are certain requirements which are not imposed on the status of residence of "Permanent Resident" such as the requirement to give a notification on the organization of affiliation (workplace, etc.) to the Minister of Justice. On the other hand, the status of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)" is given preferential immigration treatment which is not accorded to "Permanent Resident" such as allowing parents or domestic staff to accompany the highly-skilled professional.

(*1) In cases of activities coming under the statuses of residence of "Instructor", "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services",etc., it is possible to work with the status of residence of a spouse of a highly-skilled professional even without meeting certain criteria relating to academic background or professional career.
(*2) In cases where there is a child under the age of 7 or where the highly-skilled professional or his spouse is pregnant.
(*3) In cases where there is a child under the age of 13 or where spouse is unable to engage in the day-to-day household chores owing to, an illness or other factors.

## ❸ Situation of Acceptance

After the start of the system in May 2012, the cumulative number of cases of recognition up until the end of 2013 was a low number of 845, but the number of new cases of recognition has increased significantly following the institutional reforms made in December of the same year. The "Japan Revitalization Strategy 2016" (approved by the Cabinet on June 2, 2016) set a goal of recognition of 10,000 highly-skilled professionals by the end of 2020, and so far, 5,917 foreign nationals have been recognized as highly-skilled professionals since the start of the system until the end of August 2016.

**Reference 69 Changes in the total number of cases of recognition through the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals**




## ❹ Publicity Measures

It is important to proactively conduct publicity measures and to promote the use of the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals in order to have as many highly-skilled foreign nationals utilize the system as possible. Therefore, the Immigration Bureau has been conducting the following kinds of publicity measures.

(i) A special "Points-based System for Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals" page was created for the Immigration Bureau's website on which easily-comprehensible explanations on the system can be found in Japanese and English (Japanese: http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_3/index.html, English: http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_3/en/index.html).

In addition, as well as attaching banners to specially prepared pages on the websites of the relevant ministries and agencies, we have been airing videos of the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals using the government public relations broadcasting site, "Japanese Government Internet TV".

(ii) We have created leaflets which clearly show at a glance how the points are calculated, and in coordination with the relevant ministries and agencies, we have been sending officers to the various conferences hosted by the companies, universities and other organizations, which are likely to employ the highly-skilled professionals, in order to give a talk explaining the system.

The Immigration Bureau intends to continue with its endeavors to enhance its publicity measures relating to the system for highly-skilled professionals with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies.

## Section 2 ◆ Acceptance of Foreign Nationals in the National Strategic Special Zones

### ❶ Entrepreneurs

The "Project for Facilitation of Acceptance of Foreign Entrepreneurs in the National Strategic Special Zones" was stipulated in the "Bill for Partial Amendment of the Act on National Strategic Special Zones and the Act on Special Zones for Structural Reform" (Act No. 56 of 2015) as a special measure in order to strengthen the international competitiveness of industries and to form an international economic activities hub in such zones by promoting the acceptance of foreign entrepreneurs in the national strategic special zones.

In this project, the Council on National Strategic Special Zones specifies the business in the special zone plan, and once the plan has been approved by the Prime Minister, the local government pertaining to the national strategic special zone examines the feasibility of the business start-up plan for foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan with the status of residence of "Business Manager", and if it confirms that the requirements pertaining to the stability and sustainability of the business have been fulfilled, the entry is permitted on condition that the requirements pertaining to the status of residence of "Business Manager" which are normally required at the time of landing examination are to be met within six months of landing, and the activities to start up a business in the national strategic special zone are specially permitted.

As of July 2016, operations for the project have commenced in the Tokyo Area National Strategic Special Zone, the Fukuoka-Kitakyushu National Strategic Special Zone, the Niigata National Strategic Special Zone, and the Hiroshima-Imabari National Strategic Special Zone.

### ❷ Foreigners Conducting Housekeeping Services

In accordance with the "Act for Partial Amendment of the Act on National Strategic Special Zones and the Act on Special Zones for Structural Reform" (Act No. 56 of 2015), the activities of domestic workers in the national strategic special zones are deemed to come under the public notice on the status of residence of "Designated Activities", and the "Project to Accept Foreigner Conducting Housekeeping Services in the National Strategic Special Zones" was stipulated as a special measure.

This project is a special measure where a special zone plan which the Council on National Strategic Special Zones includes the project receives approval from the Prime Minister, domestic workers (foreigner conducting housekeeping services) who have entered into an employment contract with a specified organization are able to engage in general domestic work such as cooking, washing, cleaning and shopping in the household using the domestic services, under a framework where a third party management council composed of the local government of the zone implementing the project and the relevant ministries (Cabinet Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) is involved in ensuring appropriate acceptance.

As of July 2016, operations for the project have commenced in the Tokyo Area National Strategic Special Zone (project implementation area: all of Kanagawa prefecture) and the Kansai Area National Strategic Special Zone (all of Osaka city).

## Section 3 ◆ Other Measures

### ❶ Time-Limited Emergency Measures in the Fields of Construction and Shipbuilding

In order to deal with the further acceleration of the reconstruction projects and temporary increased demand for construction owing to the development of facilities related to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, a decision was made by the Ministerial Committee on the Employment of Foreign Workers in the Construction Field (April 4, 2014) to permit as an emergency measure for a limited time, foreign nationals who have completed their technical intern training in the construction field to engage in construction work in Japan with the status of residence of "Designated Activities" under a special supervision framework, in principle, for a maximum period of two years (three years in the case of a person who has returned to their home country for a period of one year or more following the completion of their technical intern training), on condition that utmost efforts have been made to secure human resources in Japan.

In response, the "Public Notice on Projects for Acceptance of Foreign Construction Workers" (Public Notice of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism), which provides for the specific contents of the measures, was announced in August 2014, with the administrative work of certifying trustworthy supervising organizations, etc. commencing in January 2015, and those foreign construction workers who are eligible under these measures being accepted from April of the same year.

In addition, with regard to the shipping industry which tends to see a large two-way flow of human resources to and from the construction industry, the "Japan Revitalization Strategy (Revised in 2014)" stated that time-limited emergency measures similar to those of the construction industry should be taken, and therefore, the "Public Notice on Projects for Acceptance of Foreign Shipbuilding Workers" (Public Notice of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism), which provides for the specific contents of the measures was announced in December 2014, with the administrative work of certifying trustworthy supervising organizations, etc. commencing in January 2015, and those foreign construction workers who are eligible under these measures being accepted from April of the same year.

Moreover, these projects for acceptance are a temporary measure until FY 2020.

### ❷ Domestic Acceptance of Employees from Overseas Subsidiaries in the Manufacturing Industry

In light of fears about de-industrialization within Japan due to accelerating overseas expansion by Japanese manufacturing industry, the "Japan Revitalization Strategy (Revised in 2014)" (approved by a Cabinet decision on June 24, 2014) proposed the development of a systems that will enable domestic bases to function as mother plants, carrying out production activities based on a division of roles with overseas bases, and which will also facilitate research and development and capital investment based on this premise. In response, a system that requires approval of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, was introduced in March 2016 in order to make it possible to accept employees from overseas subsidiaries of Japanese manufactures to Japan, with acceptance permitted limited to a maximum limit of one year.

## Article: The Basic Plan for Immigration Control (5th Edition)

The Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act provides for the Minister of Justice to formulate a plan, which serves as the basis for the measures on control of the entry and residence of foreign nationals, for the purpose of equitable control over immigration affairs.

This plan is referred to as the Basic Plan for Immigration Control, and while taking into consideration the report of the 6th Immigration Policy Discussion Panel, which is the private consultative group for the Minister of Justice, and the opinions through Public Comments etc., discussions are held with the relevant administrative organs, and then the plan is formulated for a period of approximately five years.

