

# ◆ Part I ◆

Immigration Control in Recent Years

# Chapter 1. Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan

## Section 1 ◆ Changes in the Number of Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan

### ① Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

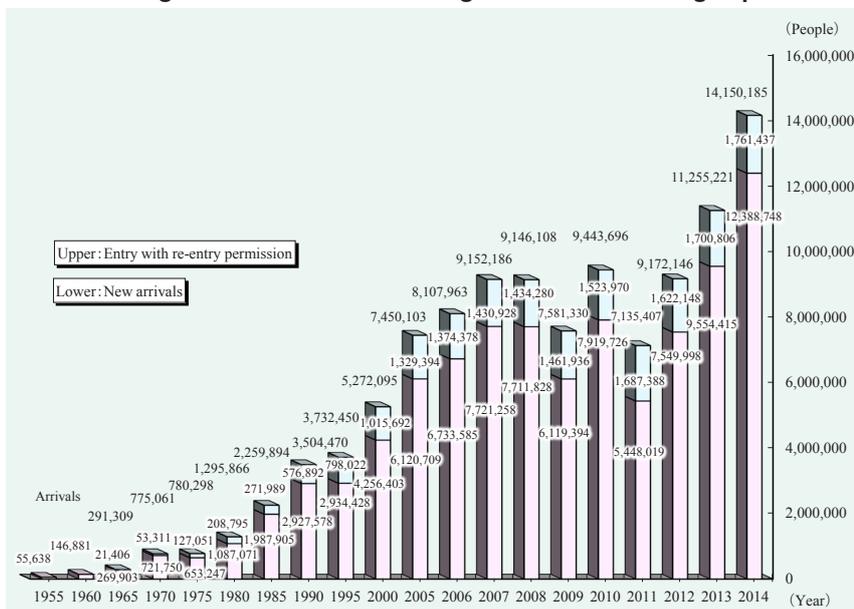
#### (1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

The number of foreign nationals entering Japan was only about 18,000 in 1950 when the statistics relating to immigration control first began to be recorded. As a result of the enforcement of the “Peace Treaty with Japan” (Treaty No. 5 of 1952) on April 28, 1952, Japan recovered complete sovereignty and acquired the authority to decide whether or not to grant permission for entry based on the Immigration Control Order. Following which the number of foreign nationals entering Japan began to experience an almost consistent upward trend partly as a result of cheaper and more convenient flights achieved through improvements in international transportation such as through the use of larger jumbo jets, exceeding 1 million in 1978, 2 million in 1984, 3 million in 1990, 4 million in 1996, 5 million in 2000, and 9 million in 2007. In 2014, there was a substantial increase of 2,894,964 (25.7%) from 11,255,221 in 2013 to 14,150,185 marking a record high.

Of the 14,150,185 foreign nationals entering Japan in 2014, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan was 12,388,748, which was an increase of 2,834,333 (29.7%) compared to 9,554,415 in 2013, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 1,761,437, which was an increase of 60,631 (3.6%) compared to 1,700,806 in 2013.

Some factors influencing the increase in the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2014 are thought to be the fact the continuing trend of the weak yen and that the measures being implemented toward the realization of a tourism-oriented country by the entire government working together with private sectors have prompted an increase in the number of tourists coming to Japan (Chart 1).

Chart 1 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan

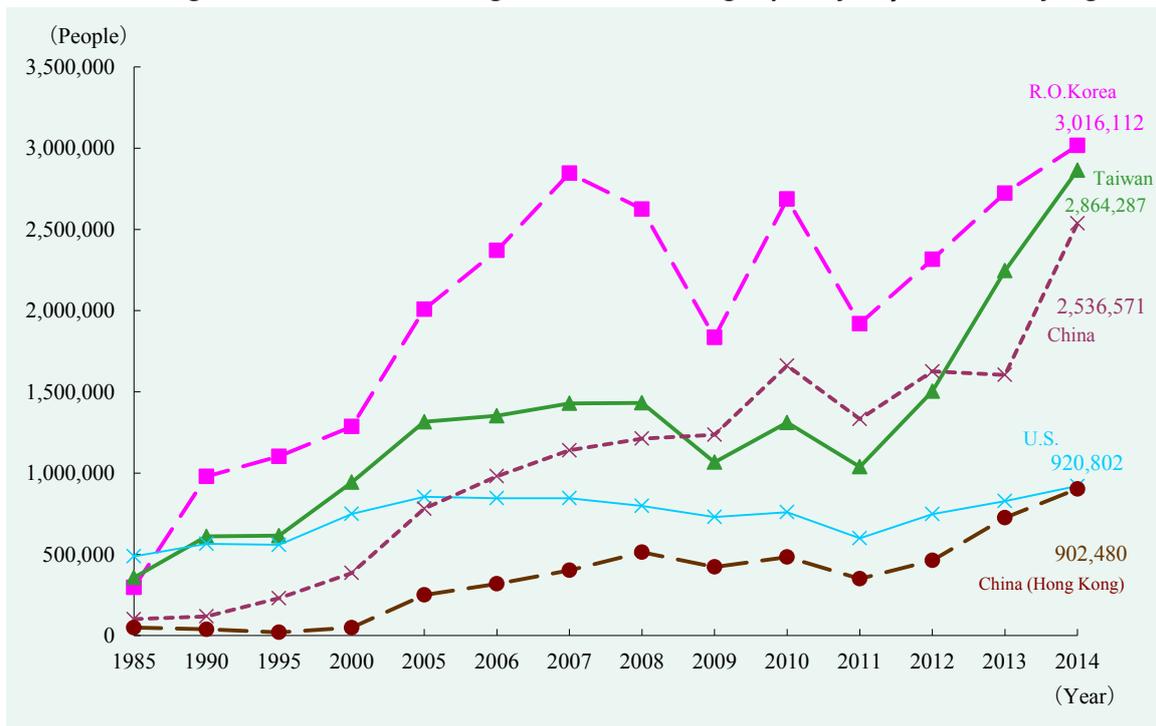


(\*) There are no separate categories for arrivals for 1955 and 1960.

## (2) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Nationality/Region

The statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2014 by nationality/region show that the largest number of foreign nationals came from the Republic of Korea (R.O.Korea), 3,016,112, accounting for 21.3% of the total number of foreign nationals coming to Japan. R.O.Korea was followed by Taiwan (2,864,287, accounting for 20.2%), China (2,536,571, accounting for 17.9%), the U.S. (920,802, accounting for 6.5%), and China (Hong Kong) (902,480, accounting for 6.4%) (\*). Of these numbers, Japan's three neighboring countries/regions: R.O.Korea, Taiwan and China accounted for more than half of the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan at 59.5%. In addition, the top five countries/regions accounted for 72.4% of the total number (Chart 2).

Chart 2 Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by major nationality/region



Regarding the top five countries/regions, a comparison of the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2013 and 2014 shows that all of them, China at 931,950 (58.1%), Taiwan at 618,744 (27.6%), China (Hong Kong) at 177,089 (24.4%), the U.S. at 93,148 (11.3%) and R.O.Korea at 293,028 (10.8%), increased.

(\*) In immigration-related statistics, mainland China and Taiwan are described as “China” and “Taiwan” respectively. With respect to Hong Kong, persons of Chinese nationality having a SAR (Special Administrative Region) passport (including persons of Chinese nationality with a certificate of identity within the period of validity issued by the former Hong Kong Government) are described as “China (Hong Kong)”, and persons with the right of residence in Hong Kong and who have a BNO (British National Overseas) passport (British passport issued only to residents in Hong Kong) (including persons who have a British (Hong Kong) passport issued by the former Hong Kong Government and entered within its period of validity (by June 30, 1997), are described as “U.K. (Hong Kong)”. Further, BNO passports are restricted in respect of renewal, and are in gradual transition to SAR passports.

On the other hand, in the statistics relating to foreign residents, the category “China” in the number of alien registrations before 2011 includes Taiwan, but in the figures from 2012, “China” in the number of foreign residents (the total number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, subsection 1) as well as special permanent residents) includes “Taiwan” except for those foreign nationals who have been issued with a residence card or a special permanent resident certificate with “Taiwan” listed in the “nationality/region” box. In addition, BNO passport holders are included in the “U.K.”.

Moreover, China (others) includes persons of Chinese nationality with a certificate of identity which was issued by a government except for the government of China and China (Hong Kong) (for example, Singapore, Malaysia, etc.)

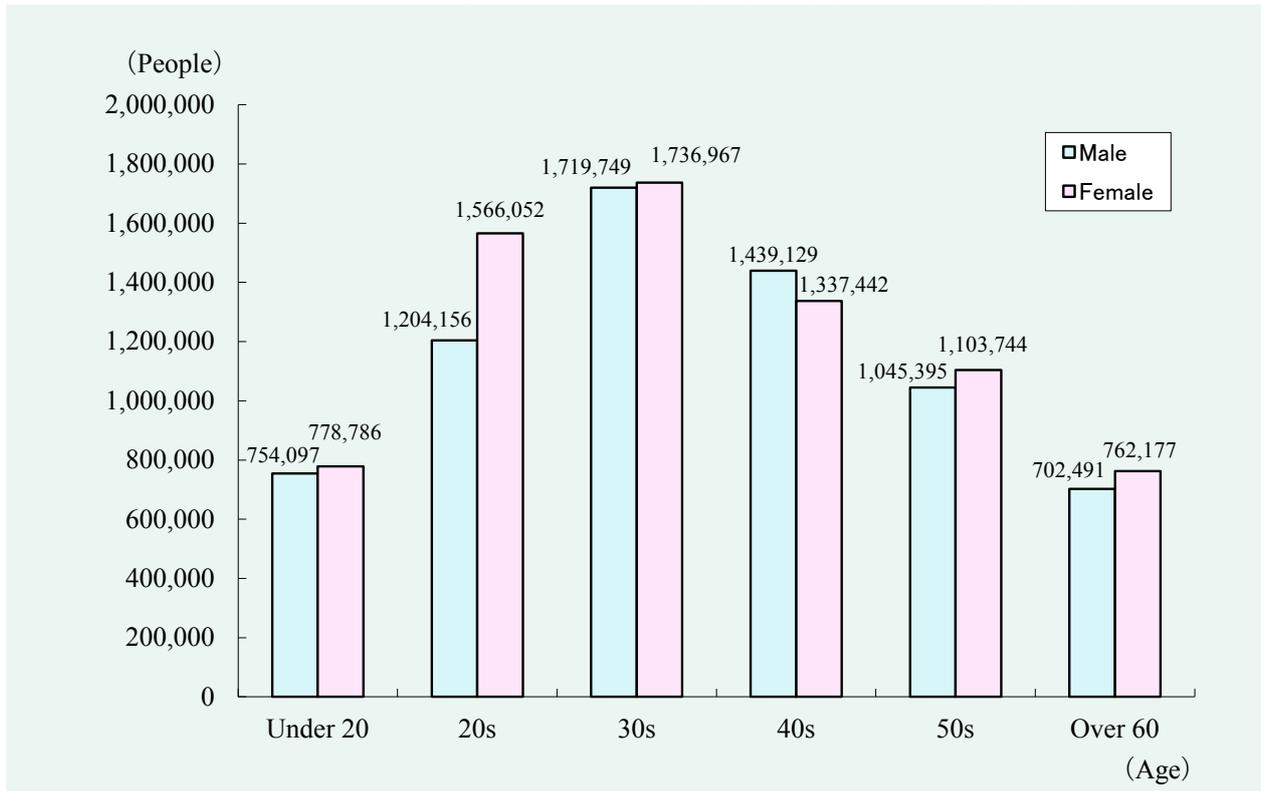
Further, for the purpose of statistics on the number of foreign residents, persons of R.O.Korea and Korea are calculated jointly as “Korea”.

### (3) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Gender and Age

Slightly more foreign females came to Japan than males. The numbers of foreign males and females entering Japan in 2014 were 6,865,017 and 7,285,168, respectively. The percentages of males and females were 48.5% and 51.5%, respectively.

According to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their 30s represented the largest age group, accounting for 24.4% of the total number of foreign nationals who entered Japan in 2014. The ratio of females was higher in all age groups except the 40s (Chart 3).

Chart 3 Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2014)



### (4) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2014 was 12,388,748. Looking at this figure by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” standing at 12,052,223 and accounting for 97.3% of the total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, followed by “Student” at 82,460, accounting for 0.7%, “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” at 76,139, accounting for 0.6%, and “Entertainer” at 35,253, accounting for 0.3% (Table 1).

Table 1 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan by status of residence

(People)

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	7,919,726	5,448,019	7,549,998	9,554,415	12,388,748
Diplomat	11,167	9,678	10,977	10,215	9,056
Official	27,000	19,563	26,991	26,131	23,844
Professor	2,639	2,420	2,595	2,662	2,709
Artist	256	221	281	315	327
Religious Activities	713	737	737	1,291	923
Journalist	136	59	51	46	66
Investor/Business Manager	896	838	820	632	984
Legal/Accounting Services	3	4	4	-	3
Medical Services	2	7	9	11	27
Researcher	528	423	438	437	429
Instructor	2,339	2,540	2,312	2,366	2,526
Engineer	2,852	4,178	5,216	5,387	7,662
Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	4,113	4,658	4,993	5,354	6,608
Intra-company Transferee	5,826	5,348	6,126	6,245	7,209
Entertainer	28,612	26,112	34,969	37,096	35,253
Skilled Labor	3,588	4,178	4,910	2,030	2,360
Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	2,282	5,178	5,876	5,585	6,377
Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	23,720	60,847	62,039	61,841	76,139
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	-	-	4	-	2
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	-	227	49	17	15
Cultural Activities	3,159	2,729	3,104	2,947	3,230
Temporary Visitor	7,632,536	5,180,961	7,246,072	9,247,673	12,052,223
Student	63,478	49,936	57,579	70,007	82,460
Trainee	51,725	16,079	17,957	16,486	16,162
Dependent	19,486	18,165	20,653	19,028	20,429
Designated Activities	11,972	12,954	12,659	10,711	10,661
Spouse or Child of Japanese National	11,452	10,766	10,855	9,244	9,114
Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	1,068	1,392	1,877	1,870	2,039
Long-Term Resident	8,178	7,811	9,845	8,788	9,911
Temporary Refugee	-	10			

(\*1) The statuses of residence “Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)”, “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)”, “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)” were newly established on July 1, 2010.

(\*2) In 2010, the figure for “Student” shows the total of “College Student” and “Pre-college Student”, because the item “Pre-college Student” was integrated into “Student” on July 1, 2010.

(\*3) Temporary refugee has been included in the number of cases of special landing permission (Table 2) from 2012 onwards.

(\*4) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the status of residence of “Investor/Business Manager” was changed to “Business Manager” and the statuses of residence of “Engineer” and “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” were combined into “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”.

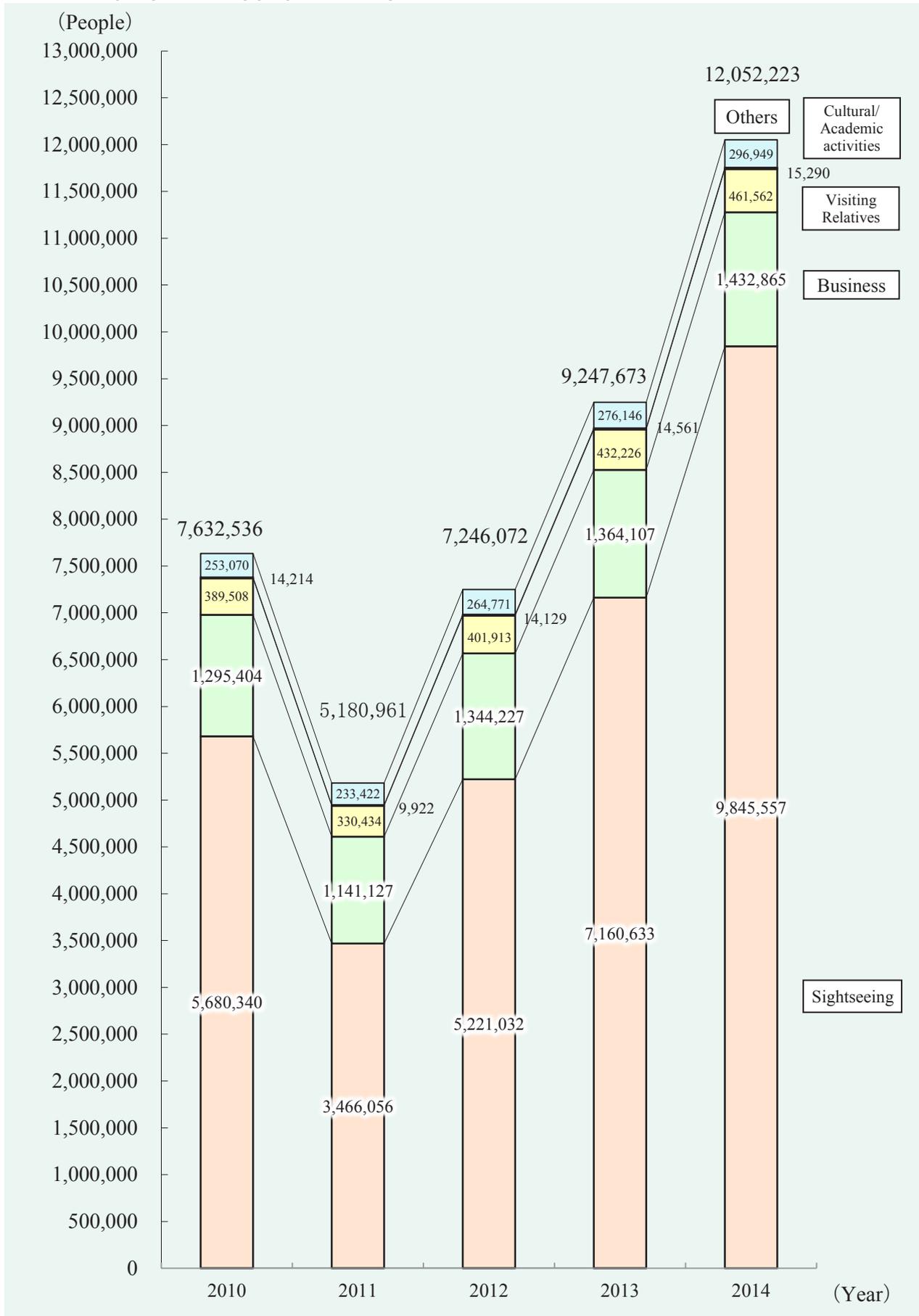
### A. “Temporary Visitor”

Looking more closely at the number of foreign nationals who newly entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2014, the number of foreign nationals for the purpose of sightseeing was 9,845,557, accounting for 81.7% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals of this category, which was higher in comparison to 77.4% in 2013 (Chart 4).