The 5th Basic Plan for Immigration Control, which was formulated in September 2015 stipulated the following six points as the basic policy of future immigration control administration, and development of the necessary measures:

○Proactive acceptance of foreign nationals vitalizing the Japanese economy and society,

○Building of a new system of technical intern training from the perspective of further promoting international contributions to developing countries, etc.,

○Contributing to the realization of a symbiotic society co-existing with foreign nationals who have been accepted into Japan,

○Contributing to the realization of a tourism-oriented country through fast and smooth implementation of immigration procedures for foreign national visiting Japan,

○Reinforcement of strict but appropriate immigration examinations and countermeasures against illegal residents etc. in order to realize a safe and secure society,

○Promotion of appropriate and prompt asylum for refugee in light of Japanese standing as a member of the international community with regard to the issue of refugees.

# Chapter 4. Smooth and Strict Implementation of Immigration Examination at the Port of Entry

In order to contribute to the realization of a tourism-oriented country, it is important on the one hand to strive to implement smooth landing examinations for the majority of foreign nationals, who come to Japan without causing any problems, but in order to realize a society where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals can live together harmoniously, it is also necessary to implement strict landing examinations and reliably prevent the entry of foreign nationals whose objective is terrorism, illegal work or other illegal activities.

The number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2015 reached approximately 19 million and it is expected that this number will continue to increase in the future, but since acts of terrorism are taking place in many parts of the world and Japanese nationals have been held captive and murdered, the Immigration Bureau has been working to reconcile the seemingly conflicting goals of stricter yet smoother examinations through the implementation of strict and smooth examinations depending on the case.

## Section 1 ◆ Efforts to Promote a Tourism-Oriented Country

### ❶ Automated Gates

#### (1) Promotion of Use of the Automated Gates

Japanese nationals and foreign nationals satisfying certain requirements (in possession of re-entry permission, etc.), who have registered in advance as users of the automated gates, are able to undergo the immigration procedures using the automated gates and do not have to undergo the usual examination by the immigration inspector at the immigration examination booth, and in this way, smooth but strict examinations are being further promoted. Following the installation of the automated gates at Narita Airport in November 2007, automated gates were installed at Chubu Airport and Kansai Airport in September 2009 and were additionally installed at Haneda Airport in October 2010, and by the end of FY 2015, 70 automated gates had been installed throughout the country.

User registration of automated gates was started at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau and the Narita Airport District Immigration Office in November 2007, followed by the Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau, the Chubu Airport District Immigration Office, the Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau and the Kansai Airport District Immigration Office in September 2009, and the Haneda Airport

Automated gates

On-site registration using a mobile device to register as a user of the automated gates

District Immigration Office of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau in October 2010.

Moreover, in order to promote user registration of the automated gates in 2013, as well as increasing the number of devices for user registration and posting information in airport facilities and in-flight magazines through the cooperation of the airport operating companies and airline companies, the Immigration Bureau has been working to improve its administrative services with regard to those persons wishing to register for use of the automated gates through such means as sending immigration officers to the prefectural passport offices in order to enable mobile on-the-spot user registration.

## (2) Trusted Traveler Program

The Bill for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control Act in relation to "facilitation of the immigration procedures pertaining to 'trusted travelers'" was passed in June 2014 as one of the measures to promote Japan as a tourism-oriented country.

At present, use of the automated gates is limited to mid to long-term residents in possession of re-entry permission, but the scope of eligible users of the automated gates will be expanded through the "Trusted Traveler Program" to include eligible foreign nationals who are entering Japan with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor". Under this program, foreign nationals with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor", who have a past record of having visited Japan a number of times and are registered as a "Trusted Traveler" having undergone an examination through providing their fingerprints and other personal identification information in advance and who are deemed to pose little risk in terms of immigration control, will not be required to receive a seal for verification of landing and will be issued with a Registered User Card as a means to prove landing permission in place of the seal for verification of landing.

The program requires necessary system development and is scheduled to commence operation at the time of the enforcement of the amended Act in November 2016.

## (3) Consideration of the Implementation of Facial Recognition Technology in the Departure and Return Procedures for Japanese Nationals

In order to be able to implement smooth yet strict landing examinations to handle the increasing number of foreign nationals visiting Japan, consideration is currently being given to accelerate this process through streamlining the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals, and reassigning the capacity of immigration officers that has been made available through such streamlining to the immigration examinations for foreign nationals. For this purpose, a trial run was conducted utilizing facial recognition technology in the departure and return examinations for Japanese nationals in FY 2012, and the results showed that the technology was unable to recognize the person as the individual (false rejections) in 17.7% of cases. In response to these results, the "Results of a Study on the Direction of Immigration Control Administration in an Era of 25 Million Foreign Visitors Coming to Japan" reported to the Minister of Justice by the Immigration Policy Discussion Panel in FY 2013 stated that "it will be difficult to immediately introduce automated gates which rely simply on facial recognition, however, while watching the technological trends, it is preferable for the Ministry of Justice to encourage technological developments by the private sector, and to implement automated gates using facial recognition technology at the earliest possible date".

Based on the report, the Immigration Bureau continued to watch the trends of facial recognition technology, and moreover, in light of demands from the promotion of Japan as a tourism-oriented country, carried out a further verification test with regards to the use of facial recognition technology

in the departure and return examinations of Japanese nationals at Narita Airport and Haneda Airport between August 4 to September 5, 2014. As a result, the experts group reported that "facial recognition technology can be rated as having sufficient possibility for use in the departure and return examinations of Japanese nationals". In response, while conducting a study on problems in its use, research studies pertaining to installment of the facial recognition technology are due to be conducted in FY 2016 with the goal of installing the technology in FY 2018.

## ❷ Implementation of Bio Carts

In order to reduce the time required for the landing examinations at the Japanese airports, the functions of the personal identification information system were overhauled. In particular, devices (dubbed Bio Carts) to acquire personal identification information (fingerprints and facial photographs) in advance, making use of the waiting time for the landing examinations, were introduced in October 2016 at Kansai, Takamatsu and Naha airports where we expected they were effective. In this way, we are striving to reduce the waiting time for the landing examinations, and the use of these devices is scheduled to be expanded in the future.

## ❸ Response to Cruise Ship Passengers

In recent years, the number of cruise ships calling at ports in Japan has increased and they are getting much larger in size. In response to requests from the municipalities hosting the cruise ships at their ports, for prompt processing of post-arrival procedures to enable passengers to fully enjoy sightseeing and other activities within the limited time the ship stays at the port, the Immigration Bureau has been conducting prompt examinations, while securing strict examinations, since June 2012. These efforts include preparation for onboard examinations for large-sized cruise ships, adoption of a new method of examination utilizing permission for landing at a port of call, utilization of examination devices for which the systems have been modified, and the dispatch of help personnel for examinations across Japan.

Landing permission for cruise ship tourists for allowing the foreign passengers of cruise ships designated by the Minister of Justice to land through the simplified procedures has been operated since January 1, 2015.

**Cruise ship examinations**

## ❹ Measures to Enable the Longer Stays of Wealthy Foreign Nationals

At present, it is possible for foreign nationals who visit Japan for the purpose of sightseeing and recreation to enter Japan with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" but, in principle, the maximum length of stay with this status of residence is 90 days. However, amid the rising number of foreign tourists visiting Japan in recent years, a number of foreign visitors requested that they be permitted to stay in Japan for a longer period, and the "Japan Revitalization Strategy (Revised in 2014)" also proposed the establishment of a system enabling tourist longer stays for the purpose of sightseeing to wealthy foreign nationals. In response, the Immigration Bureau has made it possible for foreign nationals who meet the following requirements to stay in Japan with the status of residence of "Designated Activities" for a maximum of one year for the purpose of sightseeing or recreation since June 23, 2015.

(i) Foreign nationals of countries/regions to which Japan accords visa exemption measures vis-à-vis those who intend to enter with the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor" (provided, however, that this excludes countries for which these measures have been suspended and countries for which measures to encourage visa acquisition are being taken) (*)
(ii) Foreign nationals of 18 years of age or above (except for accompanying spouses)
(iii) Savings of 30 million yen and over (possible to aggregate the savings of husband and wife)
(iv) Subscription to medical insurance

### ❺ Other Measures to Reduce the Waiting Time for Examinations

Measures are being implemented to reduce the waiting time for landing examinations such as simplifying a disembarkation card for foreign nationals (omission of some of a previously required details), which is submitted by the foreign national to the immigration inspector at the time of the landing examination (enforced from April 1, 2016), and increasing the number of booths through the installment of a newly-arranged examination booth in which two immigration inspectors are located front and back to conduct a landing examination respectively at the same time.

**Newly-arranged examination booth**

## Section 2 ◆ Strengthened Countermeasures at the Port of Entry

### ❶ Immigration Examinations Utilizing Information

#### (1) Implementation of Immigration Examinations Through the Use of Biometric Information

Since November 20, 2007, foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan have been required to submit their biometric information (fingerprints and a facial photograph). This enables the Immigration Bureau to accurately and promptly confirm that the applicant for the verification for landing is the same as the passport holder, and to check the applicant against the blacklist maintained by the Immigration Bureau. In addition, it has become possible to stringently detect those who have previously been deported and again try to enter Japan illegally using forged passports or the passports of other people by checking their information against the data on fingerprints and facial photographs of those who departed under a departure order or who were deported in the past retained by the Immigration Bureau. The total number of foreign nationals who were ordered to leave or deported from Japan through the utilization of personal identification information was approximately 6,200 during the period from the commencement of landing examinations utilizing personal identification information to the end of December 2015.

On the other hand, there have been many cases of foreign nationals who attempted to enter Japan illegally using fake fingerprints created by causing direct injury to their fingers

**Immigration examination through the use of biometric information**

(*) In the case of entry through this system, it is necessary to obtain the visa for the status of residence of "Designated Activities" in advance.

or by having plastic surgery, or using forged passports, in order to avoid detection of their departure under a departure order or deportation in the past. In cases where a foreign national has used fake fingerprints, the foreign national will not only be subject to the deportation procedures implemented by the Immigration Bureau, but will also be subject to stricter measures, including a criminal disposition, and therefore, the Immigration Bureau files accusations with or reports to the investigating authorities such as the police, and also strives to detect fake fingerprints by upgrading the examination devices in order to ensure appropriately handling of the case.

## (2) Utilization of Facial Image Cross-Checking

The "Reinforcement of Measures against Terrorism in Response to the Terrorism Case Involving Murdered Japanese Nationals" (decision of the Headquarters for Promotion of Measures against Transnational Organized Crime and Other Relative Issues and International Terrorism dated May 29, 2015) stated that "The Ministry of Justice will study reinforcement of the utilization of facial image cross-checking capabilities with the cooperation of the relevant ministries and agencies (omitted), in light of the serious terrorist situation and the increase in foreign nationals entering Japan" as part of the reinforcement of the border measures. In response, to reliably find the terrorists and other related persons, etc. at landing examination, the Immigration Bureau has implemented the cross-checking of the facial photographs provided by foreign nationals at the time of landing examination at airports and seaports across the country against the facial images of terrorists and other related persons, etc. kept by the Immigration Bureau since October 2016.

## (3) Use of ICPO's Database of Stolen and Lost Travel Documents

The introduction and operation of a system to enable the utilization of ICPO's database of stolen and lost travel documents at the time of the landing examinations as a measure to prevent terrorism was decided in the "Action Plan for the Prevention of Terrorism" (decision of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Transnational Organized Crime and Other Relative Issues and International Terrorism on December 10, 2004), and examinations have been conducted since August 2009 utilizing ICPO's stolen and lost travel documents database search system.

The Immigration Bureau seeks to detect illegal entry cases by terrorists and those contemplating illegal conduct through the misuse of lost or stolen passports, by utilizing the abovementioned database.

## (4) Immigration Examinations Through the Use of APIS and PNR

The Immigration Bureau is collecting the information on movements of international terrorists and various kind of information related to them in close cooperation with the relevant agencies to prevent them from entering Japan and committing terrorist acts. In the process of entry (landing) examinations, the Immigration Bureau is trying to detect terrorists, etc., by unfailingly checking foreign nationals against a blacklist based on such information.

Since February 1, 2007, all vessels and aircrafts calling at a port in Japan have been required to submit, in advance, a list of crew members and passengers which contains their personal identification data. Since February 21, 2010, it has become possible to receive advance passenger information about aircraft calling at an airport through the NACCS (Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System) operated by the Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System, Inc., and a new advance passenger information system (APIS) was launched.

In addition, in order to be able to respond to the significant increase in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in line with the various strategies aimed at realizing Japan as a tourism-oriented country and to prevent terrorists and other foreign nationals who pose a risk in terms of

immigration control from entering the country, we have been collecting new information which is effective in immigration control, and moreover, the 2014 amendment of the Immigration Control Act has enabled the Immigration Bureau since January 1, 2015 to request the airline companies to provide reports on passenger name records (PNR), and moreover from January 1, 2016, it has become possible to electronically receive the PNRs via the NACCS. We will be striving to prevent the entry at the border of terrorists and other foreign nationals who pose a problem in terms of immigration control and to achieve smooth and prompt landing examinations for problem-free foreign nationals through the utilization of the PNRs.

## ❷ Reinforcement of Information Collection and Analysis

Stricter border measures are required more than ever of the Immigration Bureau owing to the increasingly more serious terrorist situation such as the occurrence of acts of terrorism all around the world, including the series of terrorist attacks in Paris, France in November 2015, and with the upcoming hosting of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020.

Meanwhile, due to various measures being implemented to promote Japan as a tourism-oriented country and the continuing trend of the increasing number of foreign visitors coming to Japan, it is necessary to achieve the intricate balance of strict immigration control, including measures to prevent terrorism, and also smooth landing examinations to realize Japan as a tourism-oriented country.

Therefore, the "Center of Collection and Analysis of Intelligence" was established on October 1, 2015 as a central agency to collect and analyze information in the field of immigration control. Using this center, the Immigration Bureau is able to implement strict border measures by promoting information-sharing among the relevant organizations in Japan and other countries, conducting sophisticated analysis using the information, and by having the regional immigration offices such as those at the airports utilize the results of the analyses.

In addition, since the utilization of facial images is crucial in border measures against terrorism, the center collects facial images, etc. pertaining to individuals connected to terrorism and provides the information to the front-line organizations at the border such as the airports.

## ❸ Patrol Activities at Airports and Seaports

In fact, there have been some cases of illegal entry into a third country misusing the transit areas (special areas made available in international airports, consisting of areas through which those who enter the country by airplane move until they reach the landing examination site, and places where those who are making airplane connections can stay before they go onboard) in Japanese major airports.

Accordingly, the immigration control officers monitor and detect suspicious individuals by reinforced organizational patrols, in the transit areas of Narita Airport and other major airports.

In addition, there is a concern that illegal entry cases using vessels to smuggle those who have been deported from Japan in order to avoid landing examination utilizing biometric information, would increase.