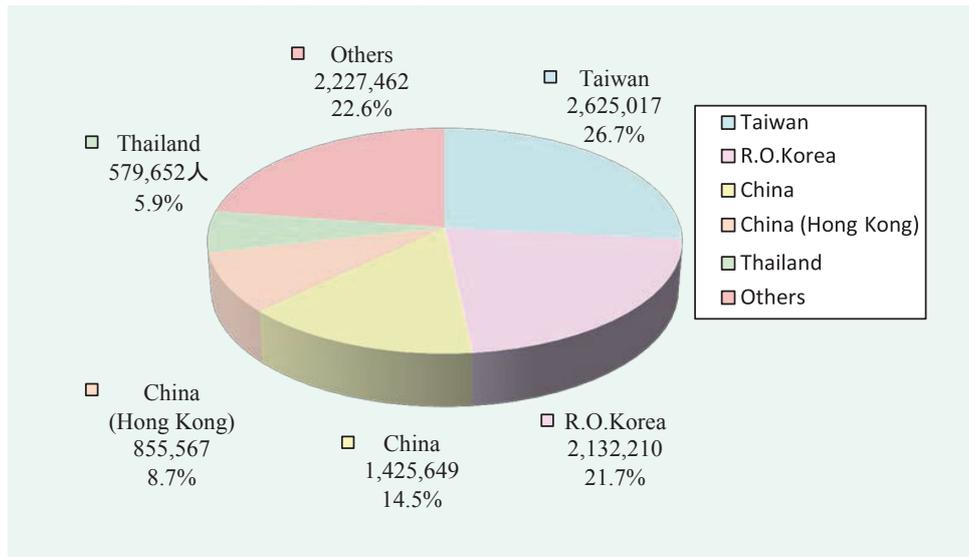
The reason for this is seen to be that, in addition to the continuing trend of a weaker yen, the measures being implemented jointly by the public and private sectors toward the realization of a tourism-oriented country, such as the visa exemption and visa relaxation measures introduced vis-à-vis the ASEAN 5 countries and the successive increase in the number of flights by the airlines, including low-cost carriers (LCC), flying routes between Japan and the ASEAN countries, had prompted an increase in tourists.

The statistics for foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region show that the largest number of foreign nationals came from Taiwan, same as the previous year (2,625,017 accounting for 26.7%), followed by R.O.Korea (2,132,210, accounting for 21.7%), China (1,425,649, accounting for 14.5%), China (Hong Kong) (855,567, accounting for 8.7%). Thailand, one of the member countries of ASEAN, came to the fifth place at 579,652 (5.9%) in 2014 (Chart 5).

Chart 4 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by purpose of entry



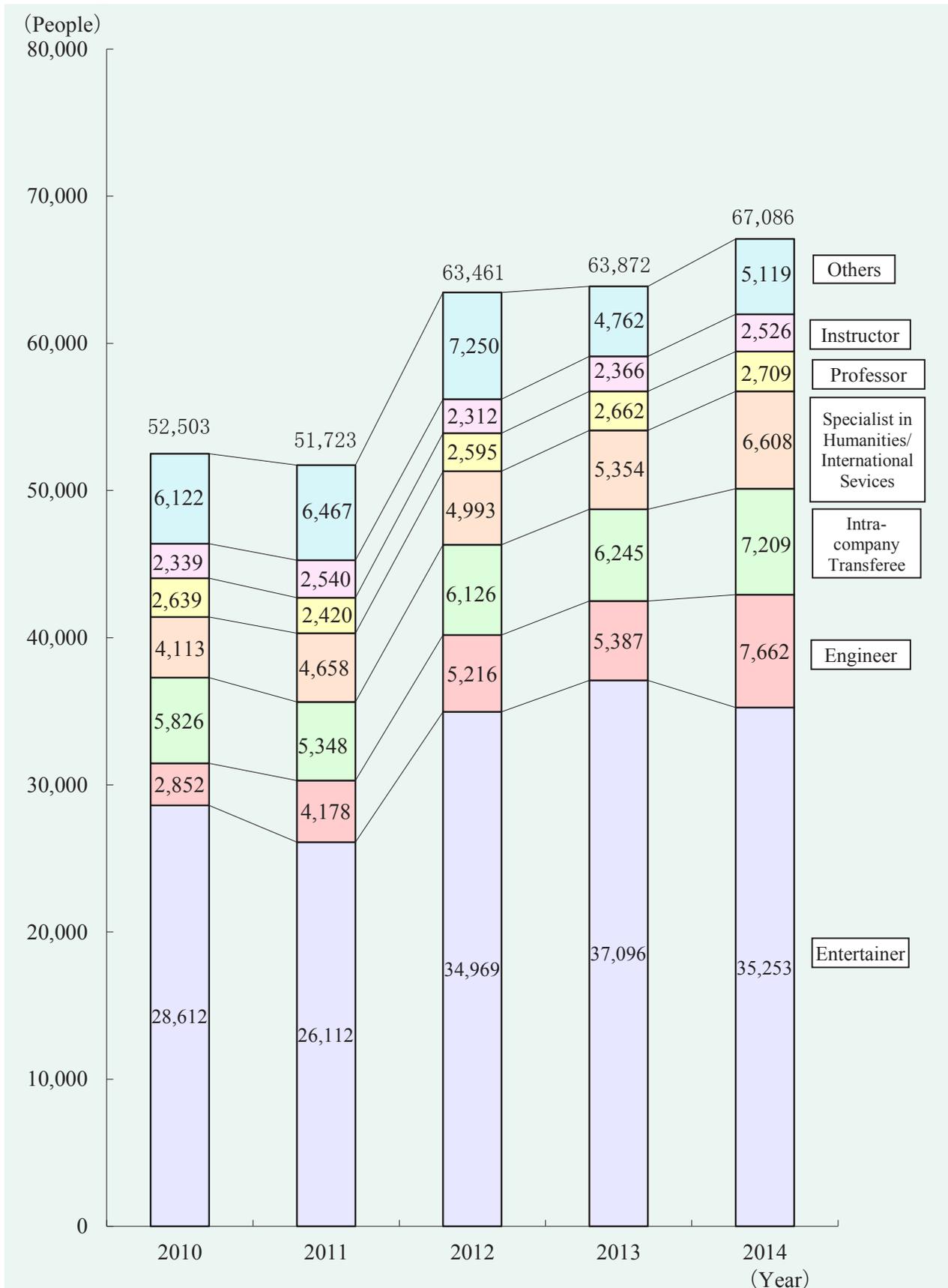
**Chart 5 Number of foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region (2014)**



## B. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan for the Purpose of Employment in Professional or Technical Fields

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields (excluding the status of residence of “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” in Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “Immigration Control Act”)) in 2014 was 67,086, an increase of 3,214 (5.0%) from 2013 (Chart 6).

**Chart 6 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields**



(\*1) Excluding the statuses of residence of "Diplomat", "Official", and "Technical Intern Training" from Table I (1) and I (2) in the Appended Table to the "Immigration Control Act".

(\*2) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the statuses of residence of "Engineer" and "Specialist in Humanities/International Services" were combined into "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services".

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with a status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields in Japan accounted for 0.5% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2014.

The characteristic categories of foreign nationals entering Japan for the purpose of employment are as follows.

(a) “Engineer”, “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, “Intra-company Transferee” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 2-1, 3-1, 4-1)

The total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with a status of residence corresponding to foreign employees working for an organization in Japan was 21,479 in 2014, consisting of three types of statuses of residence: 7,662 with the status of residence of “Engineer”, 6,608 with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 7,209 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”. The number of foreign employees with the status of residence of “Engineer” had increased by 2,275 (42.2%), those with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” had increased by 1,254 (23.4%), and those with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee” had increased by 964 (15.4%) from 2013, respectively.

According to the statistics on the status of residence of “Engineer” by nationality/region, the largest number came from China (2,495, accounting for 32.6%), followed by India (1,478, accounting for 19.3%), Viet Nam (1,116, accounting for 14.6%), and the Philippines (510, accounting for 6.7%). The number of newly entering foreign nationals from those four countries accounted for 73.1% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer”. In addition, owing to the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in 2008 and the impact of the global recession in 2009, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Engineer” temporarily decreased, but started to increase again in 2011, and has been demonstrating an increasing trend in recent years.

The statistics for foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, by nationality/region show that the largest number came from China (1,264, accounting for 19.1%), followed by the U.S. (1,175, accounting for 17.8%) which was the largest in the previous year and R.O.Korea (753, accounting for 11.4%).

Further, with regard to newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”, statistics by nationality/region show that the largest number came from China (2,433, accounting for 33.7%), followed by India (760, accounting for 10.5%), the Philippines (698, accounting for 9.7%) and R.O.Korea (514, accounting for 7.1%). As for India, it increased substantially by 195 (34.5%) from 2013.

**(b) “Entertainer” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 5-1)**

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Entertainer” has been fluctuating since 2010, and the number in 2014 was 35,253, a decrease of 1,843 (5.0%) when compared to 2013, which accounted for the highest percentage out of the statuses of residence for the purpose of employment in professional or technical fields.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Entertainer” came from the U.S. (6,498, accounting for 18.4%), followed by the R.O.Korea (5,893, accounting for 16.7%), the Philippines (3,149, accounting for 8.9%), and the U.K. (2,920, accounting for 8.3%). The U.S. overtook R.O.Korea for the first time in 3 years.

**(c) “Skilled Labor” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 6-1)**

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”, who may also be referred to as skilled craftsmen in unique foreign industrial fields, has been fluctuating since 2009, and the number in 2014 was 2,360, an increase of 330 (16.3%) when compared to 2013.

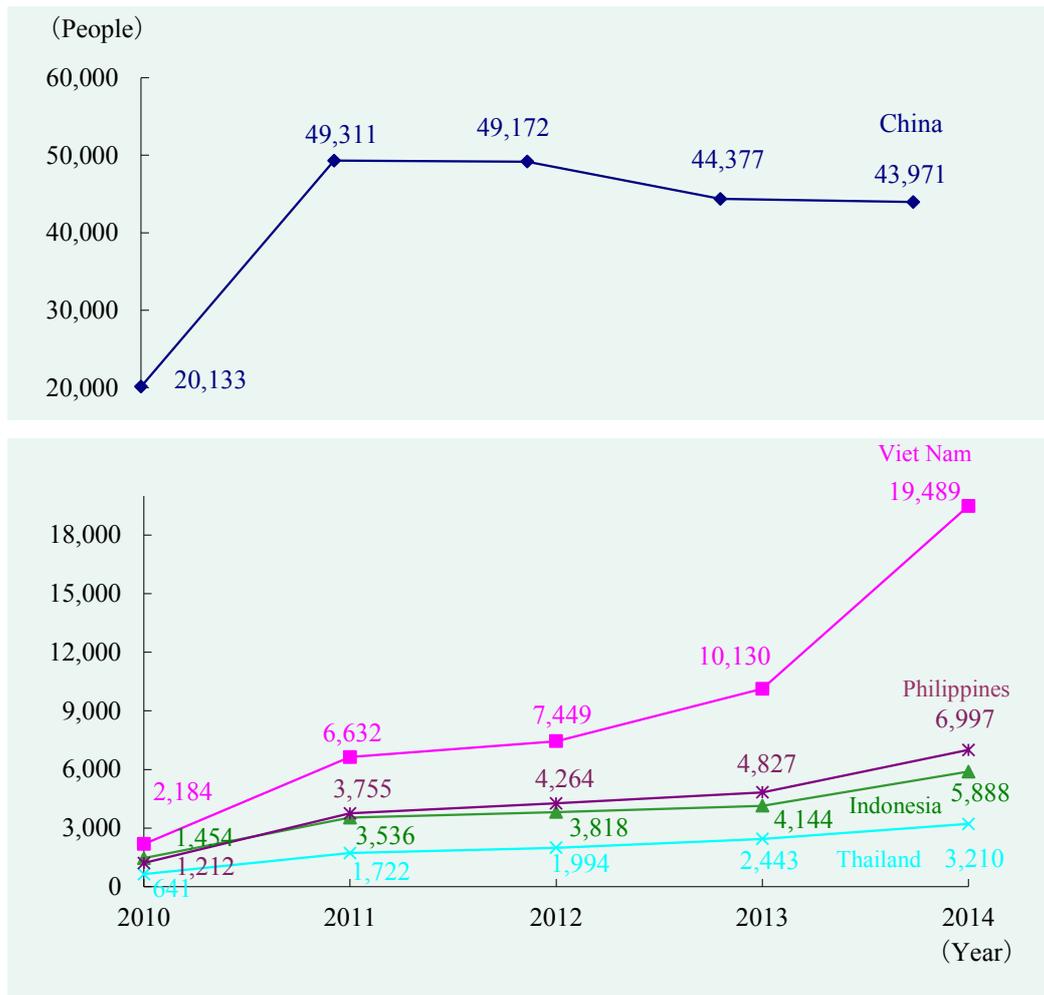
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” came from Nepal (927, accounting for 39.3%), followed by India (317, accounting for 13.4%), China (311, accounting for 13.2%) and Thailand (171, accounting for 7.2%) in 2014, and these top four countries accounted for 73.1% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”.

**C. “Technical Intern Training (i)” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 7-1)**

In 2014, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” was 82,516, an increase of 15,090 (22.4%) from 2013.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” came from China at 43,971 in 2014, accounting for 53.3% of the total. China was followed by Viet Nam (19,489, accounting for 23.6%), the Philippines (6,997, accounting for 8.5%), and Indonesia (5,888, accounting for 7.1%). Those from China had decreased by 406 (0.9%) from 2013, while those from Viet Nam, the Philippines and Indonesia had increased by 9,359 (92.4%), 2,170 (45.0%) and 1,744 (42.1%), respectively (Chart 7).

**Chart 7 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” by major nationality/region**

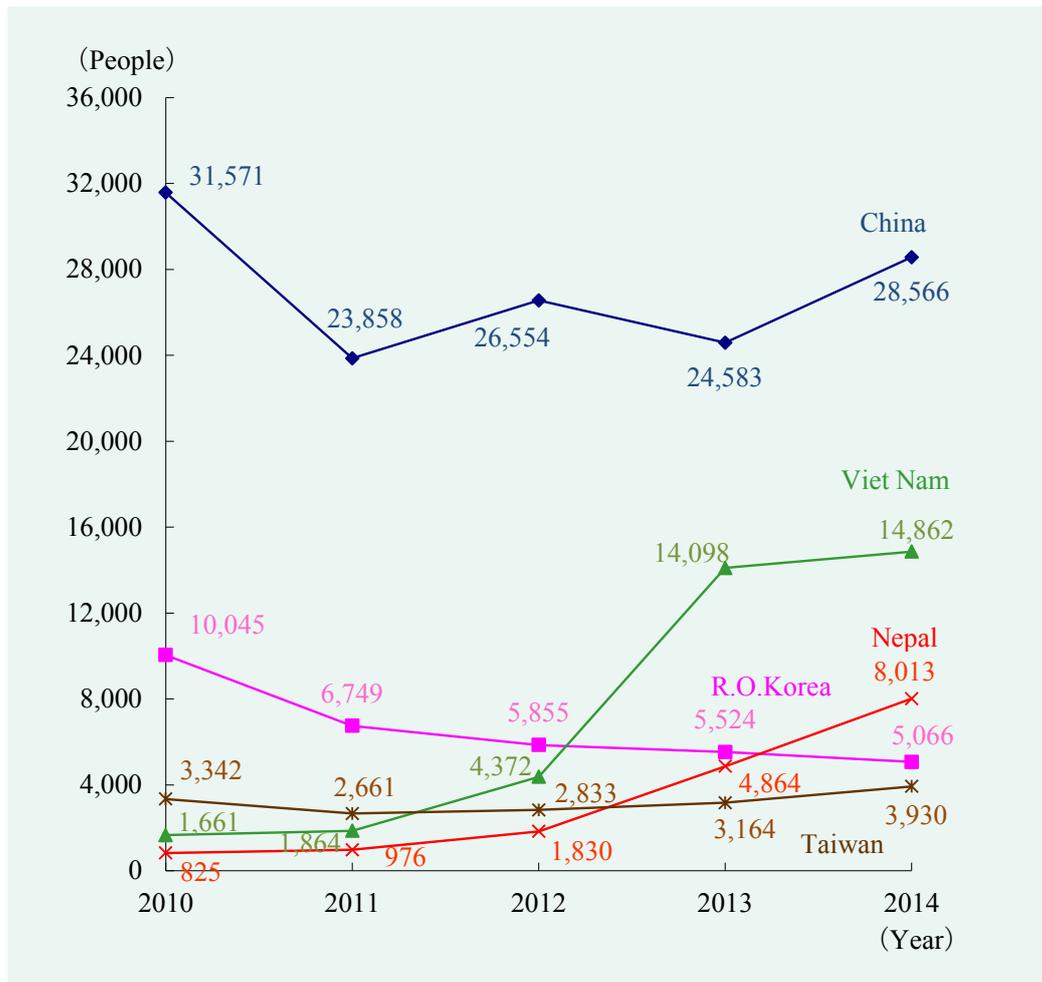


#### D. “Student” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 9-1)

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Student” in 2014 was 82,460, an increase of 12,453 (17.8%) when compared to 2013, with students from Asia accounting for the top five countries/regions (73.3%).

According to the statistics by nationality/region, those from China accounted for 34.6% of the total, standing at 28,566, followed by Viet Nam (14,862, accounting for 18.0%), and Nepal (8,013, accounting for 9.7%). Nepal had increased substantially with an increase of 3,149 (64.7%) when compared to 2013 (Chart 8).

**Chart 8 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Student” by major nationality/region**



(\*) Because the status of residence “Pre-college Student” was consolidated into “Student” on July 1, 2010, the figures in the “Student” section in 2010 represent the sum of “College Student” and “Pre-college Student”.

### E. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 13-1, 14-1)

When foreign nationals enter Japan for resident activities based on their personal status or position, one of three types of statuses of residence; namely, “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident”, or “Long-Term Resident” may be granted (Note that no foreign nationals newly entering Japan can obtain the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” because this status is granted only to foreign nationals who have lived in Japan for a certain period of time (Article 7, Paragraph (1) (ii) of the Immigration Control Act.)).

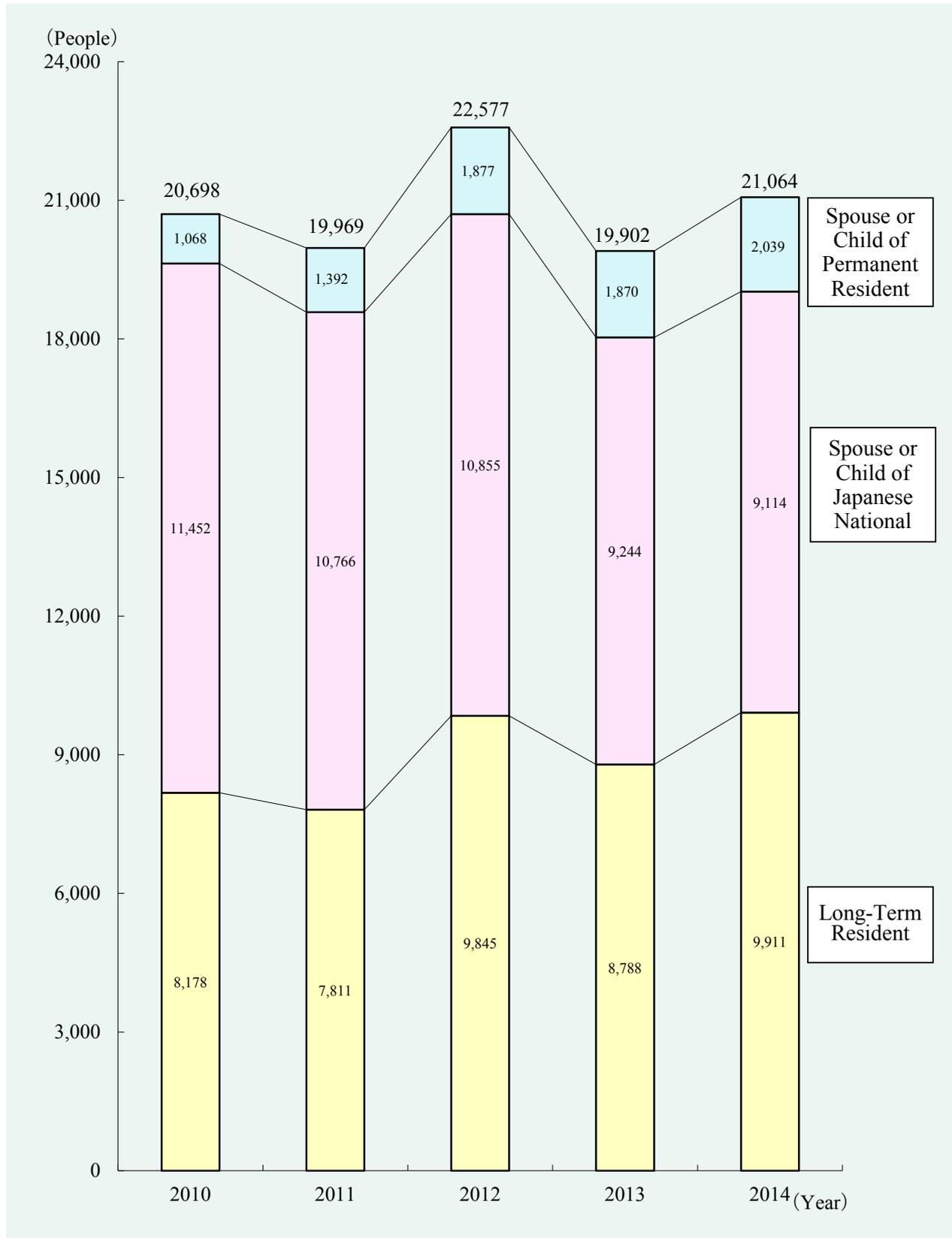
In 2014, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of a Japanese National” amounted to 9,114, a decrease of 130 (1.4%) from 2013, and those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of a Permanent Resident” amounted to 2,039, an increase of 169 (9.0%) from 2013.