Owing to the possibility that terrorists or other related persons, etc. may be hidden among the foreign nationals who have illegally entered Japan, in order to deal appropriately with these cases, mobile teams composed of immigration control officers (mobile teams for Kita-Nihon (northern Japan), Tokyo Bay Chiba, Tokyo Bay Yokohama, Naka-Nihon (central Japan), Kobe and Nishi-Nihon (West Japan)) have been assigned to the regional immigration bureaus in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka, and the border measures have been strengthened. These mobile teams gather, analyze and share information

on illegal foreign nationals entering and departing from Japan and conduct various joint drills, while reinforcing their cooperation with the related ministries and agencies. These mobile teams conduct patrols at the seaports and coastal areas under their jurisdictions and search onboard ships in port, as well as conducting investigations and detection of suspects, related suspects and brokers in connection with illegal immigration issues.

**Joint drill**

**Patrol activity**

**Detection on a smuggling boat**

## Article: Establishment of the Center of Collection and Analysis of Intelligence

In anticipation of four years from now when the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Japan, the Immigration Bureau is expected to achieve smooth and prompt landing examinations to handle the surge in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan, to implement strict measures to prevent the entry of individuals who pose a high risk in terms of immigration control (high-risk individuals) such as terrorists, illegal residents and imposter residents, and to deal stringently with the illegal residents and imposter residents.

The entire government outlined in the "Strategy to Make 'Japan the Safest Country in the World'" (approved by the Cabinet on December 10, 2013) reinforcement of the intelligence functions relating to immigration control, and through enhancement of the intelligence functions of the Immigration Bureau, the realization of a society where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals are able to co-exist harmoniously through the fostering of an environment where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals are able to live together in Japan with a general sense of safety, and therefore, the "Center of Collection and Analysis of Intelligence" (hereinafter "Center") was established in the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice on October 1, 2015 as a central agency for the purpose of reinforcing its intelligence functions, comprising immigration control information gathering and analysis.

The three main duties of the Center are categorized as: (i) information gathering, (ii) information analysis, and (iii) forensics.

The first duty of information gathering involves working on increasing the quantity and quality of information kept by the Center by collecting information from the relevant organizations in Japan and other countries pertaining to high-risk individuals, etc. and building frameworks on information-sharing with the relevant organizations in Japan and other countries.

The second duty of information analysis involves identifying and categorizing high-risk individuals, etc. through comprehensive and sophisticated analysis of the information by officers with specialized knowledge, and aims to achieve effective and accurate examinations such as strict examinations of high-risk individuals by providing the results of the analyses to the regional immigration offices.

The third duty of forensics involves collecting information on forged and altered passports and other documents, and on the techniques used in fake fingerprints and collecting information on the latest technology trends relating to fingerprint forensics, and as a new initiative, promoting reinforcement of use of the facial image cross-checking functions in the landing examinations as one of the border measures in order to detect terrorists and other suspected persons without fail.

The reinforcement of the collection and analysis of immigration control information by the Center serves to maximize its functions, further carries out the "strengthening of the border measures", "promotion of Japan as a tourism-oriented country" and "securing of a general sense of safety in Japan" and contributes to the safe hosting of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020.

The collection and analysis of information relating to terrorists and other suspected persons in collaboration with other relevant agencies including the police is vital when conducting border measures, and in the future, we will continue with our efforts to reinforce cooperation with them, and moreover, strengthen the immigration examination structure and promote further utilization of information, and also do our utmost to work on border measures in order to prevent terrorism before it happens.

## Article: Preparations for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit

As measures to prepare for the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, the Immigration Bureau established the "Headquarters for Ise-Shima Summit Measures" within the Immigration Bureau (February 26, 2016), and the "Ise-Shima Summit Operations Room" in the Ministry of Justice (April 3, 2016) in order to form an around-the-clock system for liaison and coordination with the regional immigration offices, police and other agencies, designated the period from the day the Operations Room was established to the day following the end date of the Summit (May 28, 2016) as the "Period for Special Reinforcement of Landing Examinations", and strengthened the border measures such as by ensuring the implementation of even stricter landing examinations.

In particular, the system was reinforced for the period immediately prior to the Summit through the dispatch of additional officers from all around the country to Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau and Chubu Airport District Immigration Office.

With regard to specific landing examinations, in order to reliably prevent the entry of terrorists and anti-globalism activists, etc., the Immigration Bureau continued to steadily implement the various measures pertaining to landing examinations for border measures as before, such as the implementation of landing examinations utilizing personal identification information, but also implemented new measures utilizing the results of information collection and analysis by categorizing the individuals requiring careful examination through analysis of the information in passenger name records (PNRs) by the Center of Collection and Analysis of Inteligence, and used these results to prevent the entry of terrorists and other high-risk individuals. In addition to this, in order to strengthen the immigration control structure for border measures, the Immigration Bureau implemented the reinforcement of on-board immigration examinations and patrols at the seaports, and during the period prior to the Summit, reinforced the landing examinations at the seaports such as by implementing on-site inspections, etc. aboard vessels in collaboration with Japan Customs, the Japan Coast Guard and other relevant agencies, targeting vessels coming directly into port from abroad to seaports in Mie prefecture, where Kashikojima, the venue for the Summit meeting was located and the seaports on the east coasts of the neighboring prefectures of Aichi prefecture and Wakayama prefecture.

While implementing such strict landing examinations, the Immigration Bureau also took care to properly conduct smooth immigration examinations for the heads of state, dignitaries and government delegations participating in the Ise-Shima Summit with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant ministries and agencies.

# Chapter 5. Measures Against Illegal and Imposter Foreign Residents

## Section 1 ◆ Implementation of Measures Against Illegal Foreign Residents

### ❶ Past Efforts to Reduce the Number of Illegal Foreign Residents

Based on the "Five-Year Plan to Halve the Number of Illegal Foreign Residents" launched in 2004, each regional immigration bureau has actively promoted various measures, including strict implementation of landing/residence examinations, proactive public relations activities regarding illegal employment, strengthened detection by special detection officer units (see subsection ② (1) below), etc., wider application of custody transfer in accordance with Article 65 of the Immigration Control Act, and the encouragement of the appearances of illegal foreign residents under the departure order system. As a result, the number of illegal foreign residents, which was approximately 250,000 at the start of the plan, decreased to approximately 130,000 as of January 2009, and its goal was almost accomplished.

Based on the "Action Plan 2008 for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime" aiming to "create a society that generates no illegal foreign residents under the new residency management system", as the Immigration Bureau has continued efforts to further reduce the number of foreign nationals illegally staying, consequently the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was decreased to approximately 59,000 as of January 1, 2014.

However, the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay reached approximately 60,000 as of January 1, 2015, which was an increase for the first time in 22 years, and moreover, the number at the time of January 1, 2016 was approximately 63,000 showing an increase for the second year running, and therefore, with regard to future trends, this situation requires caution.

### ❷ Efforts to Further Reduce the Number of Illegal Foreign Residents

A steady decrease of the number of illegal foreign residents in Japan is recognized a result of past efforts. However, it is estimated that there are still approximately 63,000 foreign nationals staying in Japan illegally beyond their authorized period of stay.

Owing to the variety of measures being taken by the entire government aimed at the realization of a tourism-oriented country, it is expected that the number of foreign nationals who enter Japan will further increase in the future, and in response to this, since it is very likely that the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay will also increase, we will be maintaining a commensurate framework in order to be able to crack down on these illegal residents, and will also be strengthening the following measures in order to work on further reducing the number of illegal residents.

#### (1) Strengthened Detection

The Immigration Bureau has established "special detection officer units" that are to engage full-time in detecting offenders in violation of the Immigration Act in the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau (six units), Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau (two units), Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau (two units) and Yokohama District Immigration Office (one unit), which are located in large city areas where there are many illegal foreign residents, the Immigration Bureau has reinforced the ability to detect illegal foreign residents, and is promoting joint detection by strengthening cooperation with the

local police authorities.

In addition, since it has come to our attention that illegal foreign residents recently tend to be concentrated in smaller groups and are scattered throughout the country, the Immigration Bureau has been endeavoring to improve collection and analysis of various kinds of information pertaining to illegal foreign residents, and has been making efforts to promote efficient and effective exposure through assembling immigration control officers who engage in detection tailored to the target of the detection.

### (2) Preparation of an Environment Facilitating Voluntary Appearance

The Immigration Bureau introduced a departure order system as a measure to encourage illegal foreign residents existing in various parts of the country to appear at the immigration office voluntarily, and took other measures, including a revision of the "Guidelines on Special Permission to Stay in Japan" (*1) and publication of such cases, as well as public relations activities to encourage voluntary appearance at an immigration office.

The departure order system is a system where, unlike with the deportation procedures, foreign nationals staying illegally beyond their authorized period of stay, who meet certain criteria such as appearing in person to make a declaration in order to depart from Japan, are able to depart through simple procedures without being taken into custody (see Part 1, Section 5, Subsection ⑤ below), and 3,573 foreign nationals were issued with a departure order based on this system in 2015.

Meanwhile, the "Guidelines on Special Permission to Stay in Japan" which was approved and announced in 2006 was revised in July 2009 in order to increase the transparency of the operations. The revised guideline shows that if an illegal foreign resident appears at the immigration office voluntarily, this is considered a positive factor in the judgment on adjustment of their legal status.

The Immigration Bureau is also taking measures to further publicize the departure order system and the revised guideline on special permission to stay in Japan by conducting active public relations activities, improving the environment for voluntary appearances, and aiming to encourage illegal foreign residents to voluntarily appear at the immigration office (*2).

## Section 2 ◆ Implementation of Measures Against Imposter Foreign Residents

### ❶ Countermeasures Against Imposter Foreign Residents, etc.

"Imposter residents" are foreign nationals who are residing in Japan having illegally received entry or landing permission as though they come under one of the statuses of residence having disguised their identity or activities such as by using forged or altered documents or false documents under the cover of a fake marriage, fake studies or fake employment, etc., or they may not necessarily have concealed the purpose of their activities from the onset but are currently engaged in illegal work which is far removed from their status of residence, and therefore, taking measures against imposter residents is

(*1) In order to ensure further improvement of the transparency and equity of the special permission to stay, the Immigration Bureau formulated and published the "Guidelines on Special Permission to Stay in Japan". The guideline articulates what elements are considered positive elements and what are considered negative elements in determining whether special permission to stay should be granted or not, and present what points are considered in determining whether special permission to stay should be granted or not (http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000048156.pdf).

(*2) Examples of public relations activities:

(i) During the "Campaign for Measures against Illegal Foreign Workers" held every June, public relations for the prevention of illegal employment are conducted.

(ii) A page for "Procedures for Voluntary Appearance at the Immigration Office" was created on the websites of the Ministry of Justice and the Immigration Bureau in order to give clear explanations of the benefits of a voluntary appearance at an immigration office, and the procedures after the appearance, both to those who wish to return to their home countries and those who wish to continue staying in Japan (http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000052868.pdf).

also an important task in terms of immigration control administration along with measures against illegal residents. "Imposter residents" appear on the surface to be legal residents, which makes it difficult to accurately ascertain their situation, but their increase in numbers is a cause for concern since they substantively orchestrate illegal entry and residence in Japan.

The existence of imposter foreign residents abusing the status of residence system must not be overlooked, and moreover, has the potential to destabilize the foundation of Japan's immigration control administration, and therefore, the Immigration Bureau is striving to strengthen its countermeasures. The Immigration Bureau makes efforts to strictly respond to foreign nationals falling under the grounds of deportation, by revoking their status of residence and then enforcing the deportation procedures against them.

In addition, in recent years, there are a significant number of cases where foreign nationals use forged or altered residence cards or who abuse the applications for refugee recognition, and since these methods are becoming more malicious and sophisticated, the Immigration Bureau closely collaborate with the police and other related organizations, and in malicious cases, the Immigration Bureau proactively seek criminal punishment and deal strictly with such persons, and also strive to work on measures to uncover the situation of these cases.

## ❷ Crackdowns on Imposter Foreign Residents, etc.

### (1) Reinforcement of the Collection and Analysis of Information

In order to promote measures against imposter foreign residents, it is very important to carry out further effective crackdowns by uncovering such residents based on the collection and analysis of information.

For this reason, as well as continuously and accurately keeping track of the information submitted by the foreign nationals and the organizations with which they are affiliated, the Immigration Bureau uses information received from the general public pertaining to the many foreign nationals staying illegally beyond their authorized period of stay as well as information received through information exchange with the police and other agencies, and information in the notifications of the employment of foreign nationals provided by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and also through reinforcement of the analysis of information conducted by the Center of Collection and Analysis of Intelligence, which specializes in information collection and analysis and was newly established in October 2015 in order to be able to effectively detect and expose the imposter foreign residents, and to deal strictly with them.

### (2) Handling Through Reinforced Exposure and Proactive Application of Law

In order to work on proactive exposure of imposter residents, if as a result of an investigation, a foreign national who is residing with a status of residence which has restrictions on the contents of the activities in Japan is discovered to be engaging solely in work activities which do not belong to the status of residence that was granted, deportation procedures will be proactively executed against such foreign national as a violator engaging in unauthorized activities.

In addition, even if a foreign national does not fall under the grounds for deportation, the Immigration Bureau has been making efforts to reinforce crackdowns through such means as having immigration control officers and immigration inspectors coordinate to uncover the actual situation of the foreign national, and if a foreign national is found to fall under the grounds for revocation of the status of residence, the procedure for revocation of the status of residence will be instituted.

### ❸ Strict Handling of Brokers Involved in Aiding Illegal Residence and Imposter Residence

Article 24 of the Immigration Control Act provides that anyone coming under any of the following grounds for deportation will be deported: a person who has prepared or otherwise provided forged or false documents for the purpose of having another foreign national illegally acquire permission; a person who has had another foreign national engage in illegal work; a person who possesses forged residence cards for the purpose of using them; and a person who has forged or otherwise provided residence cards. In close cooperation with the police and other agencies, the Immigration Bureau proactively exposes brokers and other offenders involved in aiding foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay and imposter foreign residents pursuant to the provisions of this Article, and moreover, takes stringent action against those unlawful employers who are involved in the crime of aiding with illegal employment.

## Section 3 ◆ Efforts for Further Appropriate Treatment

### ❶ Efforts for Further Appropriate Treatment of Detainees

Based on an agreement reached with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) in September 2010, the Immigration Bureau started discussions with the JFBA on better measures about treatment of foreign nationals held in the detention centers, and will continue to hold such discussions in the future. To date, the Immigration Bureau has already implemented measures together with the JFBA such as having attorneys provide legal consultations to the detainees, while some members of bar associations have been providing regular consultations over the phone or in person to detainees in the detention centers.

In addition, when a foreign national has been issued with a deportation order, but there is no prospect for a deportation owing to such circumstances preventing the deportation that the detainee suffers from a disease or owing to the institution of litigation, or where it is difficult for such a person to acquire a passport, the Immigration Bureau, as far as possible, proactively grants provisional release to ensure that such foreign nationals are not detained for a long period of time.

Furthermore, in order to realize more proper treatment to the detainees with due consideration being given to their human rights, while taking into consideration the circumstances of individual facilities, the hours of open treatment, outdoor activities and taking a bath have been extended to the greatest extent permissible in terms of security and, periodical medical checks by visiting psychiatrists commenced in June 2011 at the Higashi-Nihon Immigration Center.