The number of foreign nationals newly entering under “Long-Term Resident” increased by 1,123 (12.8%) to 9,911 in 2014, compared to 2013.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of a Japanese National” came from China at 2,665, accounting for 29.2% of the total. China was followed by the Philippines (2,118, accounting

for 23.2%) and Brazil (946, accounting for 10.4%). According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” came from Brazil at 3,265, accounting for 32.9% of the total. Brazil was followed by the Philippines (2,791, accounting for 28.2%) and China (2,165, accounting for 21.8%) (Chart 9).

**Chart 9 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for activities based on personal status or position**



## ② Special Landing Permission

The number of foreign nationals who received special landing permission in 2014 was 2,452,119, a substantial increase of 287,007 (13.3%) from 2013.

Among those, the number of persons who received landing permission for crew members in 2014 reached 2,190,439 which accounted for 89.3% of the total number of cases of special landing permission and represented the largest percentage, followed by the number of persons who received permission for landing at a port of call at 257,873, accounting for 10.5% (Table 2).

**Table 2 Changes in the number of cases of special landing permission**

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	1,972,090	1,915,705	2,204,644	2,165,112	2,452,119
Permission for Landing at a Port of Call	24,355	15,058	136,916	76,378	257,873
Permission for Landing in Transit	458	2,296	2,862	2,571	3,372
Landing Permission for Crew Members	1,946,807	1,897,714	2,064,409	2,085,701	2,190,439
Permission for Emergency Landing	381	351	370	318	360
Landing Permission Due to Distress	89	286	82	142	74
Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	(-)	(10)	5	2	1

(\*) Landing permission for temporary refuge has been included in the number of cases of special landing permission since 2012.

The following is the number of cases of special landing permission by category.

### (1) Permission for Landing at a Port of Call

The number of foreign nationals who were granted landing permission at a port of call in 2014 was 257,873, a substantial increase of 181,495 (237.6%) from 2013. This increase is likely due to the increasing number of cruise ships in 2014 landing at a port of call in Japan, especially those coming from China resulting in an increasing number of passengers from cruise ships, who are subject to permission for landing at a port of call (see Part II, Chapter 4, Section 1, subsection 3).

### (2) Permission for Landing in Transit

The number of foreign nationals who received permission for landing in transit in 2014 was 3,372, an increase of 801 (31.2%) from 2013.

### (3) Landing Permission for Crew Members

The number of foreign nationals who received landing permission for crew members in 2014 was 2,190,439, an increase of 104,738 (5.0%) from 2013.

### (4) Permission for Emergency Landing

The number of foreign nationals who received permission for emergency landing in 2014 was 360, an increase of 42 (13.2%) from 2013.

### (5) Landing Permission Due to Distress

The number of foreign nationals who received landing permission due to distress in 2014 was 74, a decrease of 68 (47.9%) from 2013.

## (6) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

The number of foreign nationals who received landing permission for temporary refuge in 2014 was 1, a decrease of 1 (50.0%) from 2013.

### ③ Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

The number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permit was 12,148,890 in 2014, an increase of 2,753,054 (29.3%) from 2013.

Among them, the number of persons leaving Japan with a period of stay of less than 15 days was 11,446,502, which accounted for 94.2% of the total or almost all. Further, the number of persons leaving Japan with a period of stay of less than 3 months was 11,992,187, which accounted for 98.7% of the total (Table 3).

**Table 3 Changes in the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan by period of stay**

(People)

Period of Stay \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	7,865,081	5,414,994	7,403,884	9,395,836	12,148,890
Within 15 days	7,229,477	4,892,797	6,820,277	8,769,160	11,446,502
More than 15 days to 1 month	266,227	185,550	244,373	282,118	330,820
More than 1 month to 3 months	187,725	157,804	189,873	196,285	214,865
More than 3 months to 6 months	29,777	25,972	31,638	30,690	34,899
More than 6 months to 1 year	43,085	38,686	32,259	35,711	36,569
More than 1 year to 3 years	80,770	84,909	57,275	56,498	59,692
More than 3 years	24,976	26,308	26,879	24,374	24,476
Unknown	3,044	2,968	1,310	1,000	1,067

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (voice of an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations) (Asahikawa Branch Office, Sapporo Regional Immigration Bureau: Satoshi Ueda)

The Asahikawa Branch Office of Sapporo Regional Immigration Bureau to which I belong was established on October 6, 2014. This is the newest branch office out of all of the immigration bureaus across the country. This branch office is mainly responsible for three kinds of work: the residence examinations for foreign nationals living in the vicinity of Asahikawa city, the immigration examinations for crew members of vessels entering Rumoi Port and Monbetsu Port, and the immigration examinations at Asahikawa Airport, which are performed by ten staff members headed by the Director.



Of these duties, the largest share of all of the work is taken up by the immigration examinations at Asahikawa Airport, and owing to new and increased international flights, the number of foreign nationals entering the airport has been steadily increasing (2012: 20,150 foreign nationals, 2013: 42,267 foreign nationals, 2014: 70,380 foreign nationals), and therefore, every day I go from the branch office situated in the center of Asahikawa city to Asahikawa Airport in the city suburbs timing it to the arrival times of the flights.

The vicinity of Asahikawa Airport is the gateway of the sky where you can look straight into Hokkaido's renown image of "nature" such as the peaks of the Daisetsuzan mountain range, which is the largest national park in Japan, and the famous tourist destinations of Furano and Biei where a carpet of flowers spreads out covering an entire side of the hills. Since foreign tourists have high expectations of spending an enjoyable time in Japan, we cannot let down such expectations at the landing examinations which convey the first impression of the Japanese people. Our branch office makes efforts to improve our hospitality by reducing the waiting time through carrying out prompt but accurate examinations and by offering guidance slowly and carefully as much as possible in the native language of the foreign national.

On the other hand, landing examinations also serve the purpose of border measures to prevent the entry of terrorists and criminals. In the past, we used the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) to crosscheck the passenger list against a list of problematic foreign nationals, but owing to an amendment of the Immigration Control Act, where necessary, it has become possible to make a request to the airline companies to provide passenger name record (PNR) thereby making it possible to utilize more information prior to the landing examination.

However, just because there is no problem in the advance examination does not mean that there are no foreign nationals who pose a problem such as those who pose as tourists in order to conceal their aim of employment. Therefore, I intend to continue to conduct the examinations for each and every person adhering faithfully to the basics.

## Section 2 ◆ Judgment for Landing

### ① Receipt and Processing of Hearings for Landing, and Filing of Objections

The number of new cases of hearings for landing (the number of cases which were assigned to a special inquiry officer on account of a foreign national not having been granted landing permission by an immigration inspector) in 2014 was 7,567, an increase of 892 (13.4%) from 2013.

The most common cases were those in which the foreign national was required to undergo a hearing for landing on suspicion of having submitted a false landing application, such as claiming to be a tourist or a similar status while their real purpose of entry was unlawful work or other illegal activities (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act). Such cases numbered 4,582, an increase of 464 (11.3%) from 2013 and accounted for 60.6% of the total number of new cases in 2014. This was followed by cases which were assigned on account of the foreign national being suspected of not possessing a valid passport or visa, such as those trying to enter Japan using a forged or altered passport (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (i) of the Immigration Control Act). Such cases numbered 1,905, an increase of 439 (30.0%) from 2013 and accounted for 25.2% of the total number of new cases in 2014. Furthermore, cases which were assigned to special inquiry officers on suspicion of falling under one of the grounds for denial of landing (not meeting the conditions provided for in Article 7, paragraph (1), item (iv) of the Immigration Control Act) numbered 1,072, a decrease of 19 (1.7%) from 2013, accounting for 14.2% of the total number of new cases in 2014. In addition, the number of foreign nationals refusing to provide the immigration inspector with their personal identification information, which became mandatory from November 20, 2007 (persons coming under paragraph (4) of Article 7 of the Immigration Control Act) was zero in 2014, who was handed over to a special inquiry officer, the same as in 2013 (Table 4).



**Hearing for landing**

**Table 4 Changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing**

(Cases)

Conditions for Landing \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	7,365	10,954	8,087	6,675	7,567
Using counterfeit passports or visas (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i))	1,116	1,526	1,583	1,466	1,905
False landing application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii))	5,105	8,633	5,473	4,118	4,582
Not eligible for the period of stay relating to the application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iii))	6	5	2	0	7
Falling under the grounds for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iv))	1,137	788	1,028	1,091	1,073
Not providing personal identification information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4))	1	2	1	0	0

With regard to the processing of the hearings for landing in 2014(\*), the number of cases where landing was permitted as it was found during the hearing that the foreign national conformed to the conditions for landing permission was 2,255, a decrease of 168 (6.9%) from 2013.

In addition, cases in which foreign nationals were ordered to leave Japan because they were found not to meet the conditions for landing at the hearing for landing by a special inquiry officer and who later submitted to the findings numbered 2,730, an increase of 651 (31.3%) from 2013. Cases in which foreign nationals filed an objection with the Minister of Justice because they were not satisfied with the finding by the special inquiry officer that they did not meet the conditions for landing numbered 2,161, an increase of 342 (18.8%) from 2013 (Table 5).

**Table 5 Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing**

Division	Year					(Cases)
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Total	7,304	10,993	8,109	6,677	7,567	
Landing permission	2,903	2,718	2,179	2,423	2,255	
Deportation order	2,662	2,155	1,606	2,079	2,730	
Filing of objection	1,319	5,733	3,901	1,819	2,161	
Withdrawal of the landing application	231	209	318	286	348	
Others	189	178	105	70	73	

(\*) "Others" includes cases where the jurisdiction has changed or the application was withdrawn owing to the departure, etc.

## ② Foreign Nationals Falling Under Any of the Grounds for Denial of Landing

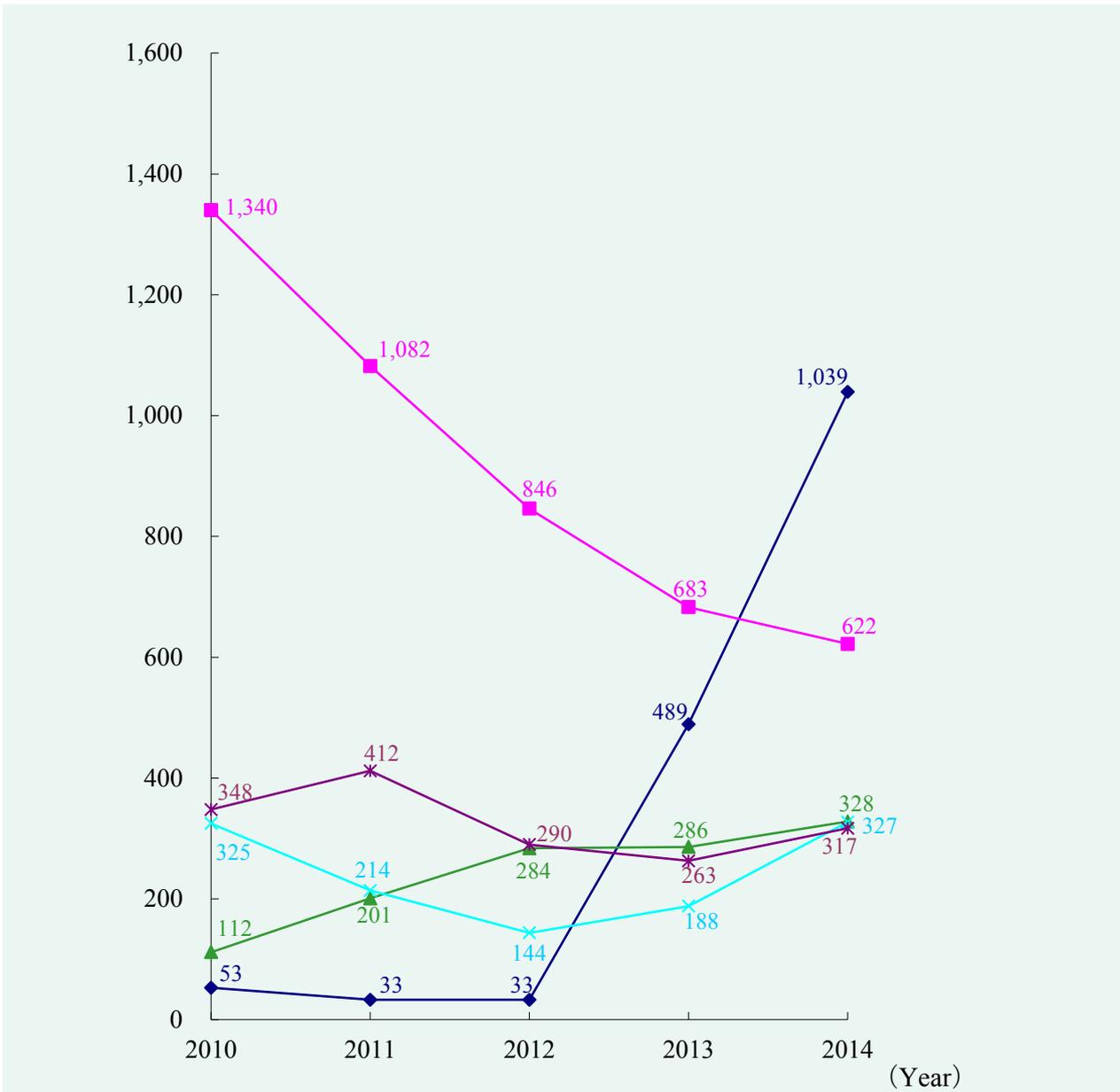
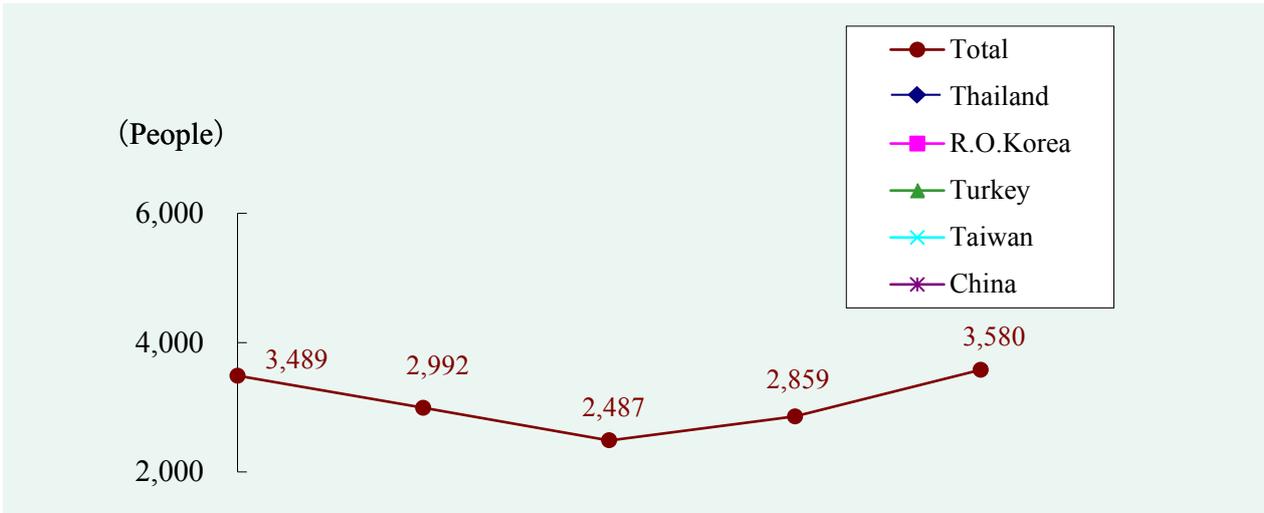
In principle, foreign nationals denied permission for landing are those who (i) are ordered to leave Japan after a hearing for landing or (ii) are ordered to leave Japan after the results of filing an objection with the Minister of Justice.

The number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing in 2014 was 3,580, an increase of 721 (25.2%) from 2013.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from Thailand standing at 1,039, accounting for 29.0% of the total, followed by R.O.Korea standing at 622, accounting for 17.4% and Turkey standing at 328, accounting for 9.2%. Those top three countries accounted for 55.6% of the total (Chart 10). Of this number, the reason why Thailand saw a substantial increase was probably due to the impact of the visa waiver for temporary visitors staying for less than 15 days, which was a measure to deregulate visas taken on July 1, 2013.

(\*) In some cases, the total number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing (Table 4) is not the same as that of the changes in the processing of the hearings for landing (Table 5). This is because a case may be assigned by the immigration inspector to the special inquiry officer at the end of the year, and it may be the following year after the case is assigned by the immigration inspector to the special inquiry officer that the hearing for landing is actually processed.

Chart 10 Changes in the number of foreign nationals who were denied landing by major nationality/region



### ③ Special Permission for Landing

Cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special permission for landing to foreign nationals in 2014 numbered 1,746, an increase of 304 (21.1%) from 2013 (Table 6).

**Table 6 Changes in the number of objections filed, and decisions by the Minister of Justice**

(Cases)

Division \ Year		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Filing of Objection (*)		1,326	5,754	3,910	1,871	2,179	
Decisions	With reason (Landing Permission)	18	18	22	21	22	
	Without reason	Order to leave Japan	291	303	333	340	366
		Special Permission for Landing	975	5,416	3,440	1,442	1,746
Withdrawal		21	8	63	50	33	
Outstanding		21	9	52	18	12	

(\*) "Filing of Objection" includes the number of outstanding cases of the previous year.

## Section 3 ◆ Pre-entry Examination

### ① Advance Consultation for Visa Issuance

The number of processed cases of advance consultation for visa issuance was 4,741 in 2014, showing an increase of 106 (2.3%) from 2013.

### ② Certificate of Eligibility

In 2014, the number of processed cases of applications for the issuance of a certificate of eligibility was 290,119, an increase of 7,691 (2.7%) from 2013.