### ❷ Activities and Duties of the Immigration Detention Facilities Visiting Committee

The Immigration Detention Facilities Visiting Committee was established for the purpose of securing transparency in security treatment and of improving the management of the immigration detention facilities. Currently there are two committees, one in the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, and another in the Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau. Each committee takes charge of immigration centers and departure waiting facilities in 24 locations (as at the end of March 2016) spread across Japan according to its districts. Each committee inspects the facilities, meets with and interviews detainees, checks the opinions and proposals posted by detainees in the proposal boxes, and holds meetings. Based on the result of these activities, the committee expresses an opinion to the Director of the Immigration

Detention Center or the Director of the Regional Immigration Bureau (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Directors").

Over the course of nine months from July 2014 to March 2015, a total of 13 inspections and 92 interviews took place in the facilities throughout Japan, and 47 opinions were given to the directors of the facilities. On receiving the opinions from the committee, the directors promptly review them, and endeavor to take measures where possible.

Committee members, who are selected from people who have a reputable character, possess deep insight and are committed to improving the operations of the immigration detention centers, are appointed as part-time officers by the Minister of Justice. A maximum of no more than ten members may be appointed for each committee from experts from diverse fields, such as academic experts, legal experts, medical experts, NGO workers, the staff of international organizations, and representatives of the local community.

In addition, a summary of the opinions given by the committees and the measures taken by the Directors based on those opinions are published each year pursuant to the provisions of the Immigration Control Act.

## Section 4 ◆ Promotion of the Deportation of Deportees

### ❶ Implementation of Safe and Reliable Deportation of Deportation Evaders

Recently, there is the problem of an increasing number of foreign nationals who have been issued with a deportation order but who attempt to evade deportation (deportation evaders) because of work in Japan or other reasons.

The Immigration Bureau tries to convince these deportation evaders to return to their country of their own volition, but if they still attempt to evade deportation, they will ultimately be deported on a regular flight accompanied by escort officers based on the provisions of law or mass deportation may be implemented using chartered flights for the purpose of safer and more secure deportation.

In addition, some foreign nationals who attempt to evade deportation are often anxious about their lives after return, and with regard to foreign nationals who are deemed to require humanitarian consideration, programs are implemented for voluntary return and reintegration support with the cooperation of the Japan office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

### ❷ Implementation of Mass Deportation Using Chartered Flights

Although we endeavor to repeatedly convince deportation evaders to return to their country of their own volition, if they still attempt to evade deportation, they will ultimately be deported on a regular flight accompanied by escort officer based on the provisions of law.

However, deportation using a regular flight can cause a disturbance, for example, the deportee might start shouting in the cabin, and there are cases where the deportation cannot be implemented owing to the decision of the captain to deny boarding, or alternatively, even if the detainee is able to board the aircraft, there is the situation that a tremendous burden may be imposed on the private airlines, such as the detainee bothering other ordinary passengers.

Therefore, from 2013, we have been implementing mass deportations using charter flights where safe and reliable deportation can be carried out without boarding being denied by the captain of the aircraft, and as of the end of FY 2015, a total of 175 foreign nationals from five countries have been deported in

this manner.

## ❸ Promotion of the Use of IOM Repatriation Programs

On the other hand, there are some foreign nationals whose deportation has been decided who attempt to evade deportation despite wanting to return to their home country because of fears about life after return.

Of these persons, with regard to foreign nationals who are deemed to require humanitarian consideration, programs are implemented for voluntary return and reintegration support with the cooperation of the IOM Japan office. This program aims to dispel the anxiety deportees feel about their return home and to encourage the voluntary return of the deportees through the provision of reintegration support after return such as job placements and medical help.

So far, a number of families and individuals have returned home through application of this program, and are receiving living and employment support after their return home from the respective local IOM office.

The Immigration Bureau intends to continue with implementation of these programs with the cooperation of the IOM, and to facilitate the voluntary return home of the deportees and reintegration in their home country.

## Article: Measures Against Deportation Evaders

Following the accidental death of a Ghanaian national during a government-sponsored deportation in March 2010, government-sponsored deportation of foreign nationals who had been issued with a deportation order but were attempting to evade deportation were suspended.

Subsequently, specialized training focusing on escorted deportation was given to immigration control officers, and measures for improvement were taken for the realization of safe and reliable escorted deportation work such as through a revision of the guidelines on escorted deportation, and subsequently this led to government-sponsored deportations accompanied by escort officers recommencing in January 2013. With regard to the escorted deportations, in principle, immigration control officers who have received specialized training are designated as escort officers, and safe and reliable deportations are being implemented in this way.

Meanwhile, various other problems relating to deportation evaders have arisen such as foreign nationals who are, in principle, required to apply for their passports themselves, refusing to acquire a temporary passport for return home or foreign nationals resisting the boarding of the aircraft for their deportation, and with regard to these sorts of problems, we have been proactively working on the embassies of the country of nationality of the deportation evaders and the airlines which the evaders are scheduled to board to obtain their cooperation, and moreover, since FY 2013 have been continuously implementing group deportations using charter flights in order to be able to implement safer and more reliable deportations, and in total up until FY 2015, have implemented deportations on four occasions deporting a total of 175 foreign nationals.

Following the temporary suspension of government-sponsored deportation of foreign nationals who had been issued with a deportation order but were attempting to evade deportation, more and more foreign nationals have similarly attempted to evade deportation, and this number has been increasing year by year, and therefore in the future, we will be proactively promoting even safer and more reliable deportation work, and will endeavor to reduce the number of deportation evaders.

# Chapter 6. Promotion of Appropriate and Prompt Refugee Protection

## Section 1 ◆ Revision of the Operation of the Refugee Recognition System

With regard to the refugee recognition system, the time required for the examination of the cases is becoming more prolonged, and problems have been occurring which hinder the provision of prompt asylum to genuine refugees owing to the proliferation of applications for recognition of refugee status in recent years and applications which attempt to abuse the system for the purpose of employment or residence in Japan. Moreover, problems have also arisen concerning the difficulty of clarifying the decisions on whether or not an applicant is a refugee.

Therefore, based on the purport of the recommendations in the reports submitted in December 2014 by the "Sixth Immigration Policy Discussion Panel" which is the private advisory council of the Minister of Justice and the "Expert Meeting on the Refugee Recognition System", a study was conducted on reviewing the operation of the refugee recognition system, which was published in the form of the "Summary of the Revision of the Operation of the Refugee Recognition System" on September 15, 2015.

The contents of the review were (i) clarifying the persons eligible for protection, the decisions on recognition and the procedures, (ii) strengthening the system and infrastructure pertaining to refugee recognition administration, and (iii) appropriate handling of applications attempting to abuse or misuse the refugee recognition system, and the measures implemented so far are as given below.

(i) Clarifying the persons eligible for protection, the decisions on recognition and the procedures

A press release on the number of applicants recognized as refugees in 2015 was published in March 2016, which gave case examples of applicants recognized as refugees, case examples of applicants who were not recognized as refugees, and case examples of applicants who were granted residence permission owing to humanitarian consideration, and the points of the decisions were clearly indicated.

(ii) Strengthening the system and infrastructure pertaining to refugee recognition administration

As well as implementing refugee recognition administrative staff training for management-level officers with the cooperation of the UNHCR, the Immigration Bureau has been working on the development and capacity-building of refugee inquirers through enhancing the content of the regular training relating to information on the countries of origin of the applicants for refugee recognition, and practical training using cases studies.

(iii) Appropriate handling of applications attempting to abuse or misuse the refugee recognition system

In order to quickly and reliably provide asylum to those persons who are in genuine need, applications attempting to abuse or misuse the refugee recognition system such as applications claiming circumstances which clearly do not come under the grounds of persecution under the Refugee Convention are sorted beforehand at the stage prior to a fully-fledged investigation, and such cases are quickly processed while ensuring that the applicant has an opportunity to make a sufficient claim such as through a hearing into the circumstances by a refugee inquirer, and moreover, we have been revising the handling of permission for employment and residence for applicants of refugee recognition, and by setting certain conditions, have been striving to make decisions on an individual basis.

## Section 2 ◆ Acceptance of Refugees Through Resettlement

Resettlement is intended to transfer and resettle refugees, who have been evacuated from their countries of origins and who are temporarily taking shelter in a refugee camp in a neighboring country or some other place, to another country which agrees to accept such refugees from the countries where they were originally offered protection. Resettlement is deemed to be one of the permanent solutions for refugee problems, as well as "voluntary repatriation" and "resettlement in the first countries of asylum".

The UNHCR encourages each country to accept refugees based on resettlement from the standpoint of having the international community properly share its duties in relation to refugee problems.

In the past, Japan took measures to support the resettlement of Indochinese refugees and those recognized as refugees, but in order to deal with the various problems relating to refugees in the Asian region, Cabinet approval was given to the introduction of a system of resettlement ("Implementation of a Pilot Project for the Admission of Refugees through Resettlement") on December 16, 2008.

The Cabinet approval and the "Specific Measures for Implementation of a Pilot Project for the Admission of Refugees through Resettlement" (decision of the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues on December 19, 2008) prescribed that the relevant ministries and agencies would accept approximately 30 Myanmarese refugees every year from refugee camps in Thailand, as a pilot project starting from FY 2010 and would support their resettlement through inter-ministry and agency cooperation. It was also stated that the pilot project would, in the future, be reviewed from various angles, and that based on the review, further consideration would be given to a future system of acceptance (After that, targeted camps were expanded.). The first group of five families comprising 27 family members came to Japan in FY 2010, four families comprising 18 family members came in FY 2011, four families comprising 18 family members came in 2013, and five families comprising 23 family members came in FY 2014 (three families comprising 16 family members were scheduled to come to Japan in FY 2012, but all of the families withdrew their request before coming to Japan.).

Based on the results of the Advisory Council on Resettlement held under the auspices of the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues from March 2012 to December 2013, Japan's future policy on resettlement was approved by the Cabinet on January 24, 2014, and in accordance with the contents of this Cabinet Agreement and the "Specific Measures for the Acceptance of Refugees through Resettlement" (decision of the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues of January 24, 2014), Myanmarese refugees staying temporarily in Malaysia became eligible for acceptance from FY 2015 onwards, and six families comprising 19 family members came to Japan in FY 2015.

The Immigration Bureau, which is mainly in charge of the selection process for the acceptance of refugees and conducts interviews by sending officers out to the field, with the cooperation of the related organizations, intends to continue in the future with efforts for the acceptance of refugees through resettlement.

## Section 3 ◆ Promotion of Collaboration with NGOs

With regard to refugee-related administration, it is necessary to identify specific points which need to be improved through discussions with individuals involved in the promotion of refugee protection incorporating the standpoint of the private sector and legal experts, and to work to achieve better measures in collaboration with and cooperation from citizens' groups.

Therefore on February 10, 2012, the Immigration Bureau concluded a three-party agreement and exchanged a memorandum on cooperation with the Forum for Refugees Japan, which is a network of NGOs and groups supporting refugees, and the JFBA, agreeing to hold discussions to identify the refugee-

related administrative matters that the Immigration Bureau is responsible for which need improving, including procedures for recognizing refugee status, and to exchange information on the provision of housing, with the assistance of refugee support groups, for refugees awaiting the results of their application for recognition of refugee status.

In accordance with the three-party discussions based on this memorandum, during the period of April 2012 and March 2014, the Immigration Bureau implemented a "pilot project", which the Immigration Bureau requested Forum for Refugees Japan to secure a residence for foreign nationals claiming to be a refugee at Narita Airport for whom securing a residence was difficult and Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge or Permission for Provisional Stay was granted to foreign nationals for whom acceptance was possible.

Following the discussions among the three parties, measures similar to this project are being implemented at Narita, Haneda, Chubu Centrair and Kansai airport.

# Chapter 7. Responses to International Society and International Situations

## Section 1 ◆ Treaties and International Conventions

### ❶ Major Actions for Negotiations for the Conclusion of EPAs with Other Countries

The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are agreements which aim to promote liberalization and facilitation of trade between signatory nations, as well as the coordination of policies, relaxation of regulations, and cooperation in various economic areas, including tariffs, trade in services, investment, intellectual property, and personal exchanges. The Immigration Bureau has been actively involved in negotiations for the conclusion of EPAs with various countries: Singapore (effective date: November 2002), Mexico (April 2005), Chile (September 2007), Thailand (November 2007), Indonesia (July 2008), the Philippines (December 2008), Switzerland (September 2009), Viet Nam (October 2009), India (August 2011), Peru (March 2012), and Australia (January 2015); and has been responsible for the part in the negotiations in relation to the "movement of natural persons".

As of April 2016, the Immigration Bureau has mainly been involved in negotiations for the conclusion of EPAs with Canada, Colombia, EU and Turkey, etc.

### ❷ Acceptance of Nurse and Certified Care Worker Candidates Based on EPAs

From the point of view of strengthening bilateral cooperation in economic activities, Japan commenced the acceptance of nurse and certified care worker candidates, who aim to acquire Japanese national nursing qualifications or national certified care worker qualifications, from Indonesia in FY 2008, the Philippines in FY 2009, and Viet Nam in FY 2014. The number of foreign nationals accepted as nurse and certified care worker candidates based on EPAs up until FY 2015 was 1,513 from Indonesia, 1,297 from the Philippines, and 290 from Viet Nam.

### ❸ Reports and Examinations in Accordance with Human Rights Treaties

Japan is a signatory to various treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT). With regard to government reports on the status of the implementation of those treaties, the Immigration Bureau is involved in the drafting of reports, review of the government reports, and follow-up thereof from the perspective of immigration control administration.

### ❹ Responses to the Bilateral Travel Facilitation Initiative

"The U.S.-Japan Joint Statement: The United States and Japan: Shaping the Future of the Asia-Pacific and Beyond (Annex: Leaders Statement on U.S.-Japan Bilateral Exchanges) " dated April 25, 2014 referred to Japan's participation in the U.S. Global Entry Program (GEP), and the Immigration Bureau, also thinking that the GEP would contribute to expedite immigration procedures for both countries, vigorously pursued considerations for participation in the program. Subsequently, on April 28, 2015, an outline agreement was reached at the U.S.-Japan summit meeting on the implementation of a bilateral travel facilitation initiative pertaining to the U.S. Global Entry Program (GEP) and Japan Trusted Traveler Program (a Japanese new program making foreign nationals who have been identified as "trusted travelers" eligible to use the automated gates (see Chapter 4, Section 1, Subsection ① (2) above) ) and on October 20 in the same year, a Joint Statement was exchanged by the U.S. and Japanese authorities.

## Section 2 ◆ International Conferences

The Migration Experts Sub-Group Meeting, one of the sub groups of the G8/7 Rome-Lyon Group, which is a working experts' group to discuss measures against international terrorism and transnational organized crime is discussing measures that the G8/7 members should take cooperatively in the area of illegal immigration and the forgery or alteration of documents.

In 2015, two meetings were held in Germany and Tokyo, and officials from the Immigration Bureau attended the meetings to exchange information and opinions with their counterparts in other countries.

In addition to the international meetings mentioned above, the Immigration Bureau sends officials to attend meetings on promotion of measures against trafficking in persons and consular services, etc., to express Japan's position actively and build cooperative relations with other countries. The Immigration Bureau also sends officials to participate in multinational meetings, such as the International Air Transport Association (IATA)/Control Authorities Working multinational Group (CAWG) for the purpose of information sharing and exchanging opinions.