The advance consultation for issuance of visas together with the examination of certificates of eligibility is jointly called pre-entry examinations. In recent years, the number of processed cases of applications for the issuance of a certificate of eligibility has steadily accounted for most of the total number of processed cases of pre-entry examinations (Table 7).

**Table 7 Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examinations**

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Advance consultation for issuance of a visa	4,882	4,403	4,910	4,635	4,741
Application for certificate of eligibility	248,523	238,270	266,273	282,428	290,119

(\*) Please note that the figures (number of cases) shown in "Advance consultation for issuance of a visa" in the 2011 and 2012 versions of Immigration Control Report were incorrect and should be changed to read as follows:

(Correct) 2010: 4,882, 2011: 4,403

(Incorrect) 2010: 4,615, 2011: 6,325

## Chapter 2. Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

### Section 1 ◆ Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

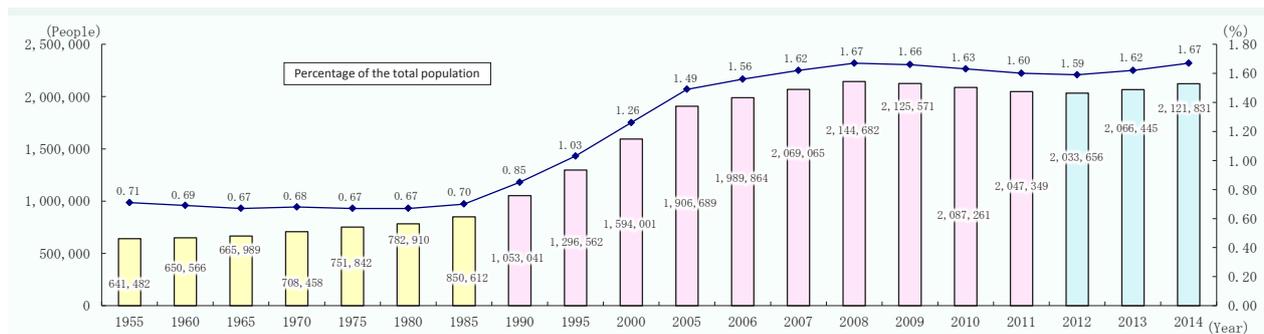
#### ① Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

While the number of foreign nationals entering Japan shows the “flow” of foreign nationals, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan comprises the statistics on “stock” to show how many foreign nationals reside in Japan at a certain point in time.

At the end of 2014, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, subsection 1) in Japan was 1,763,422, and the number of special permanent residents was 358,409. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 2,121,831, an increase of 55,386 (2.7%) compared to the end of 2013.

At the end of 2014, the number of foreign residents as a percentage of the total population of Japan (127,083,000) was 1.67%, which was 0.05 point higher than 1.62% at the end of 2013 (Chart 11).

**Chart 11 Changes in the number of foreign residents, and changes in the number of foreign residents as a percentage of the total population of Japan**



(\*1) These numbers are based on the statistics as at the end of December each year.

(\*2) The numbers until 1985 represent the number of alien registrations, the numbers between 1990 and 2011 represent the sum of the number of alien registrations who stayed in Japan with the status of residence eligible for mid to long-term residents and the number of special permanent residents, and the numbers from 2012 onwards represent the number of foreign residents adding together mid to long-term residents and special permanent residents.

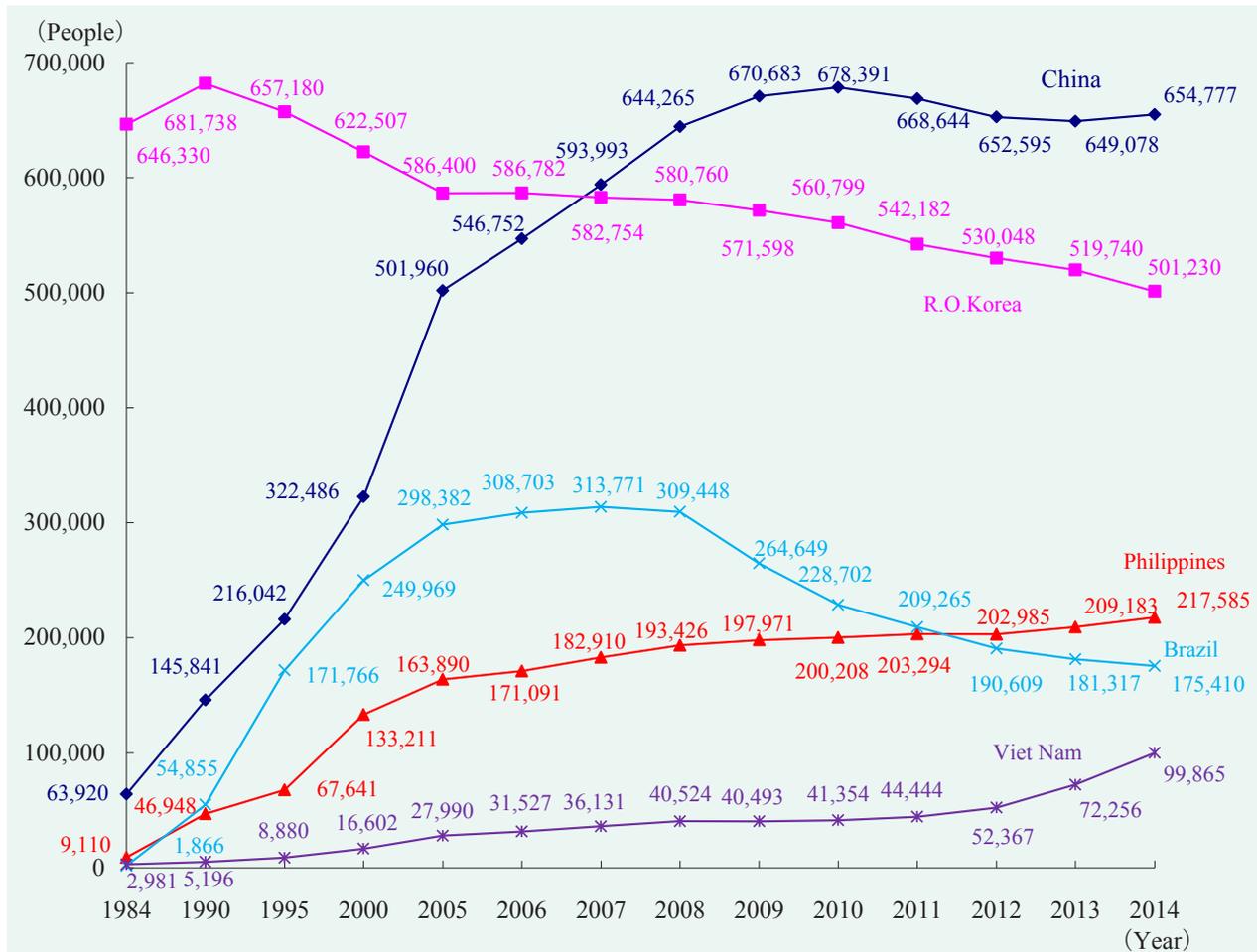
(\*3) The “percentage of the total population of Japan” is calculated based on the population as of October 1 every year taken from the “Population Estimates” and the “Population Census” of the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

#### ② Number of Foreign Residents by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics of the number of foreign residents by nationality/region at the end of 2014, China stood at 654,777, accounting for 30.9% of the total. China was followed by Korea (501,230, or 23.6%), the Philippines (217,585, or 10.3%), Brazil (175,410, or 8.3%), and Viet Nam (99,865, or 4.7%).

According to the changes in the number of foreign residents by year, while the number of foreign residents from China had been decreasing since 2011, it increased by 5,699 (0.9%), at the end of 2014 compared to the end of 2013. The number of foreign residents from Korea has continued to see a decreasing trend, a decrease of 18,510 (3.6%) at the end of 2014 compared to the end of 2013. As for other countries, the number from the Philippines increased by 8,402 (4.0%) at the end of 2014 compared to 2013, Brazil has continued to decrease since its peak at the end of 2007, a decrease of 5,907 (3.3%) at the end of 2014 compared to the end of 2013, and Viet Nam has continued to be on the increase since 2010, and increased substantially by 27,609 (38.2%) at the end of 2014, compared with the end of 2013 (Chart 12).

Chart 12 Changes in the number of foreign residents by major nationality/region



(\*1) The numbers until 2011 represent the number of foreign nationals with alien registrations who stayed in Japan with a status of residence eligible for mid to long-term residents and the number of special permanent residents, and the numbers from 2012 onwards represent the number of foreign nationals adding together mid to long-term residents and special permanent residents.

(\*2) "China" until 2011 includes Taiwan, and "China" from 2012 onwards excludes those who were issued with residence cards and special permanent resident certificates and had already been included in "Taiwan" in the nationality/region section.

### ③ Number of Foreign Residents by Purpose (Status of Residence)

#### (1) "Permanent Resident" and "Special Permanent Resident" (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 12)

According to the statistics for the number of foreign residents by status of residence, those with the status of "Permanent Resident" (excluding special permanent residents) comprised the largest group as of the end of 2014. The number of permanent residents was 677,019, an increase of 21,704 (3.3%) from the end of 2013, accounting for 31.9% of the total (Table 8).

Table 8 Changes in the number of foreign residents by status

(People)

Status		Year		2012	2013	2014
		2010	2011			
Total ( ① )		2,087,261	2,047,349	2,033,656	2,066,445	2,121,831
Status of residence eligible for a mid to long-term resident	Professor	8,050	7,859	7,787	7,735	7,565
	Artist	480	461	438	432	409
	Religious Activities	4,232	4,106	4,051	4,570	4,528
	Journalist	248	227	223	219	225
	Investor/Business Manager	10,908	11,778	12,609	13,439	15,184
	Legal/Accounting Services	178	169	159	149	143
	Medical Services	265	322	412	534	695
	Researcher	2,266	2,103	1,970	1,910	1,841
	Instructor	10,012	10,106	10,121	10,076	10,141
	Engineer	46,592	42,634	42,273	43,038	45,892
	Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	68,467	67,854	69,721	72,319	76,902
	Intra-company Transferee	16,140	14,636	14,867	15,218	15,378
	Entertainer	9,247	6,265	1,646	1,662	1,967
	Skilled Labor	30,142	31,751	33,863	33,425	33,374
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)	2,707	3,991	4,121	3,683	4,371
	Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)	47,716	57,187	59,160	57,997	73,145
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)	1,848	2,726	2,869	2,788	2,553
	Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)	47,737	78,090	85,327	90,738	87,557
	Cultural Activities	2,637	2,209	2,320	2,379	2,614
	Student	201,511	188,605	180,919	193,073	214,525
	Trainee	9,343	3,388	1,804	1,501	1,427
	Dependent	118,865	119,359	120,693	122,155	125,992
	Designated Activities	72,374	22,751	20,159	22,673	28,001
	Permanent Resident	565,089	598,440	624,501	655,315	677,019
	Spouse or Child of Japanese National	196,248	181,617	162,332	151,156	145,312
	Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident	20,251	21,647	22,946	24,649	27,066
Long-Term Resident	194,602	177,983	165,001	160,391	159,596	
Special Permanent Resident	399,106	389,085	381,364	373,221	358,409	
Status of residence not eligible for a mid to long-term resident (②)		46,890	31,159			
	Temporary Visitor	29,093	23,978			
	Without Acquiring Status of Residence	9,874	3,506			
	Temporary Refuge	30	29			
	Others	7,893	3,646			
The number of registered foreign nationals (①+②)		2,134,151	2,078,508			

(\*1) The numbers from 2012 onwards represent the number of foreign residents adding together the mid to and long-term residents and special permanent residents.

(\*2) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the status of residence of "Investor/Business Manager" was changed to "Business Manager" and the statuses of residence of "Engineer" and "Specialist in Humanities/International Services" were combined into "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services".

Looking at changes in the number of the foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” between the end of 2010 and the end of 2014, a steady increase was seen, and the number had increased by 111,930 (19.8%) at the end of 2014 from 565,089 as of the end of 2010.

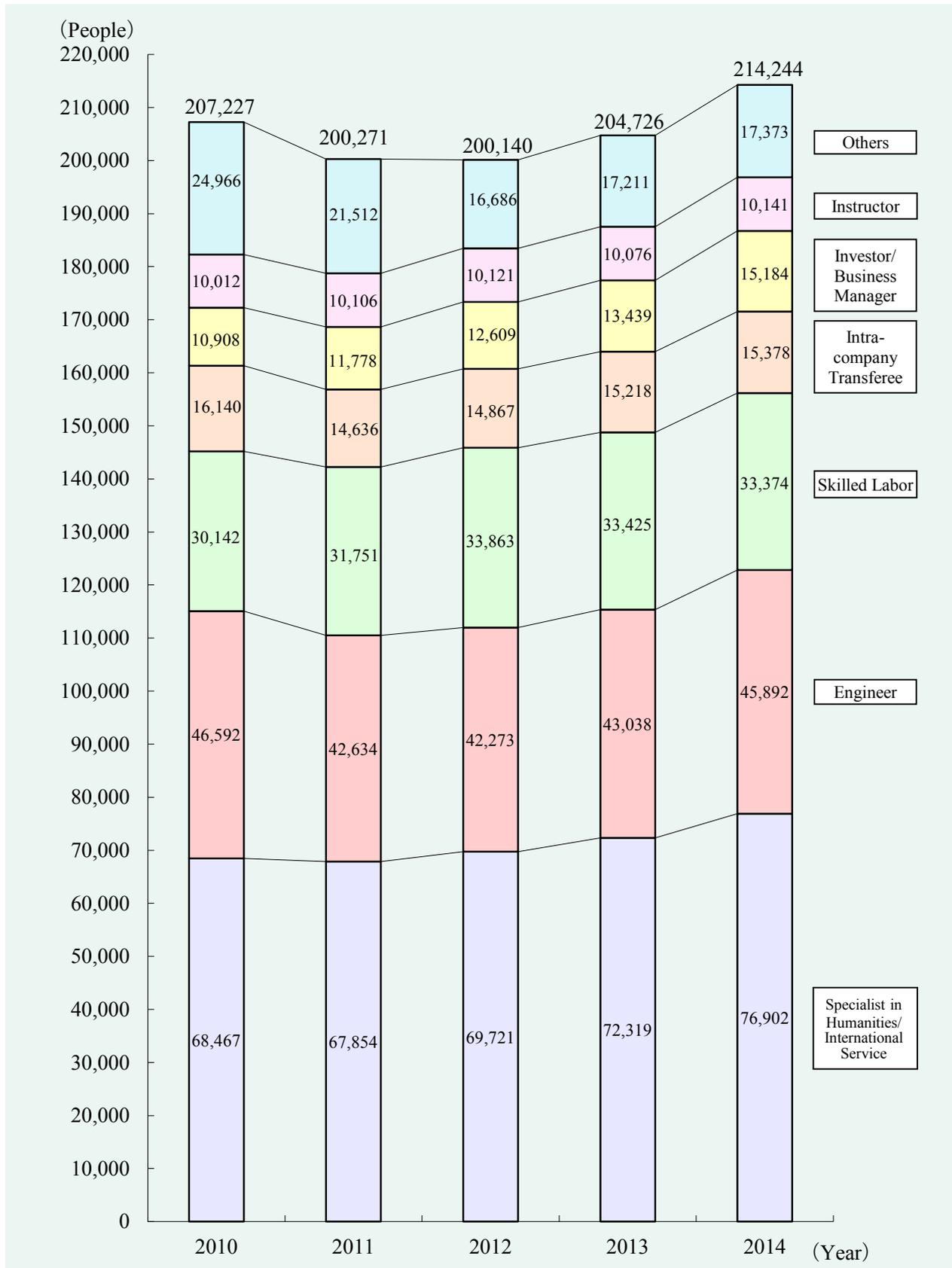
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of the foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” came from China totaling 215,155 at the end of 2014, followed by the Philippines, Brazil, Korea, and Peru.

On the other hand, the number of special permanent residents which used to account for the largest percentage until 2006 has been decreasing year by year, and therefore its percentage to the total number of foreign residents has also been decreasing accordingly. Looking at the changes over a longer period, the percentage of foreign nationals equivalent to the status of “Special Permanent Resident” accounted for approximately 90% for two decades just after World War II. However, the decline in the number of “Special Permanent Residents” itself and the increase in the number of foreign nationals newly visiting Japan for various purposes (so-called “newcomers”) are both driving the percentage of “Special Permanent Residents” down, which clearly shows the changes in the situation of foreign residents in Japan.

## **(2) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for the Purpose of Employment in Professional or Technical Fields (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 1-2 through 6-2)**

At the end of 2014, the number of mid to long-term residents with a status of residence for the purpose of employment in a professional or technical field (except for “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” out of the statuses of residence given in Appended Table I (1) and (2) of the Immigration Control Act) was 214,244, accounting for 10.1%, an increase of 9,518 (4.6%) compared with the end of 2013, and the upward trend has been continuing since 2013 (Chart 13).

**Chart 13 Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields**



(\*1) The numbers until 2011 represent the number of alien registrations, and the numbers from 2012 onwards represent the number of mid to long-term residents.

(\*2) Excludes "Diplomat", "Official" and "Technical Intern Training" of Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of Immigration Control Act.

(\*3) In accordance with the amendment Act, from April 1, 2015, the status of residence of "Investor/Business Manager" was changed to "Business Manager" and the statuses of residence of "Engineer" and "Specialist in Humanities/International Services" were combined into "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services".

At the end of 2014, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Engineer”, “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” or “Intra-company Transferee” corresponding to foreign employees working in a regular company was 45,892 for “Engineer”, 76,902 for “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 15,378 for “Intra-company Transferee”, and compared to the end of 2013, the respective numbers have been increasing: 2,854 (6.6%), 4,583 (6.3%) and 160 (1.1%).

At the end of 2014, the number of mid to long-term residents with such statuses of residence as “Engineer”, “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” as a percentage of the total number of mid to long-term residents for the purpose of employment in professional or technical fields was 21.4%, 35.9%, and 7.2%, respectively.

### **(3) "Technical Intern Training (i) and (ii)" (\*) (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 7-2, 8)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” at the end of 2014 was 77,516, an increase of 15,836 (25.7%) compared to the end of 2013. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from China was 40,974, accounting for 52.9% of the total, followed by Viet Nam (19,434, accounting for 25.1%), the Philippines (6,413, accounting for 8.3%), and Indonesia (5,631, accounting for 7.3%).

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” as of the end of 2014 was 90,110, a decrease of 3,416 (3.7%) compared to the end of 2013. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from China was 59,119, accounting for 65.6% of the total, followed by Viet Nam (14,605, accounting for 16.2%), Indonesia (6,591, accounting for 7.3%), and the Philippines (6,308 accounting for 7.0%).

### **(4) “Student” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 9-2)**

At the end of 2014, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Student” was 214,525, an increase of 21,452 (11.1%) compared to the end of 2013, which was 10.1% of the total number of foreign nationals residing in Japan. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number from China was 105,557, which accounted for 49.2% of the total number, followed by Viet Nam at 32,804, accounting for 15.3%.

### **(5) “Trainee” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 10-2)**

At the end of 2014, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Trainee” was 1,427, a decrease of 74 (4.9%) compared to the end of 2013. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number came from China at 253 (17.7%), followed by Thailand at 232 (16.3%) and Viet Nam at 217 (15.2%).

### **(6) “Designated Activities” (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 11-2)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Designated Activities” at the end of 2014 was 28,001, an increase of 5,328 (23.5%) compared to the end of 2013. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from China was 6,624, accounting for 23.7% of the total, followed by Korea (3,256, accounting for 11.6%), the Philippines (1,956, accounting for 7.0%), and Nepal (1,947, accounting for 7.0%).

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(\*) “Technical Intern Training (i)” represents the sum of “Technical Intern Training (i)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (i)-(b)” and “Technical Intern Training (ii)” represents the sum of “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)”.

## **(7) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Data Section 5, Statistics (1) 13-2, 14-2)**

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at the end of 2014 was 145,312, accounting for 6.8% of the total number of foreign residents. Looking at the change from the end of 2010 to the end of 2014, the number has been on the decrease, and the number at the end of 2014 had decreased by 5,844 (3.9%) compared to the end of 2013.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from China was 36,469 accounting for 25.1% of the total number, followed by the Philippines at 29,150, accounting for 20.1%, and Brazil at 15,565 (10.7%). Looking at the changes of these three countries from the end of 2010 to the end of 2014, their numbers have been decreasing year by year.

As of the end of 2014, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 159,596 which accounted for 7.5% of the total number of foreign residents, and looking at the changes from the end of 2010 to the end of 2014, the number of “Long-Term Residents” has been decreasing, as has the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, showing a decrease of 795 (0.5%) at the end of 2014 compared to the end of 2013.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Brazil was 44,559, accounting for 27.9%, followed by the Philippines (43,997, accounting for 27.6%), and China (26,676, accounting for 16.7%).

## Section 2 ◆ Examination of Statuses of Residence

The total number of permission for applications related to residence examinations has continued to be on the decrease since 2010, but increased with the total number standing at 867,760 in 2014 compared to the total number in 2013, an increase of 33,736 (4.0%) (Table 9).

**Table 9 Changes in the number of permission examined in status of residence examinations**

(Cases)

Division \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	1,375,600	1,358,896	999,184	834,024	867,760
Permission for change of status of residence	188,178	132,834	124,192	135,289	142,700
Permission for extension of period of stay	389,439	377,645	407,570	426,016	443,703
Permission for permanent residence	47,898	41,327	42,029	45,066	35,697
Permission for special permanent residence	105	102	147	113	103
Permission for acquisition of status of residence	7,531	6,528	8,235	8,724	9,866
Re-entry permission	578,795	664,010	270,091	54,182	48,225
Permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted	163,654	136,450	146,920	164,634	187,466

(\*1) "Permission for permanent residence" is the permission provided for in Article 22 of the Immigration Control Act.

(\*2) "Permission for special permanent residence" is the permission for special permanent residence provided for in Article 5 of the Special Act on the Immigration Control of Inter Alia, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality on the Basis of the Treaty of Peace with Japan.

(\*3) "Permission for acquisition of status of residence" includes the permission for permanent residence provided for in Article 22-2 of the Immigration Control Act.

(\*4) Please note that incorrect numbers (number of cases) were given for the division of "Permission for permanent residence" in the 2011 to 2013 versions of Immigration Control Report as indicated below.

(Correct) FY 2010: "Total" 1,375,600 "Permission for permanent residence" 47,898

(Incorrect) FY 2010: "Total" 1,375,705 "Permission for permanent residence" 48,003



**Residence examination counter**

## ① Permission for Change in the Status of Residence

In 2014, the number of foreign nationals who obtained permission for a change in the status of residence was 142,700, an increase of 7,411 (5.5%) from 2013.

### (1) Change of Status of Residence from the Status of Residence of “Student” to a Status for Employment Purposes

Foreign nationals studying at Japanese universities or vocational/technical schools have the status of residence of “Student”. Not a few of them wish to stay in Japan to work for a company or some other organization in Japan even after finishing their studies at school.

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission to change their status of residence for the purpose of employment was 12,958 in 2014, an increase of 1,311 (11.3%) compared to 2013. The number of these foreign nationals had been steadily increasing since 2003, but owing to the impact of the global recession, reached a peak in 2008 and started to decline, but subsequently started seeing signs of recovery with a record high reached in 2014.

According to the statistics by status of residence, foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status to that of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” made up the largest percentage, totaling 8,758 (67.6%), an increase of 796 (10.0%) from 2013. The number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status to that of “Engineer” was 2,748, accounting for 21.2%, and these two statuses of residence accounted for 88.8% of the total (Table 10).

**Table 10 Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by status of residence**

Status of Residence	Year				
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	7,831	8,586	10,969	11,647	12,958
Specialist in Humanities/ International Services	5,422	6,006	7,565	7,962	8,758
Engineer	1,390	1,670	2,227	2,428	2,748
Professor	512	419	588	634	704
Investor/Business Manager	275	291	356	321	383
Researcher	93	78	119	107	124
Medical Services	54	34	29	90	114
Instructor	46	46	41	51	59
Religious Activities	12	12	9	16	8
Artist	5	5	3	4	6
Skilled Labor	11	11	4	4	5
Official	3	10	10	1	5
Others	8	4	18	29	44

(Cases)

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of foreign nationals who obtained such permission from China was 8,347, accounting for 64.4%, followed by R.O.Korea (1,234, accounting for 9.5%) and Viet Nam (611, accounting for 4.7%) (Table 11).

**Table 11 Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by nationality/region**

Nationality/Region	(Cases)					
	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total		7,831	8,586	10,969	11,647	12,958
China		4,874	5,344	7,032	7,637	8,347
R.O.Korea		1,205	1,209	1,417	1,227	1,234
Viet Nam		167	242	302	424	611
Taiwan		279	302	352	360	514
Nepal		141	149	224	293	278
Thailand		109	109	170	167	171
United States of America		87	107	130	131	164
Malaysia		65	71	116	124	161
Myanmar		63	89	106	122	129
Indonesia		79	84	107	111	124
Others		762	880	1,013	1,051	1,225

(\*1) “China” does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

(\*2) Please note that the figures (number of cases) shown in “Thailand” in the 2011 to 2014 versions of Immigration Control Report were incorrect and should be changed to read as follows:

(Correct) 2010: “109”

(Incorrect) 2010: “119”

## (2) Permission to Change Status of Residence in Order to Participate in “Technical Intern Training (ii)”

The technical intern training program was a system established in 1993 to enable foreign nationals to acquire skills through on-the-job training while in employment, thereby contributing to effective technology transfer and human resources development as part of Japan’s international contributions. Since July 1, 2010, current technical intern training program has commenced, and it has been necessary for foreign nationals, who wish to acquire further proficiency in the skills obtained with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” and to engage in work requiring the skills already obtained in the program to get permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)”.

“Technical Intern Training (ii)” covers skills that are publicly evaluated in Japan and also meets demand in the countries sending the trainees. These skills were categorized into 71 types of work in total as of April 1, 2015. 53 types, including mold construction and machining, are evaluated based on the National Skills Test under the Occupation Skills Development Promotion Act for Basic Grade 1 and Basic Grade 2. The remaining 18 types, including welding and operation of spinning machines, are publicly evaluated, although not by national examinations, according to a system established by the Japan International Training Cooperation Organization.

Foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2014 had increased by 744 (1.5%) from 2013 to 49,536. In total, more than 620,000 trainees took part in the program after finishing their training from establishment of the technical intern training program in 1993 up to the end of 2014.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of trainees who obtained

permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2014 came from China (31,822, accounting for 64.2%), followed by Viet Nam (8,664, accounting for 17.5%), Indonesia (3,440, accounting for 6.9%), the Philippines (3,380, accounting for 6.8%), and Thailand (1,411, accounting for 2.8%). The highest number of trainees by occupation was women/children’s apparel production, followed by crop farming, and welding (Table 12, 13).

**Table 12 Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” (including the status of residence of “Designated Activities (Technical Intern Training)”) by nationality/region**

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	49,166	45,013	48,752	48,792	49,536
China	39,616	35,209	36,448	35,463	31,822
Viet Nam	3,349	3,658	5,520	5,861	8,664
Indonesia	2,272	2,496	2,689	2,979	3,440
Philippines	2,806	2,464	2,550	2,937	3,380
Thailand	691	794	913	925	1,411
Others	432	392	632	627	819

(\*1) “China” does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

(\*2) The training and technical intern training programs refer to those reviewed in accordance with the revised Immigration Control Act amended on July 15, 2009 and enforced on July 1, 2010. The “Designated Activities (Technical Intern Training)” under the former system corresponds to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” under the current system.

(\*3) The number corresponding to 2010 was the total number of foreign nationals who changed their status of residence to “Designated Activities (Technical Intern Training)” under the former system and who switched their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” under the current system.

**Table 13 Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” (including the status of residence of “Designated Activities (Technical Intern Training)”) by occupation**

(People)

Occupation \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	49,166	45,013	48,752	48,792	49,536
Women/Children's apparel production	10,252	7,840	8,095	8,141	7,349
Crop farming	4,637	4,043	4,998	5,510	5,537
Welding	4,040	3,568	4,053	3,824	3,951
Plastic molding	2,987	3,661	3,255	3,135	3,330
Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing	2,971	2,253	2,271	2,540	2,406
Machining	1,490	2,136	2,526	2,245	2,310
Heated fishery processing products manufacturing	1,838	1,553	1,650	1,840	1,862
Metal press work	1,625	1,719	1,928	1,759	1,685
Painting	1,128	1,320	1,379	1,297	1,357
Electronics assembly	2,248	2,272	2,310	1,884	1,294
Steeplejack	819	614	866	994	1,274
Livestock agriculture	1,254	979	1,143	1,231	1,268
Steel reinforcement construction	709	470	812	856	1,128
Mold construction	604	392	532	739	886
Casting	752	863	912	787	793
Others	11,812	11,330	12,022	12,010	13,106

(\*1) The training and technical intern training programs refer to those reviewed in accordance with the revised Immigration Control Act amended on July 15, 2009 and enforced on July 1, 2010. The “Designated Activities (Technical Intern Training)” under the former system corresponds to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” under the current system.

(\*2) The number corresponding to 2010 was the total number of foreign nationals who changed their status of residence to “Designated Activities (Technical Intern Training)” under the former system and who changed their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” under the current system.

## ② Permission for Extension of Period of Stay

The number of foreign nationals who obtained permission for extension of their period of stay during 2014 was 443,703, an increase of 17,687 (4.2%) from 2013.

## ③ Permission for Permanent Residence

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for permanent residence in 2014 was 35,697, which has been fluctuating after reaching a record high of 60,509 in 2007, a decrease of 9,369 (20.8%) from 2013 (Table 14).

**Table 14 Changes in the number of cases of permission for permanent residence by nationality/region**

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	47,898	41,327	42,029	45,066	35,697
China	16,714	16,436	17,471	19,799	15,670
Philippines	9,157	7,210	7,373	6,385	4,769
Brazil	7,549	5,172	4,867	4,572	4,030
Korea	3,760	3,221	2,902	3,378	2,697
Peru	1,756	1,335	1,116	1,158	779
Others	8,962	7,953	8,300	9,774	7,752

(\*1) "China" until 2011 includes Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) and China (others).

(\*2) "China" from 2012 onwards includes China (Hong Kong) and China (others).

#### ④ Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence

The number of foreign nationals who obtained permission for acquisition of a status of residence in 2014 was 9,866, an increase of 1,142 (13.1%) from 2013.

#### ⑤ Re-entry Permission

The number of foreign nationals who were granted re-entry permission in 2014 was 48,225, marking a decrease of 5,957 (11.0%) from 2013.

The number of foreign nationals who were granted re-entry permission has been declining since reaching a peak in 2011, but this decrease is due to the fact that, owing to the implementation of the system of special re-entry permission in accordance with the amended Immigration Control Act, which entered into force in July 2012, a foreign national in possession of a valid passport and residence card who intends, at the time of departure, to re-enter Japan to continue with the activities in Japan within one year of the departure (within two years for special permanent residents) is not required, in principle, to obtain re-entry permission.

In addition, the number of foreign nationals, who departed from Japan using special re-entry permission in 2014, was 1,592,274 accounting for 87.0% of the total number of 1,829,659 foreign nationals who departed from Japan through re-entry permission in 2014.

#### ⑥ Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted

The number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted in 2014 was 187,466, an increase of 22,832 (13.9%) from 2013.

## Section 3 ◆ Number of Issuance of Residence Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates

### ① Number of Issuance of Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2014 was 991,536. According to the statistics by category, the number of residence cards issued at the time of granting landing/status of residence related permission was 840,504 accounting for 84.8% of the total number, followed by applications to switch over to the residence card at 106,209, accounting for 10.7%, applications for reissuance at 31,298, accounting for 3.2% and extension of the period of validity at 8,851, accounting for 0.9%.

By category of regional immigration bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau issued 577,816 residence cards, accounting for 58.3% of the total, followed by Nagoya (175,288, accounting for 17.7%), Osaka (129,909, accounting for 13.1%), and Fukuoka (42,196, accounting for 4.3%) (Table 15).

Table 15 Number of issuances of residence cards (2014)

(Cases)

Regional Immigration Bureaus	Total	Landing/residency status of residence related permission	Notification of change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Application to switch over to the residence card	Application for new issuance
Total	991,536	840,504	3,953	8,851	31,298	106,209	721
Sapporo	9,500	8,403	24	49	225	793	6
Sendai	16,775	13,570	87	106	413	2,555	44
Tokyo	577,816	497,426	2,146	4,341	18,415	54,984	504
Nagoya	175,288	140,977	1,068	2,688	5,164	25,352	39
Osaka	129,909	109,874	343	1,085	4,327	14,238	42
Hiroshima	27,704	23,571	124	212	819	2,936	42
Takamatsu	12,348	11,032	46	72	299	890	9
Fukuoka	42,196	35,651	115	298	1,636	4,461	35

### ② Number of Issuance of Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2014 was 52,281. According to the statistics by category, the number of special permanent resident certificates issued at the time of switching over to the special permanent resident certificate was 43,216 accounting for 82.7% of the total number, followed by applications for reissuance at 4,253, accounting for 8.1%, extension of the period of validity at 2,402, accounting for 4.6% and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 1,234, accounting for 2.4% (Table 16).

Table 16 Number of issuances of special permanent resident certificates (2014)

(Cases)

Permission for special permanent residence (Article 4)	Permission for special permanent residence (Article 5)	Notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence	Extension of the period of validity	Application for reissuance	Application to switch over to the special permanent resident certificate	Application for new issuance	Application for issuance in advance	Total
886	109	1,234	2,402	4,253	43,216	165	16	52,281

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (voice of an immigration inspector in charge of residence examinations) (Inspection Department, Sendai Regional Immigration Bureau: Hisako Yamazaki)

I am responsible for the inspection of the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training” at the Inspection Department. The aim of this status of residence is to have the people of foreign countries learn Japanese skills, etc., and to have them take back these skills and utilize them in their home country. The “technical intern training” includes Japanese language courses and courses on the related laws and regulations, etc., and aims to have the trainees engage in activities to acquire skills, etc. while engaging in work based on an employment contract with a company. There are two ways allowed for the acceptance of technical intern trainees: “company-arranged scheme” where an enterprise in Japan accepts employees from an overseas local corporation, etc. and “association-supervised scheme” where, through a non-profit supervising organization (business cooperative, etc.), an enterprise which is a cooperative member accepts the trainees; but most of the trainees are accepted through the method of “association-supervised scheme”. Currently, about half of the technical intern trainees residing in the jurisdictional area of Sendai Regional Immigration Bureau are engaged in the sewn products industry or the fisheries processing industry, while others are engaged in various industries such as the chicken processing industry and agriculture. After the Great East Japan Earthquake, the number of technical intern trainees decreased owing to such influences as the fisheries processing plants being carried away by the tsunami, but recovery has been progressing with reconstruction of the factories in the coastal areas, and the number of technical intern trainees has been returning to the previous level before the earthquake.

In the actual examination, we focus on checking whether the companies and supervising organizations are appropriately conducting the technical intern training. Specifically, whether proper salaries are being paid to the technical intern trainees, whether they are being made to work excessive overtime, and whether there are human rights infringements being committed, such as the trainee being deprived of their passport or residence card. If as a result of the examination, the business establishment is found to be conducting improper acceptance, instructions on improvement relating to the improper conduct will be issued to the business establishment, and measures may be taken to suspend the acceptance of technical intern trainees depending on the contents of the improper conduct and other measures may be taken with the cooperation of the related organizations.

With regard to the system of technical intern training, well as fundamentally reinforcing the system of management and supervision, a related bill incorporating measures to extend the training period for trustworthy supervising organizations and technical intern trainees and to increase the fixed quota of trainees to be accepted was submitted to the Diet. In addition, from April of this year, time-limited measures until FY 2020 were started in the construction and shipbuilding sector, whereby foreign nationals who have completed their technical intern training in this sector will be permitted to work for two or three years. The status of residence of “Technical Intern Training” is a topic which never seems short of discussion, but I intend to focus on carrying out proper examinations while bearing in mind that the training plays a part in making an international contribution, which is the transfer of skills to a foreign country.



## Chapter 3. Implementation of the Technical Intern Training Programs

### Section 1 ◆ Outline of the System

The aim of the technical intern and training programs is to transfer technology, skills and knowledge generated in Japan to developing countries and other countries, and to contribute to the “development of human resources” who will take the lead in those countries. However, recently, an increasing number of organizations accepting trainees and interns have misunderstood the objective of the programs, treating the trainees and interns improperly and paying them unfairly low wages. In addition, there has been criticism that some accepting organizations do not provide adequate guidance and supervision to their affiliate organizations, and that there are brokers who obtain unfair profits from performing intermediary services for trainees.

In order to deal with these situations, the current system of technical intern training programs was launched in July 2010. As a result, in principle, it is mandatory for the intern training activities for the acquisition of skills to be performed based on an employment contract, and therefore these interns are protected in accordance with the relevant Labor Standards Act and other labor-related laws and regulations, including the Minimum Wage Act. In cases of acceptance under the supervision of an organization, the accepting organizations previously supervised technical internships only in the first year. Following the revision, organizations organizing technical intern training for a second year or longer are required to continue conducting the training on their own responsibility and supervision.

The current system requires supervising organizations to hold lectures on information necessary for legal protection of the technical interns, given by an expert. In order to reinforce the instruction, supervision and support system of the supervising organizations, the requirements of the supervising organizations are also stipulated as follows: (i) staff of the supervising organizations shall visit the implementing organization at least once a month to check on the state of the technical intern training programs and to give directions; (ii) board members of the supervising organizations shall conduct an audit at least once every three months, and shall report the results of the audit to the competent regional immigration bureau; (iii) supervising organizations shall appoint counseling staff who will give advice to the technical interns.

In addition, the Ministerial Ordinance to Provide for Criteria Pursuant to Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “Ordinance on Criteria”), etc. was amended on November 1, 2012 in order to reinforce protection for the technical intern trainees and to ensure proper operation of the system of technical intern training. Specifically, the amendment involved: (i) clarification of the start of the period during which technical intern trainees may not be newly accepted as a measure against those implementing organizations, which have committed misconduct obstructing the appropriate implementation of technical intern training, (ii) prohibition of acceptance in cases where the supervising organization, etc. has been involved in a false application in the past five years, and (iii) the requirement that if an implementing organization or a supervising organization has committed misconduct, it shall immediately report the fact of the misconduct to the regional immigration bureau.

Furthermore, based on the comments made in the Report on the Administrative Evaluation and Monitoring Results in April 2013, in order to optimize the audits by the supervising organizations, the “Guidelines for Management of the Entry and Residence of Technical Intern Trainees” was revised in December 2013 so as to give a clearer indication of the perspectives, procedures and methods to be used in

the audits, and to clarify the misconduct applicable in cases of audits not being properly implemented.