# Chapter 8. Improvement of Public Relations Activities and Public Services

## Section 1 ◆ Promotion of Public Relations Activities

Recognizing that public relations and enlightenment activities both in Japan and abroad play a major role in the smooth implementation of immigration control administration, the Immigration Bureau has been further promoting more active public relations activities than ever before. The main promotion of public relations activities are provision of information including the circumstances concerning immigration control administration, new systems or policies, and changes of procedures.

In terms of immigration control administration, statistics concerning immigration control administration such as the number those entering or departing from Japan, the number of foreign residents and the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay are released and posted on the website of the Ministry of Justice. In addition, the Immigration Bureau publishes such information as data on the case examples of special permission to stay in Japan and the standard processing time of the examinations of recognition of refugee status, in order to make immigration control administration understood by a wide variety of people.

Moreover, efforts are being made for publicity by posting information on promotion of use of the automated gates and the points system for highly-skilled foreign professionals and information on the necessary procedures to switch to the residence card or the special permanent resident certificate on the websites of the Ministry of Justice and the Immigration Bureau, and by distributing posters and leaflets.

In addition, for the purpose of preventing illegal work through the appropriate employment of foreign nationals, the Immigration Bureau holds an “Illegal Work Prevention Campaign” as part of the larger campaign for “Foreign Labor Problems Awareness Month” conducted by the government every June, so that the general public, companies hiring foreign nationals, and relevant organizations and governments in other countries will be able to better understand the issues and offer cooperation to the Immigration Bureau. In 2015, the Immigration Bureau conducted awareness-raising activities to prevent illegal employment by distributing leaflets and holding events all around the country in cooperation with the relevant ministries and local authorities.

**Promotion of the automated gates**

**Illegal Work Prevention Campaign**

**Leaflet for the Illegal Work Prevention Campaign**

## Section 2 ◆ Improvement of Public Services

### ❶ Facilitating the Landing Examination Procedures

The Immigration Bureau has made efforts to facilitate the entry (landing) examinations at airports and seaports, but foreign nationals who visit Japan through airports have expressed dissatisfaction with the length of time they have to wait in line for the entry (landing) examinations. In response to these complaints, measures have been taken at the landing examination areas at the major airports to resolve this problem, by assigning some of the immigration inspectors in charge of the examinations for Japanese nationals to the examinations for foreign nationals, and transferring immigration inspectors between landing examination booths depending on the degree of congestion. In addition, the expected waiting time for examination of foreign nationals is indicated and priority lanes for the elderly, the disabled and pregnant women, etc. have been established. Thus, the Immigration Bureau has made additional efforts to facilitate procedures and improve the quality of services.

In addition, the Immigration Bureau has made efforts for smoother entry (landing) examination procedures by shortening the waiting time, while sometimes asking airlines for cooperation in view of the real-time situation of each airport. Specifically, the Immigration Bureau adopts a fork line approach which allows arriving passengers to stand in a single line and to proceed one by one to the next available booth instead of having arriving passengers form a line for each inspection booth, increases the number of immigration inspectors when the airport becomes congested, stations interpreters and examination booth concierges, broadcasts a guidance video explaining the procedures for the provision of personal identification information, and displays an information board that illustrates the items to be entered in the embarkation and disembarkation card.

Indication of waiting time for examination

Priority lanes

## ❷ Information Services for Foreign Nationals

There are a large number of foreign nationals who are unfamiliar with the procedures relating to entry and residence as well as Japanese laws and social systems due to differences between Japan and their countries in lifestyle, manners, customs and language. For the purpose of providing consultation and information services to such foreign nationals, the immigration information centers offer advice on the various procedures related to entry, the statuses of residence and the items to be entered in the application forms on entry and statuses of residence for foreign nationals and persons interested.

These information centers were established in the Sendai Regional Immigration Bureau, Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau and its Yokohama District Immigration Office, the Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau, Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau and its Kobe District Immigration Office, the Hiroshima Regional Immigration Bureau and Fukuoka Regional Immigration Bureau. They provide consultations on procedures for the entry and residence of foreign nationals in various languages, such as English, Korean, Chinese and Spanish. Counseling staff members have been assigned to the Sapporo Regional Immigration Bureau, Takamatsu Regional Immigration Bureau and Naha District Immigration Office of Fukuoka Regional Immigration Bureau to provide the same services as the above information centers.

In addition to the above, in cooperation with local authorities where many foreign long-term residents are concentrated, one-stop consultation centers, which provide consultations and information on administrative procedures for entry and residence as well as on daily life, were established and have been operating in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka Prefecture since April 2009, in Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture since August 2009 and in Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo since November 2009.

**Immigration Information Center**

**One-stop consulting center**

## ❸ Immigration Bureau Website

In March 2002, the Immigration Bureau established a website (http://www.immi-moj.go.jp), on which details are given in a Q&A form on the entry and status of residence procedures as well as the location, contact information and opening hours of the regional immigration offices. This website underwent a renewal in January 2016 in order to enhance usability and accessibility with the addition of new site search functions and font size change functions and the development of a smartphone-geared website, and we have also been striving to strengthen our information dissemination capabilities both in Japan and internationally. In addition, our Twitter operations commenced in March 2016, and we have been working on the transmission of information to provide greater convenience to foreign nationals coming to the Immigration Bureau such as providing information on waiting times.

In addition, in order to improve the provision of information to foreign nationals, we have been providing translations in English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish since FY 2005, and have also been striving to enhance convenience for foreign nationals by continuous improving the contents.

**Immigration Bureau website**

# Chapter 9. Policy for the Achievement of a Symbiotic Society Co-existing with Foreign Nationals

## Section 1 ◆ Participation in the Meeting on Cities with Large Populations of Foreign Nationals

The Meeting on Cities with Large Populations of Foreign Nationals consists of the local governments of cities where a large population of foreign residents, including foreign nationals of Japanese descent, mainly from South America, known as "newcomers", is concentrated and international exchange associations. The purpose of the council meetings is to exchange information relating to policies related foreign residents and the activities of member cities, and to proactively resolve the various associated problems arising in the area. The first meeting of the Council was held in May 2001, and officers from the Immigration Bureau proactively took part in the meeting.

The 2015 Hamamatsu Meeting on Cities with Large Populations of Foreign Nationals was held in December 2015, where discussions were held on two topics: "Session 1: Solutions to problems pertaining to foreign residents" and "Session 2: Promoting diversity as the strength of the community". With regard to Session 2, the Immigration Bureau attended this meeting together with other relevant ministries and agencies, explained the summary of the "Efforts towards the Realization of a Symbiotic Society Co-existing with Foreign Nationals" which is drafted in the Basic Plan for Immigration Control (5th Edition), and exchanged information and opinions with the menbers of the Meeting on Cities with Large Populations of Foreign Nationals.

## Section 2 ◆ Participation in Government-Wide Efforts

The Council for Promotion of Measures for Long-Term Residents of Japanese Descent with the Minister of State as a chair person has been convened on a regular basis since March 2009 in order to promote measures to be taken by the government as a whole with regard to the policies relating to long-term residents of Japanese descent such as consideration of support for foreign nationals of Japanese descent who are faced with difficult circumstances such as a lack of employment, with the Immigration Bureau also taking part in the considerations. In March 2014, the "Promotion of Policies for Long-Term Residents of Japanese Descent" describing the policies of the government to be taken with regard to long-term residents of Japanese descent was compiled.

In addition, the Promotion Council for Long-Term Residents of Japanese Descent came to be held a number of times together with the Inter-ministerial Liaison Council for Foreign Worker Issues established in 1988 in order to study the various problems related to the acceptance of foreign nationals focusing on foreign workers, and therefore the Immigration Bureau has also been participating in the meetings of this liaison council.