## Section 2 ◆ Responses to Cases of Inappropriate Acceptance

Under the provisions including the Ordinance of the Ministry of Justice, the Immigration Bureau may render a finding of “misconduct” with regard to organizations that have acted inappropriately in implementing their training and technical intern training programs. The Immigration Bureau suspends such organizations from accepting trainees and technical interns for one, three or five years depending on the type of misconduct as stipulated in the ministerial ordinance. The number of organizations to which the Ministry of Justice sent notifications that they were found to have engaged in “misconduct” during the year 2014 was 241.

According to the type of receiving arrangement, all organizations were accepting trainees under the association-supervised scheme (no organizations accepted trainees under the company-arranged scheme), and taking a look by type of receiving organization, there were 23 supervising organizations (9.5%) and 218 implementing organizations (90.5%) (Table 17).

**Table 17 Changes in the number of organizations subject to a finding of misconduct by type of receiving arrangement**

Type of Receiving Arrangement		Year				
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Company-arranged scheme		3	2	0	0	0
Association-supervised scheme	Supervising organization (Primary receiving organization)	17	14	9	20	23
	Implementing organization (Secondary receiving organization)	143	168	188	210	218
Total		163	184	197	230	241

“Nonpayment”, “Engaging in work activities during course study period”, and “Discrepancy compared with the Technical Intern Training Plan” were the three major forms of “misconduct”, in total accounting for 70.9% of the total (Table 18).

With respect to the training and technical intern training, as described above, there are still a considerable number of organizations committing inappropriate conduct even after the introduction of the current system. Therefore, the Immigration Bureau will endeavor to continue checking the situation, closely coordinate with the relevant institutions, and actively conduct research into the facts, requesting organizations which are committing inappropriate conduct to take corrective measures as necessary.

Table 18 Number of cases of misconduct by category (2014)

(Cases)

Category	Company- arranged scheme (0 Organization)	Association-supervised scheme		Total (241 Organizations)
		Supervising organization (23 Organizations)	Implementing organization (218 Organizations)	
Violence/threats/confinement	0	1	0	1
Confiscation of passport/residence card	0	0	2	2
Nonpayment	0	0	142	142
Human rights infringement	0	4	2	6
Document forgery/preparation and use of fraudulent documents	0	18	11	29
Confiscation of deposit	0	0	2	2
Engaging in work activities during course study period	0	7	67	74
Dual contract	0	0	0	0
Discrepancy compared with Technical Intern Training Plan	0	9	23	32
Name lending	0	2	19	21
Program implementing organization's failure to report misconduct/failure to report the impossibility of continuing the program	0		2	2
Supervising organization's failure to report misconduct, etc./failure to conduct audit or to establish a consultation system or other system		2		2
Frequency of trainees going missing	0	0	0	0
Employment of illegal foreign workers	0	2	9	11
Violation of labor-related regulations	0	0	23	23
Arrangement with profit purpose	0	0	0	0
Repeated misconduct	0	1	2	3
Failure to submit a daily report	0	0	0	0
Failure to submit a report regarding leaving trainees	0	0	0	0
Total	0	46	304	350

(\*) If one accepting organization is notified of findings of misconduct in more than one category, it is counted in each category, and therefore, the total number of accepting organizations is not identical to the total number of recognized cases in each category.

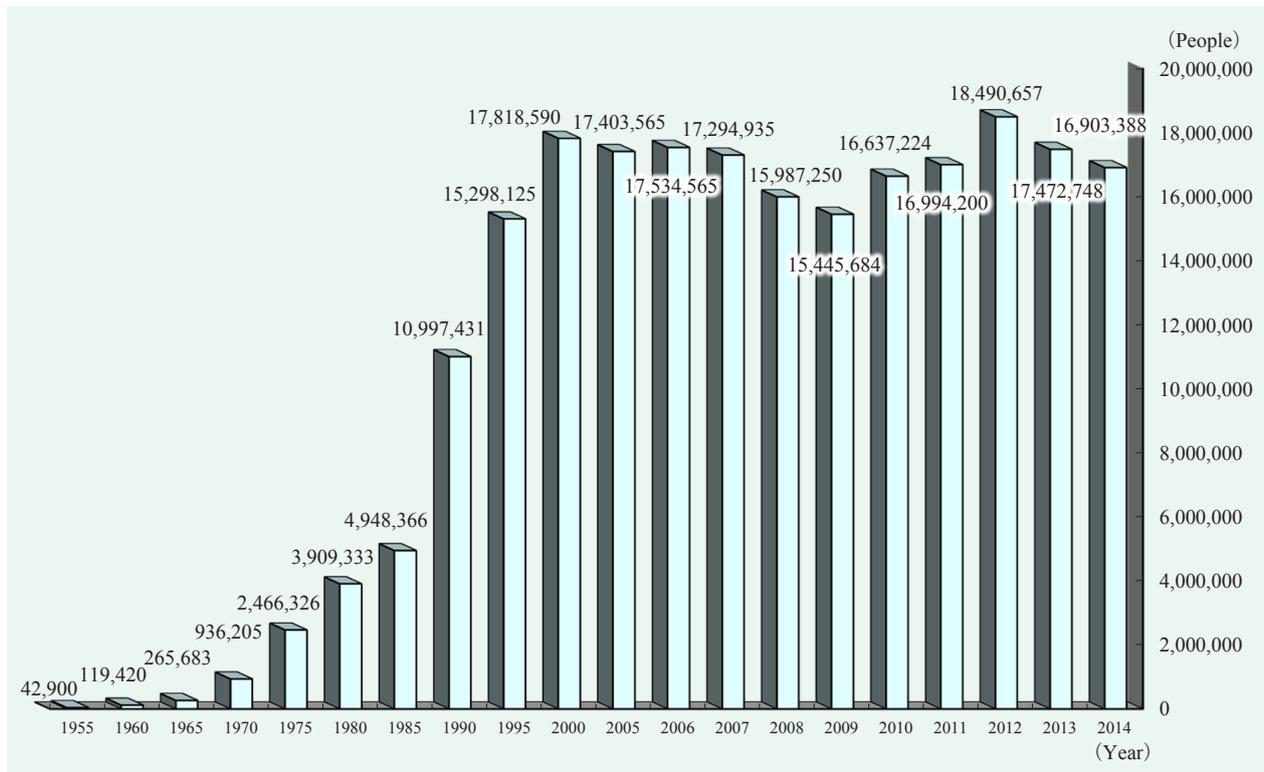
## Chapter 4. Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan

### Section 1 ◆ Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

#### ① Total Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

The total number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2014 was 16,903,388, a decrease of 569,360 (3.3%) from 2013 (Chart 14).

Chart 14 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan



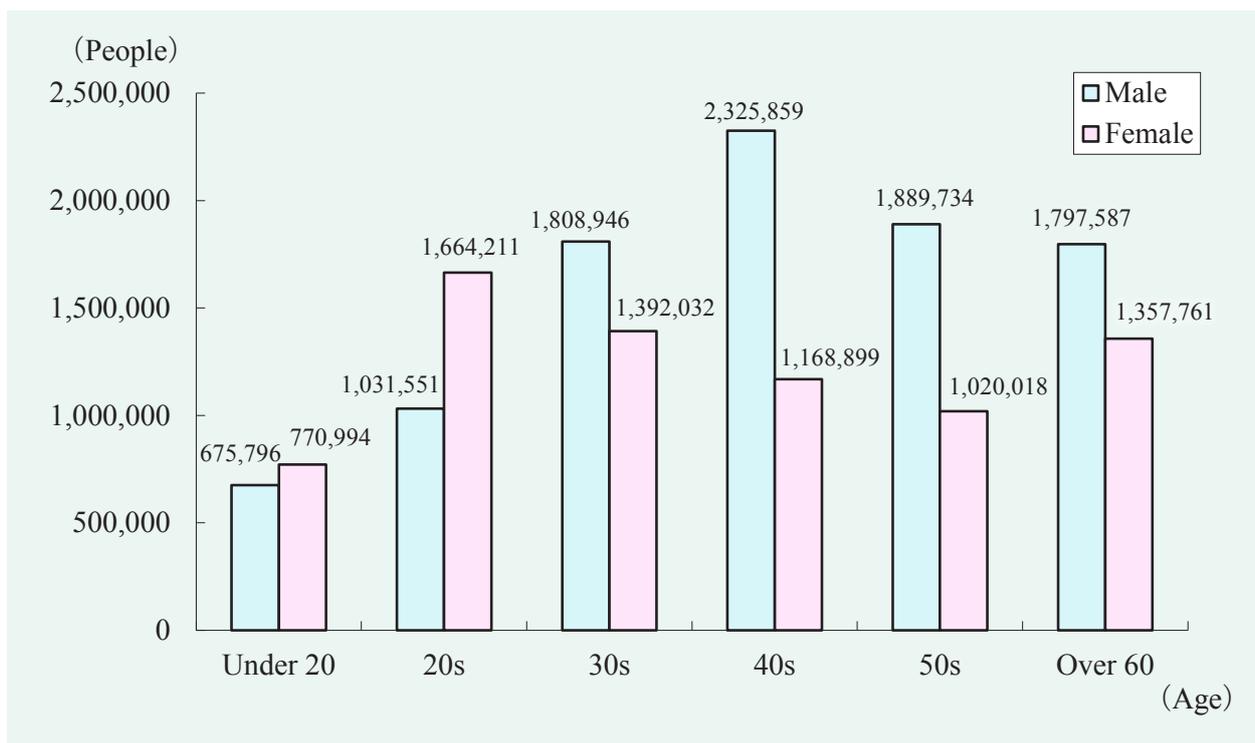
#### ② Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Gender and Age

According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2014 was composed of 9,529,473 males and 7,373,915 females; males accounted for 56.4% of the total and females accounted for 43.6%. There have been no significant changes in the percentages of either males or females since 2001, and the percentage of males continues to exceed that of females.

According to the statistics by age, it was composed of 3,494,758 Japanese nationals in their 40s, which accounted for 20.7% of the total, followed by 3,200,978 in their 30s, accounting for 18.9%, 3,155,348 in their 60s or older, accounting for 18.7%, 2,909,752 in their 50s, accounting for 17.2%, and 2,695,762 in their 20s, accounting for 15.9%.

According to the statistics on percentages of males and females by age, the percentages of Japanese females in their 10s and 20s exceeded those of males and, in particular, females in their 20s accounted for the extremely high percentage of 61.7%, but with other ages, the percentage of males departing from Japan exceeded that of females (Chart 15).

Chart 15 Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2014)



### ③ Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Airport and Seaport

According to the statistics of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2014 by airport and seaport of departure, the number of persons using airports to depart from Japan was 16,745,811, accounting for 99.1% of the total. When compared with the percentage of foreign nationals entering Japan (foreign nationals using airports accounted for 95.5%), the percentage of airport users is much higher.

Of the Japanese nationals using airports to depart from Japan in 2014, the number of users of Narita Airport was 7,069,294, which accounted for 42.2% of the total number of persons using airports to depart from Japan, and those using Haneda Airport was 3,502,415, which accounted for 20.9%, and those using Kansai Airport was 3,224,562, which accounted for 19.3%. This means that 82.4% of the total number of persons departing from airports used these three airports.

On the other hand, of the Japanese nationals using seaports to depart from Japan in 2014, the number of users of Hakata Port, where scheduled passenger ships operate between Japan and R.O.Korea, was 71,542, which accounted for 45.4% of the total number of persons departing from seaports, followed by Yokohama Port, 12,172, accounting for 7.7%, Shimonoseki Port, 11,394, accounting for 7.2%. This means that 60.4% of the total number of Japanese nationals departing from seaports used these three seaports. Kobe Port, 6,185, accounting for 3.9%, Tokyo Port, 4,745, accounting for 3.0% and Naha Port, 4,646, accounting for 2.9% followed these three major seaports.

## Section 2 ◆ Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan



**Airport landing examination**

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2014 was 16,915,797. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, the number of persons returning within one month after departure was 15,336,817, which accounted for 90.7% of the total. Of those, the number of persons returning within ten days was 13,799,136, which accounted for 90.0% of those who returned within one month after departure.

This is thought to be because most Japanese tourists going abroad who depart for a purpose requiring only a short period such as sightseeing and business return promptly. This trend has continued in recent years and no major change has been observed (Table 19).

**Table 19 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals returning to Japan by period of stay**

(People)

Year \ Period of Stay	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	16,611,884	16,921,103	18,408,185	17,421,997	16,915,797
Within 5 days	9,904,585	10,039,111	10,916,364	9,898,557	9,499,435
More than 5 days to 10 days	4,002,339	4,055,123	4,448,480	4,422,482	4,299,701
More than 10 days to 20 days	998,258	1,054,248	1,129,239	1,130,386	1,119,965
More than 20 days to 1 month	347,066	388,970	404,327	408,455	417,716
More than 1 month to 3 months	542,196	588,327	639,672	658,643	655,267
More than 3 months to 6 months	314,762	323,218	357,644	376,109	386,518
More than 6 months to 1 year	258,013	256,264	270,945	291,269	301,338
More than 1 year to 3 years	124,335	119,588	137,043	134,050	133,068
More than 3 years	8,567	8,281	11,045	12,966	13,203
Unknown	111,763	87,973	93,426	89,080	89,586

## Chapter 5. Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals

### Section 1 ◆ Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay



**Investigation of violation**

Based on the computer statistics of the Immigration Bureau, the estimated number of foreign nationals who overstayed (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay) was 60,007 as of January 1, 2015, an increase of 946 (1.6%) from 59,061 at January 1, 2014, and it increased for the first time in 22 years after a record high of 298,646 on May 1, 1993.

This is thought to be because initially the number of foreign nationals staying beyond their authorized period of stay was greatly reduced owing to crackdowns which were continuously being implemented to expose illegal immigrants, but recently smaller groups of illegal immigrants are spreading out throughout the country which is making large-scale crackdowns difficult and the number of foreign nationals undergoing the deportation procedures is seeing a downward trend. Meanwhile, in recent years, the entire government has been working on promoting Japan as a tourism-oriented country, and as a result of the visa waiver and visa requirement easing measures vis-à-vis the ASEAN countries implemented since July 1, 2013, the number of foreign entrants in 2014 had significantly increased compared with the previous year, and this is believed to have had some impact on the increasing number of foreign nationals staying beyond their authorized period of stay.

#### ① Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay by Nationality/Region

As of May 1, 1993, when the highest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was recorded, the nationality/region of the largest number of foreign nationals was Thailand, followed by R.O.Korea, the Philippines, China and Malaysia. As of January 1, 2015, the nationality/region of the largest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was R.O.Korea (13,634, accounting for 22.7%), followed by China (8,647, accounting for 14.4%), Thailand (5,277, accounting for 8.8%), the Philippines (4,991, accounting for 8.3%), Taiwan (3,532, accounting for 5.9%).

Taking a look at the changes after May 1, 1993, although new entries increased significantly owing to visa-exemption measures being implemented with regard to R.O.Korea for those foreign nationals intending to engage in activities that may be performed under the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, the number of those found overstaying from R.O.Korea has been consistently decreasing since January 1, 1999. On the other hand, the number of those from Thailand had been steadily decreasing since May 1, 1993, but because of the impact of the substantial increase in the number of foreign nationals from Thailand newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” due to the measure taken to deregulate visas in July 2013, the number of those from Thailand increased by 886 (20.2%) to 5,277 compared to January 1, 2014, which was an increase for two consecutive years. In addition, with regard to the number of those from Viet Nam, the number increased by 982 (66.8%) to 2,453 compared to January 1, 2014, which was an increase for three consecutive years (Table 20, Chart 16).

**Table 20 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals staying beyond the authorized period of stay by major nationality/region**

(People)

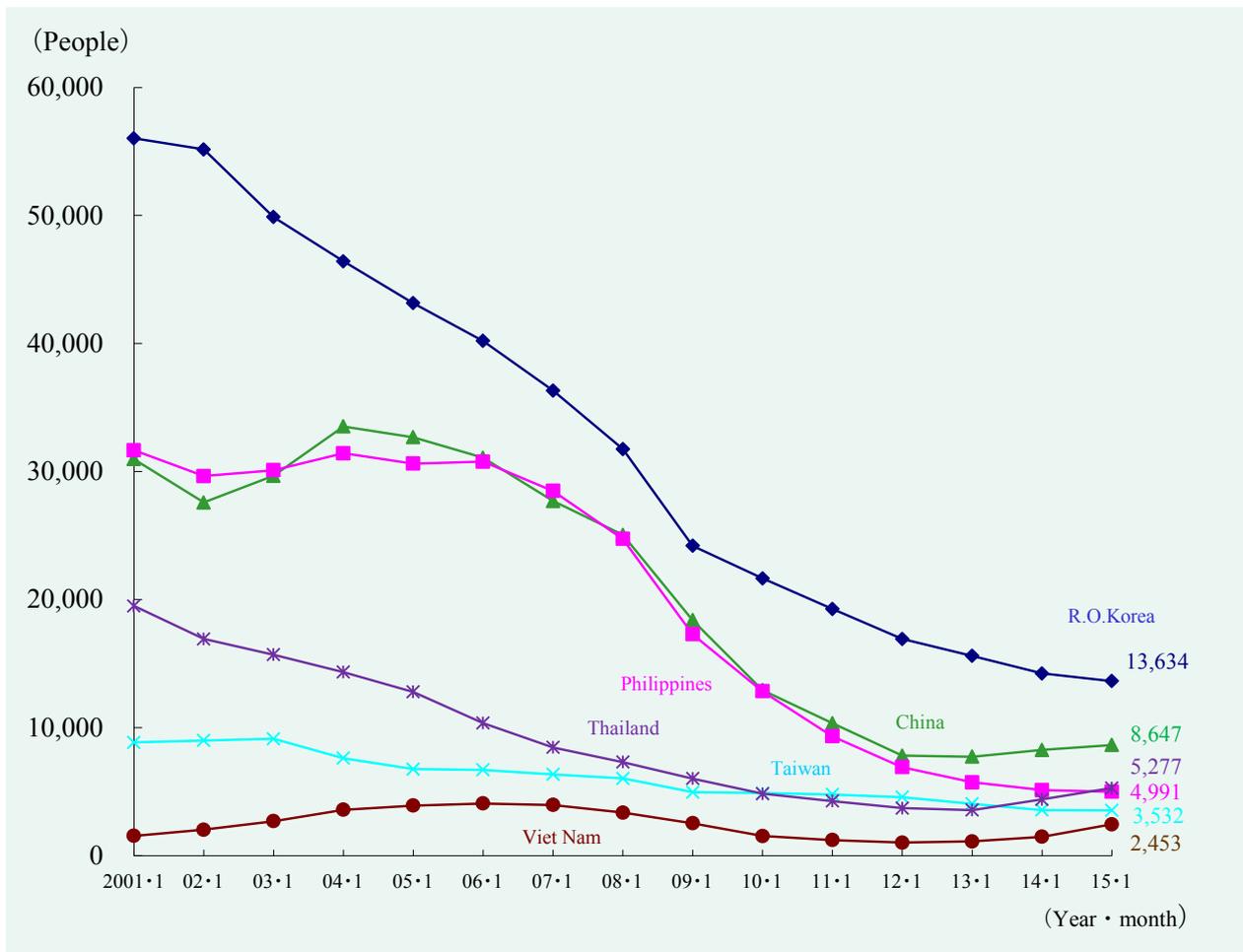
Nationality/Region	Date												
	May 1 1993	May 1 1994	May 1 1995	May 1 1996	January 1 1997	January 1 1998	January 1 1999	January 1 2000	January 1 2001	January 1 2002	January 1 2003	January 1 2004	
Total	298,646	293,800	286,704	284,500	282,986	276,810	271,048	251,697	232,121	224,067	220,552	219,418	
R.O.Korea	39,455	43,369	47,544	51,580	52,387	52,123	62,577	60,693	56,023	55,164	49,874	46,425	
China	33,312	39,738	39,511	39,140	38,296	37,590	34,800	32,896	30,975	27,582	29,676	33,522	
Thailand	55,383	49,992	44,794	41,280	39,513	37,046	30,065	23,503	19,500	16,925	15,693	14,334	
Philippines	35,392	37,544	39,763	41,997	42,547	42,608	40,420	36,379	31,666	29,649	30,100	31,428	
Taiwan	7,457	7,871	7,974	8,502	9,409	9,430	9,437	9,243	8,849	8,990	9,126	7,611	
Viet Nam	852	869	453	448	231	731	880	1,092	1,550	2,021	2,697	3,582	
Malaysia	30,840	20,313	14,511	11,525	10,390	10,141	9,989	9,701	9,651	10,097	9,442	8,476	
Indonesia	2,969	3,198	3,205	3,481	3,758	4,692	4,930	4,947	5,315	6,393	6,546	7,246	
Singapore	1,914	2,342	2,600	2,850	2,946	3,027	3,084	3,178	3,302	3,494	3,556	3,216	
Brazil	2,210	2,603	3,104	3,763	5,026	4,334	3,288	3,266	3,578	3,697	3,865	4,728	
Others	88,862	85,961	83,245	79,934	78,483	75,088	71,578	66,799	61,712	60,055	59,977	58,850	

(People)

Nationality/Region	Date											
	January 1 2005	January 1 2006	January 1 2007	January 1 2008	January 1 2009	January 1 2010	January 1 2011	January 1 2012	January 1 2013	January 1 2014	January 1 2015	
Total	207,299	193,745	170,839	149,785	113,072	91,778	78,488	67,065	62,009	59,061	60,007	
R.O.Korea	43,151	40,203	36,321	31,758	24,198	21,660	19,271	16,927	15,607	14,233	13,634	
China	32,683	31,074	27,698	25,057	18,385	12,933	10,337	7,807	7,730	8,257	8,647	
Thailand	12,787	10,352	8,460	7,314	6,023	4,836	4,264	3,714	3,558	4,391	5,277	
Philippines	30,619	30,777	28,491	24,741	17,287	12,842	9,329	6,908	5,722	5,117	4,991	
Taiwan	6,760	6,696	6,347	6,031	4,950	4,889	4,774	4,571	4,047	3,557	3,532	
Viet Nam	3,916	4,071	3,959	3,362	2,527	1,531	1,221	1,014	1,110	1,471	2,453	
Malaysia	7,431	6,822	6,397	4,804	2,986	2,661	2,442	2,237	2,192	1,819	1,788	
Indonesia	7,169	6,926	6,354	5,096	3,126	1,820	1,265	1,037	1,073	1,097	1,258	
Singapore	3,075	3,587	2,241	2,207	2,128	2,107	1,789	1,586	1,304	1,079	1,066	
Brazil	4,905	2,762	2,286	2,297	1,939	1,645	1,536	1,290	1,075	1,013	988	
Others	54,803	50,475	42,285	37,118	29,523	24,854	22,260	19,974	18,591	17,027	16,373	

(\*) “China” does not include China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

Chart 16 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals staying beyond the authorized period of stay by major nationality/region



## ② Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay by Status of Residence

Taking a look at the foreign nationals illegally staying beyond their authorized period of stay as of January 1, 2015 by status of residence prior to illegally overstaying in Japan, the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” continued from 2014 to make up the largest number at 41,090 accounting for 68.5% of the total number followed by “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 3,709, accounting for 6.2%, “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)” at 2,831 accounting for 4.7%, “Student” at 2,806, accounting for 4.7%, “Long-Term Resident” at 1,889, accounting for 3.1%, and when compared to the previous year, while the number of “Temporary Visitor” by 313 (0.8%), “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by 10 (0.3%), and “Long-Term Resident” by 65 (3.3%) decreased, “Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)” by 1,132 (66.6%) and “Student” by 29 (1.0%) increased (Table 21).

**Table 21 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals staying beyond the authorized period of stay by major status of residence**

Status of Residence	(People)						
	Date	January 1 2010	January 1 2011	January 1 2012	January 1 2013	January 1 2014	January 1 2015
Total		91,778	78,488	67,065	62,009	59,061	60,007
Temporary Visitor		63,169	54,220	46,845	43,943	41,403	41,090
Spouse or Child of Japanese National		6,456	5,843	5,060	4,291	3,719	3,709
Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b)		-	3	412	943	1,699	2,831
Student		5,842	4,322	3,187	2,847	2,777	2,806
Long-Term Resident		3,505	3,199	2,627	2,088	1,954	1,889
Others		12,806	10,901	8,934	7,897	7,509	7,682

(\*) The number of foreign nationals overstaying with the status of residence of "Student" includes the number of foreign nationals whose status of residence was "Pre-college Student" under the previous Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which was revised on July 1, 2010, at the time when they came to be considered to be overstaying.

## Section 2 ◆ Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act Necessitating the Implementation of Deportation Procedures

### ① Outline

In 2014, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced on account of violation of the Immigration Control Act was 10,676, a decline of 752 from 2013. Of these, 2,587 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system.

According to the statistics of the number of foreign nationals by grounds for deportation, the largest number of foreign nationals were deported for overstaying (8,274, accounting for 77.5%), followed by illegal entry (844, accounting for 7.9%) and activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted (422, accounting for 4.0%). Foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay have continued to account for a predominant percentage (Table 22).

Looking at the statistics for the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region, the largest number of such foreign nationals was from China for 12 consecutive years (3,975, accounting for 37.2%), followed by the Philippines (1,414, accounting for 13.2%), and Viet Nam (953, accounting for 8.9%). These top three countries made up 59.4% of the total (Table 23).

**Table 22 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation**

Grounds for Deportation	(People)					
	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total		24,213	20,659	15,178	11,428	10,676
Illegal entry		3,867	2,862	1,875	1,128	844
Illegal landing		134	164	187	199	249
Activity other than those permitted		751	542	617	493	422
Overstay		18,578	15,925	11,439	8,713	8,274
Criminal offenses		529	619	527	430	392
Others		354	547	533	465	495
Illegal work		18,490	13,913	8,979	7,038	6,702

**Table 23 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region**  
(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	24,213	20,659	15,178	11,428	10,676
China	7,294	6,350	4,545	4,044	3,975
Philippines	5,058	4,346	2,972	1,778	1,414
Viet Nam	887	717	592	688	953
R.O.Korea	3,215	2,625	2,028	1,336	921
Thailand	1,475	1,108	786	604	899
Brazil	581	825	814	422	316
Indonesia	735	449	327	271	268
Sri Lanka	624	449	303	199	222
United States of America	176	258	218	192	175
Turkey	158	167	166	129	157
Others	4,010	3,365	2,427	1,765	1,376

(\*) “China” does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

## ② Number of Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act by Grounds for Deportation

### (1) Illegal Entry

Of the foreign nationals against whom the deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2014, the number of illegal entrants (\*) was 844, accounting for 7.9%, a decline of 284 (25.2%) from 2013. Looking at past records, the number increased after 2003 but started to decrease after 2006. Since the number of illegal entrants as a percentage of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act is decreasing, it is considered that the countermeasures to prevent illegal entry have been quite effective.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of illegal entrants was from China (262, accounting for 31.0%), followed by the Philippines (214, accounting for 25.4%) and R.O.Korea (69, accounting for 8.2%), and there has been no change in the order of the top two countries since 2002 (Table 24).

According to the statistics by means of transportation utilized for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 640, accounting for 75.8%, a decline of 184 (22.3%) from 2013, and therefore, illegal entry using aircraft as a percentage of the total is still high. Meanwhile, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for illegal entry by a vessel was 204, accounting for 24.2%, a decline of 100 (32.9%) from 2013 (Table 25, 26).

(\*) An illegal entrant means a person who enters Japan in violation of the provisions of Article 3, paragraph (1) of the Immigration Control Act. The provisions in the paragraph stipulate that any foreign national who falls under any of the following items shall not enter Japan: a person who does not possess a valid passport (except for a crew member possessing a valid crew member's pocket-ledger) (item (i)); and a person who intends to land in Japan without receiving a seal of verification for landing or undergoing the recording of the prescribed data pursuant to the provision of Article 9, paragraph (4) of the Immigration Control Act, or without obtaining authorized permission for landing from an immigration inspector (item (ii)). Any foreign national who violates the provisions is considered an illegal entrant.

Table 24 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	3,867	2,862	1,875	1,128	844
China	1,212	949	532	359	262
Philippines	1,065	799	520	274	214
R.O.Korea	327	270	178	102	69
Iran	133	112	124	63	53
Thailand	303	198	105	56	43
Peru	189	119	91	37	29
Sri Lanka	82	57	36	32	28
Indonesia	132	83	55	27	21
Nigeria	37	37	32	17	16
Bangladesh	79	35	26	24	14
Others	308	203	176	137	95

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or Chin (others).

Table 25 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using aircraft by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	2,849	2,105	1,437	824	640
Philippines	1,006	760	500	262	208
China	533	443	263	153	112
Iran	113	96	113	55	48
Thailand	284	192	100	54	40
R.O.Korea	141	104	78	53	33
Others	772	510	383	247	199

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

Table 26 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by vessel by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	1,018	757	438	304	204
China	679	506	269	206	150
R.O.Korea	186	166	100	49	36
Philippines	59	39	20	12	6
Iran	20	16	11	8	5
Bangladesh	23	13	7	10	3
Others	51	17	31	19	4

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

## (2) Illegal Landing

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced owing to violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2014, the number of those who illegally landed in Japan without receiving a seal of verification for landing or undergoing the recording of the prescribed data pursuant to the provisions of Article 9, paragraph (4) of the Immigration Control Act, or without obtaining authorized permission for landing from an immigration inspector was 249, accounting for 2.3%, an increase of 50 (25.1%) from 2013 (Table 27).

**Table 27 Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality/region**

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total		134	164	187	199	249
Turkey		27	72	98	84	97
Sri Lanka		8	0	6	14	54
Russia		7	5	3	19	36
Philippines		9	4	6	3	10
Thailand		7	4	4	2	6
China		25	20	14	7	4
Ghana		0	0	0	10	4
Pakistan		2	5	9	3	4
United States of America		0	6	5	5	3
R.O.Korea		11	12	4	8	2
Others		38	36	38	44	29

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or Chiina (others).

## (3) Overstay

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2014, the number of those who had stayed beyond the authorized period of stay was 8,274, accounting for 77.5%, a decrease by 439 (5.0%) from 2013, which was still overwhelmingly high.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was from China (3,170, accounting for 38.3%), followed by the Philippines (1,034, accounting for 12.5%), Thailand (797, accounting for 9.6%), Viet Nam (780, accounting for 9.4%) and R.O.Korea (715, accounting for 8.6%) (Table 28).

**Table 28 Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals staying beyond the authorized period of stay by nationality/region**

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total		18,578	15,925	11,439	8,713	8,274
China		5,494	4,848	3,415	3,194	3,170
Philippines		3,797	3,280	2,295	1,363	1,034
Thailand		1,130	860	615	486	797
Viet Nam		783	635	482	562	780
R.O.Korea		2,582	2,082	1,476	960	715
Indonesia		590	350	260	236	233
Brazil		434	649	671	321	227
United States of America		157	224	200	171	157
Sri Lanka		515	375	235	144	133
Mongolia		239	219	111	110	112
Others		2,857	2,403	1,679	1,166	916

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

#### (4) Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted

If a foreign national residing in Japan clearly engages solely in working activities, such as the ones for which he/she receives remuneration, other than those permitted for the status of residence previously granted without obtaining the required permission, deportation procedures will be enforced on grounds of engaging in activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted. The number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced in 2014 was 422, accounting for 4.0%, a decrease of 71 (14.4%) from 2013.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China (167, accounting for 39.6%), followed by Viet Nam (110, accounting for 26.1%), R.O.Korea (48, accounting for 11.4%), and these top three countries accounted for 77.0% of the total (Table 29).

**Table 29 Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted by nationality/region**

Nationality/Region	(People)					
	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total		751	542	617	493	422
China		291	192	228	176	167
Viet Nam		36	12	34	52	110
R.O.Korea		207	125	212	138	48
Nepal		45	60	48	29	34
Philippines		57	71	20	27	24
Thailand		6	5	9	14	13
Indonesia		4	14	7	4	9
Sri Lanka		15	10	20	2	3
Romania		2	0	3	0	3
Mongolia		2	0	1	1	2
Others		86	53	35	50	9

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).



**Detection of violator**

## Article: Reaction to Activists Claiming Sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands

In recent years, the activities of protesters from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong claiming sovereignty of the Senkaku Islands (activities to claim the Diaoyu Islands) have intensified, and there are incidents in which these protesters have entered the sea area of the Senkaku Islands in their vessels and intruded into the territorial waters of Japan.

The Immigration Bureau has handled the activists claiming sovereignty in close contact with the related government bodies, mainly the Cabinet Secretariat (officers in charge of security and crisis management). For example, the Immigration Bureau took immigration control officers on the patrol vessels of the Japan Coast Guard, which were conducting activities to surveil the sea area around the Senkaku Islands, to participate in those activities along with the Japan Coast Guard and the police.

### ③ Illegal Foreign Workers

#### (1) Summary

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2014, the number of those who were considered to have been illegally working was 6,702, accounting for 62.8%. This indicates that most illegal foreign residents who are hiding out somewhere in Japan are working illegally.

It has been pointed out that illegal foreign workers, working for substandard wages, take away employment opportunities from Japanese workers, and have a serious negative impact on a fair labor market. Moreover, there have been human rights violations against illegal foreign workers. For example, brokers arrange for illegal workers to come to Japan and gain a huge unfair profit by exploiting the wages that should be earned by the foreign workers. Some foreign workers in these conditions are also unable to receive sufficient compensation in the event of an industrial accident.

The amended Immigration Control Act enforced on July 1, 2010 stipulates any act of a foreign national aiding another foreign national to engage in illegal work, such as through employment of the foreign national, to be one of the grounds for deportation (Article 24, item (iii)-4 of the Immigration Control Act). Thus, the Immigration Bureau promotes regulations on foreign nationals who encourage illegal work.

#### (2) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Nationality/Region

Illegal workers came from 69 countries/regions, mainly from neighboring Asian countries, indicating that there is still a trend being diversity in the nationalities of illegal foreign workers.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, illegal workers from China made up the largest number at 2,819 accounting for 42.1%, followed by the Philippines (763, accounting for 11.4%), Viet Nam (701, accounting for 10.5%), Thailand (681, accounting for 10.2%), and R.O.Korea (606, accounting for 9.0%). These top five countries represented 83.1% of the total. As a trend in recent years, Chinese illegal workers have accounted for a high percentage (Table 30).

Table 30 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region		Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total			18,490	13,913	8,979	7,038	6,702
	Male		10,943	7,954	5,346	4,356	4,160
	Female		7,547	5,959	3,633	2,682	2,542
China			6,039	4,876	3,082	2,909	2,819
	Male		3,887	2,968	1,981	1,943	1,869
	Female		2,152	1,908	1,101	966	950
Philippines			3,573	2,632	1,589	968	763
	Male		1,491	1,052	629	394	308
	Female		2,082	1,580	960	574	455
Viet Nam			722	521	380	461	701
	Male		483	323	271	312	454
	Female		239	198	109	149	247
Thailand			1,171	843	567	442	681
	Male		645	456	318	272	384
	Female		526	387	249	170	297
R.O.Korea			2,590	1,918	1,356	866	606
	Male		985	670	525	311	237
	Female		1,605	1,248	831	555	369
Indonesia			675	397	267	233	231
	Male		518	333	218	193	193
	Female		157	64	49	40	38
Sri Lanka			554	365	246	136	119
	Male		507	335	230	127	112
	Female		47	30	16	9	7
Mongolia			231	201	90	81	101
	Male		132	111	51	47	72
	Female		99	90	39	34	29
Nepal			277	179	117	97	75
	Male		215	122	85	78	47
	Female		62	57	32	19	28
Brazil			165	183	182	96	68
	Male		125	149	141	74	55
	Female		40	34	41	22	13
Others			2,493	1,798	1,103	749	538
	Male		1,955	1,435	897	605	429
	Female		538	363	206	144	109

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

### (3) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Gender

Illegal foreign workers against whom deportation procedures were taken consisted of 4,160 male illegal workers (accounting for 62.1%) and 2,542 female illegal workers (accounting for 37.9%). The percentage was almost the same percentage as 2013.

#### (4) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Type of Work

According to the statistics by type of work, the largest number of illegal foreign workers was construction workers (1,336, accounting for 19.9%), followed by factory workers (1,230, accounting for 18.4%), and agricultural workers (946, accounting for 14.1%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as construction workers followed by factory workers and agricultural workers, while the largest number of female worked as attendants such as bar hostesses followed by factory workers and agricultural workers (Table 31).

**Table 31 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work**

(People)

Job Categories	Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total		18,490	13,913	8,979	7,038	6,702
	Male	10,943	7,954	5,346	4,356	4,160
	Female	7,547	5,959	3,633	2,682	2,542
Construction worker		2,383	1,772	1,154	1,151	1,336
	Male	2,358	1,750	1,146	1,144	1,323
	Female	25	22	8	7	13
Factory worker		4,168	2,809	1,623	1,301	1,230
	Male	2,846	1,869	1,124	895	769
	Female	1,322	940	499	406	461
Agricultural worker		887	783	592	695	946
	Male	670	554	432	507	632
	Female	217	229	160	188	314
Attendants such as bar hostess		2,679	2,011	1,365	837	629
	Male	240	120	114	80	41
	Female	2,439	1,891	1,251	757	588
Other labor worker		1,715	1,527	907	580	525
	Male	1,347	1,173	700	440	424
	Female	368	354	207	140	101
Worker in other service industry		1,166	961	575	452	413
	Male	490	379	258	161	127
	Female	676	582	317	291	286
Others		5,492	4,050	2,763	2,022	1,623
	Male	2,992	2,109	1,572	1,129	844
	Female	2,500	1,941	1,191	893	779

#### (5) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Place of Work

It has been identified that illegal workers are working in 46 prefectures. According to the statistics by place of work by prefecture, the largest number was found in Tokyo (1,175, accounting for 17.5%), followed by Ibaraki prefecture (1,047, accounting for 15.6%), Chiba prefecture (955, accounting for 14.2%), Aichi prefecture (794, accounting for 11.8%), and Kanagawa prefecture (656, accounting for 9.8%) (Table 32).

According to the statistics by region, the number of illegal workers in Tokyo and the six prefectures (Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Ibaraki, Gunma, and Tochigi) in the Kanto district was 4,557 (accounting for 68.0%), making up most of the total, and the number of illegal workers in the nine prefectures in the Chubu district (Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Shizuoka, Gifu and Aichi) was also at a high level of 1,262, accounting for 18.8%. Illegal workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts, standing at 86.8% (5,819), accounted for a substantial percentage of the total number of illegal workers.

Table 32 Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area

(People)

Prefecture \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	18,490	13,913	8,979	7,038	6,702
Tokyo	3,462	2,763	1,740	1,389	1,175
Ibaraki	1,805	1,286	891	752	1,047
Chiba	2,316	1,919	1,088	945	955
Aichi	2,188	1,637	1,188	954	794
Kanagawa	2,594	1,663	967	680	656
Saitama	1,528	1,112	616	539	460
Osaka	894	623	517	366	273
Hyogo	190	179	153	130	184
Gunma	717	447	249	243	155
Shizuoka	439	371	215	167	137
Others	2,357	1,913	1,355	873	866

**Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (voice of an immigration control officer in charge of detection of offenders) (Enforcement Department, Fukuoka Regional Immigration Bureau: Yuki Atari)**

The main work of the department in charge of the detection of offenders to which I belong is to investigate the facts of the violations and to expose those foreign nationals who are suspected of coming under the grounds for deportation as prescribed in the Immigration Control Act. Based on information provided by the general public and reports from the relevant organizations, we make inquiries to the administrative organs, such as the city



office, and to private companies, conduct secret investigations comprising legwork, stakeouts, and tailing of suspects, and expose the suspect if the violation is confirmed.

The “secret investigations” comprising legwork, stakeouts and the tailing of suspects are carried out with the aim of identifying the residence, identity and operational areas of the suspect, and are indispensable in order to smoothly and efficiently carry out the exposure. If this secret investigation were to be noticed by the suspect, there is the risk that the suspect would attempt to flee or destroy evidence, and therefore we must always be wary paying close attention to our surroundings while conducting investigations. Since we sometimes carry out a compulsory investigation pursuant to permission received from the court for an inspection, search or seizure based on the evidence that has been collected in the secret investigation, this work can be said to be of extreme importance.

Since there is the possibility at the site of the exposure that there will be unforeseen circumstances, such as the suspect attempting to flee or interference with the exposure, we hold painstaking meetings in advance and ensure that all of the persons involved in the exposure are on the same page with regard to the exposure. In addition, in order to ensure that I am able to respond accurately in the event of a dangerous situation, I try to practice physical and mental discipline every day and work hard to enhance my physical fitness.

In the future, ahead of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in 2020, Japan has set an objective as a tourism-oriented country of 20 million foreign tourists visiting Japan, and since there are bound to be unwelcome foreign nationals included in this number, I am determined as an immigration officer to work hard to maintain the security of Japan.

## 4 Outline of Decisions on Violations

### (1) Receipt and the Processing of Cases of Violation

Any foreign national who is suspected of coming under any of the grounds for deportation shall be handed over to an immigration inspector to undergo the procedures for decisions on violations after an investigation by an immigration control officer. These procedures consist of three steps: examination of the violation by an immigration inspector, a hearing by a special inquiry officer, and a decision of the Minister of Justice.



**Decision on violation**

The number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation in 2014 was 11,645, which has been declining continuously since 2006 (Table 33).

**Table 33 Changes in the number of cases of receipt and findings of violation examinations by immigration inspectors, hearings by special inquiry officers and decisions of the Minister of Justice**

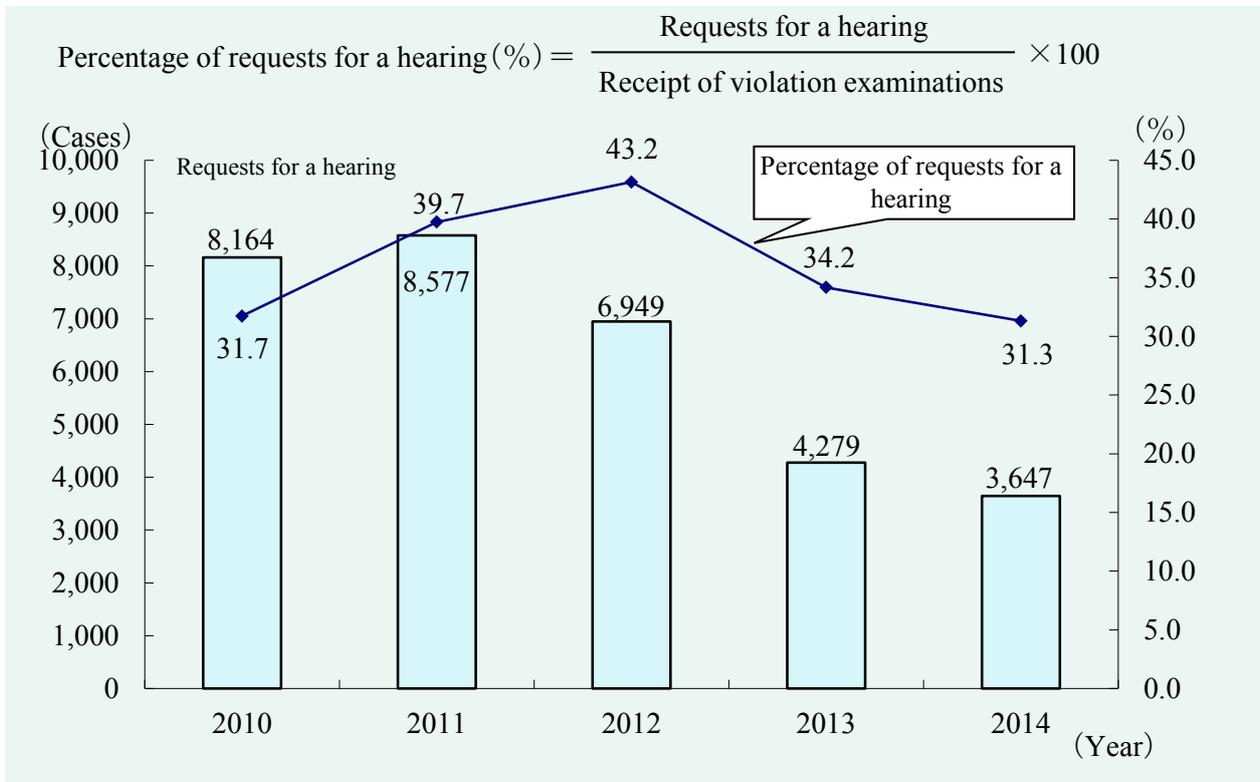
(Cases)

Division		Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Violation examination by immigration inspector	Receipt		25,731 (1,375)	21,584 (771)	16,103 (748)	12,523 (793)	11,645 (670)	
	Completed	Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation		10	5	4	5	-
		Issuance of written deportation order		11,386	7,628	5,640	4,729	4,482
		Request for hearing		8,164	8,577	6,949	4,279	3,647
		Issuance of written departure order		5,186	4,501	2,594	2,478	2,592
	Not completed, others		985	873	916	1,032	924	
Hearing by special inquiry officer	Receipt		8,777 (587)	9,286 (674)	7,755 (711)	4,942 (582)	4,282 (527)	
	Completed	Error in the findings		1	3	-	-	-
		Issuance of written deportation order		112	120	101	96	74
		Filing of an objection		7,949	8,389	6,952	4,226	3,596
		Issuance of written departure order		-	-	-	-	-
Not completed, others		715	774	702	620	612		
Decision of the Minister of Justice	Receipt		8,756 (712)	9,017 (526)	7,485 (459)	4,776 (505)	3,936 (297)	
	Completed	Objection with reason		-	7	2	1	1
		Objection without reason		8,107	8,440	6,887	4,428	3,544
	Issuance of written departure order		-	-	-	-	-	
Not completed, others		649	570	596	347	391		

(\*) The numbers indicated in parentheses are carry-over cases from the previous year and are included in each of the upper numbers.

The number of requests for a hearing after examination of the violation in 2014 was 3,647 accounting for 31.3% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, a decline of 632 (14.8%) from 2013 (Chart 17).

**Chart 17 Changes in the number and percentage of requests for a hearing**



The number of objections filed by foreign nationals who were not satisfied with the decision made by the special inquiry officer at the hearing was 3,596 in 2014, a decline of 630 (14.9%) from 2013 (Table 33).

## (2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order

The number of written deportation orders issued in 2014 was 5,821. According to the statistics by grounds for the deportation, the cases of overstaying amounted to 3,574, accounting for 61.4% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry was 12.6%, both of which showed almost the same percentage as 2013 (Table 34).

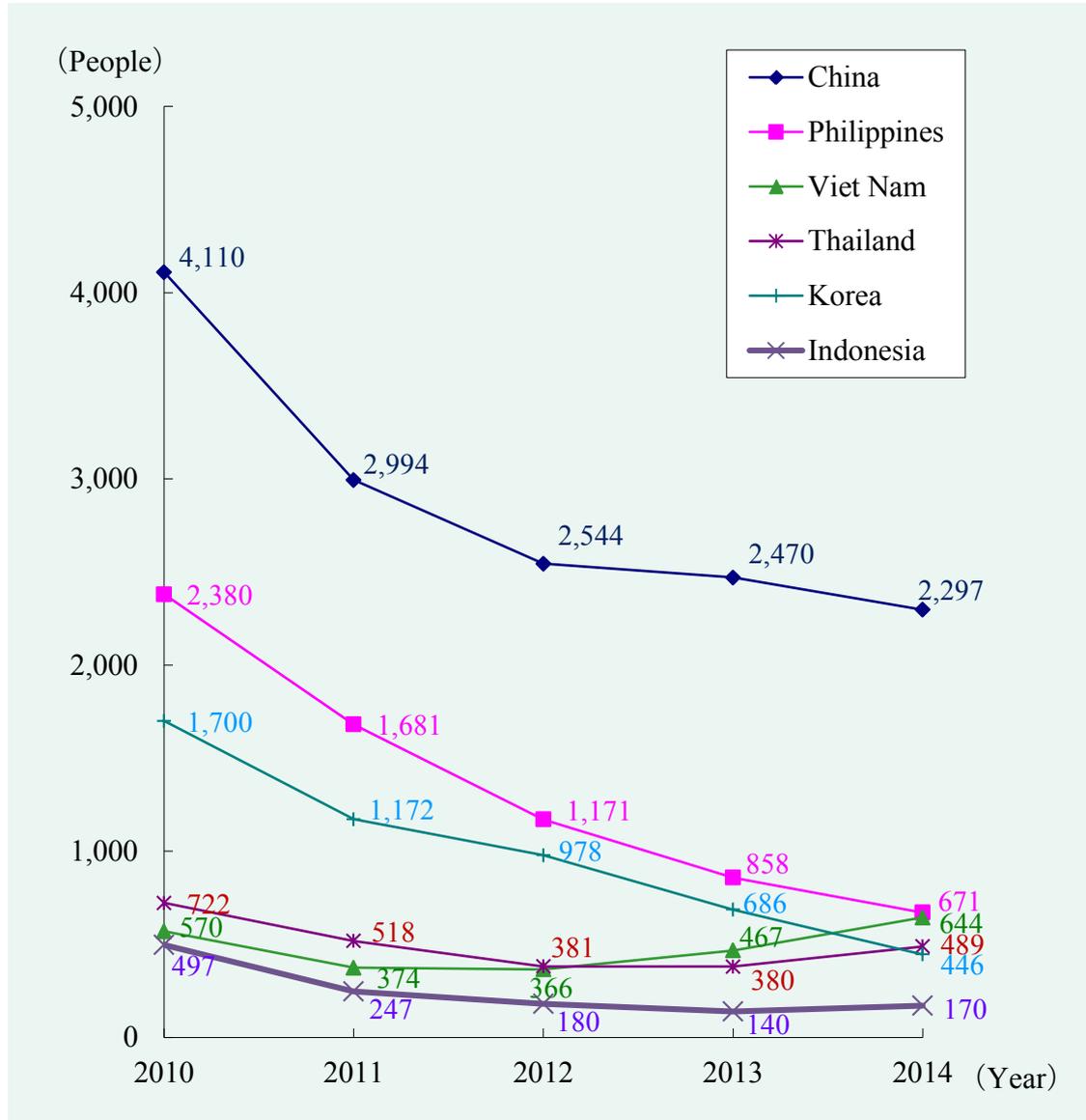
**Table 34 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation**

(Cases)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	13,277	9,348	7,329	6,425	5,821
Overstay	8,665	5,588	4,270	3,907	3,574
Illegal entry	2,956	2,014	1,430	1,001	733
Illegal landing	113	138	134	164	160
Activity other than those permitted	735	510	622	491	405
Criminal offenses	477	771	576	501	404
Others	331	327	297	361	545

According to the statistics by nationality/region in 2014, the largest number of foreign nationals who were issued with written deportation orders came from China (2,297, accounting for 39.5% of the total), followed by the Philippines (671, accounting for 11.5%), and Viet Nam (644, accounting for 11.1%) (Chart 18).

**Chart 18 Changes in the number of issuances of written deportation orders by nationality/region**



### (3) Provisional Release

In 2014, the number of foreign nationals detained under a written detention order who were accorded provisional release was 1,293, a decline of 217 (14.4%) from 2013. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were accorded provisional release was 926, a decrease of 345 (27.1%) from 2013 (Table 35).

**Table 35 Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release**

Type of Order	Year					(Cases)
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
By written detention order	2,095	2,131	2,128	1,510	1,293	
By written deportation order	1,012	1,062	1,137	1,271	926	

#### (4) Special Permission to Stay in Japan

The number of foreign nationals who received special permission to stay in Japan from the Minister of Justice in 2014 was 2,291, a decline of 549 (19.3%) from 2013.

Most of the foreign nationals who received special permission to stay in Japan had established close relationships with Japanese nationals such as through marriage. Also in many cases they had settled down in Japan in many respects.

Of the foreign nationals with special permission to stay in Japan despite coming under the grounds for deportation, the grounds for the largest number in 2014 was overstaying (1,643 accounting for 71.7%), followed by illegal entry and illegal landing, jointly accounting for 9.7%. Overstaying, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 81.4% of the total (Table 36).

**Table 36 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation** (Cases)

Grounds for Deportation \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	6,359	6,879	5,336	2,840	2,291
Overstay	4,939	5,569	4,304	2,161	1,643
Illegal entry/Illegal landing	1,044	827	491	270	223
Criminal offenses, etc.	376	483	541	409	425

According to the statistics by nationality/region in 2014, the largest number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan came from China (421, accounting for 18.4%), followed by Korea (286, accounting for 12.5%) (Table 37).

**Table 37 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region** (Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	6,359	6,879	5,336	2,840	2,291
China	1,098	1,146	809	422	421
Korea	815	898	693	400	286
Others	4,446	4,835	3,834	2,018	1,584

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

#### ⑤ Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of deported foreign nationals decreased by 248 (4.3%) from 2013 to 5,542 in 2014.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of deported foreign nationals was from China (2,282, accounting for 41.2%), followed by Viet Nam (627, accounting for 11.3%), the Philippines (616, accounting for 11.1%), Thailand (483, accounting for 8.7%), and R.O.Korea (456, accounting for 8.2%) (Table 38).

Table 38 Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	13,224	8,721	6,459	5,790	5,542
China	4,266	2,997	2,389	2,284	2,282
Viet Nam	569	370	340	432	627
Philippines	2,439	1,552	972	796	616
Thailand	726	479	317	400	483
R.O.Korea	1,715	1,171	964	665	456
Indonesia	502	248	164	134	159
Sri Lanka	419	196	141	93	123
Brazil	226	204	143	102	76
Peru	384	222	137	101	70
Iran	174	140	126	105	53
Others	1,804	1,142	766	678	597

(\*) “China” does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

The means of deportation are roughly divided into the three categories of “voluntary departure” where the deportee himself or herself pays for the deportation costs, “deportation at the expense of the Government of Japan” where the Japanese government pays for the deportation costs by reason of the deportee not having the necessary funds for deportation or other reasons, and “deportation in accordance with Article 59” where the deportee is deported on the responsibility and at the expense of the carrier operating the aircraft or vessel on which the deportee was brought to Japan.



Deportation

Table 39 Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(People)

Measure of Deportation \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	13,224	8,721	6,459	5,790	5,542
Voluntary departure	12,812	8,379	6,170	5,382	5,228
Deportation in accordance with Article 59	106	86	78	54	47
Individual deportation at the expense of the government	291	231	191	208	203
Group deportation at the expense of the government	0	0	0	121	32
Others	0	0	0	0	0
Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons	15	25	20	25	32

(\*1) “Group deportation at the expense of the government” refers to group deportation through the use of private chartered aircraft paid for by the Japanese government.

(\*2) “Others” are cases of deportation at the expense of the government of each of the deportees.

## (1) Deportation at the Expense of Foreign National (Voluntary Departure)

Of the foreign nationals whom deportation orders had been issued, those who wished to depart Japan voluntarily at their own expense had decreased by 154 (2.9%) from 2013 to 5,228 (94.3%) in 2014 (Table 39, 40).

The Immigration Bureau deports deportees as soon as the requirements necessary for deportation, such as the passport, air ticket or travel expenses, have been fulfilled. However, with regard to those who do not fulfill the requirements for deportation, the Immigration Bureau not only enforces the deportation procedures but also instructs deportees to make contact with relevant people in Japan or their home countries in order to ask for financial assistance for deportation. In cases where deportees do not possess a passport, the Immigration Bureau asks foreign diplomatic establishments in Japan for the early issuance of a passport for the deportee.

**Table 40 Changes in the number of deportees through voluntary departure by nationality/region**

(People)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	12,812	8,379	6,170	5,382	5,228
China	4,232	2,972	2,364	2,263	2,257
Viet Nam	564	363	331	424	608
Philippines	2,368	1,494	926	680	578
Thailand	717	473	312	339	467
R.O.Korea	1,704	1,158	947	652	448
Indonesia	496	244	164	130	154
Sri Lanka	404	186	135	86	91
Brazil	172	139	95	69	49
Mongolia	149	88	46	48	49
Iran	142	123	114	101	48
Others	1,864	1,139	736	590	479

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

## (2) Deportation at the Expense of the Government of Japan

As illegal foreign residents tend to stay for a longer period than they used to and tend to have more diversified lifestyles and backgrounds, an increasing number of foreign nationals who have been issued with a deportation order suffer from illness, refuse deportation for various reasons, or remain in detention because they cannot afford travel expenses. Of these foreign nationals, the number of those deported at the expense of the government in consideration of individual circumstances stood at 235 (4.2%) in 2014 and had decreased by 94 (28.6%) from 2013.

Moreover, in 2014, in order to implement safe and secure deportations, 32 foreign nationals were deported using a private chartered plane (Table 39).

### (3) Deportation at the Expense of and on the Responsibility of Carriers

Any carrier who operates an aircraft or vessel must promptly send deportees out of Japan at its own expense and on its own responsibility under certain conditions (deportation under Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act) (\*). The number of foreign nationals deported in this way in 2014 was 47 (0.8%), a decline of 7 (13.0%) from 2013 (Table 39).

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(\*) Carriers are, similar to captains of ships, in a position to govern their crew and passengers, and responsibilities and duties are imposed on them under the Immigration Control Act. Among these duties, they are obligated to send foreign nationals falling under certain conditions to an area outside Japan promptly on their own responsibility and at their own expense (Article 59 of the Immigration Control Act).

For example, persons who are denied landing and issued with a deportation order but fail to leave, or who have landed with special landing permission but stay longer than the authorized period of stay, fall under the abovementioned category.

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (voice of an immigration control officer in charge of deportation) (Deportation Department, Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau: Norimasa Yamada)

As an immigration control officer, I am engaged in the work of deporting those foreign nationals for whom deportation has been determined and consequently against whom a deportation order has been issued.

To be specific, upon presenting a written deportation order to the foreign national, as soon as a valid passport necessary for the deportation, an airline ticket to the destination of deportation and the baggage, etc. of the deportee are ready, my work is to escort the deportee to the airport, have them board the plane, and to confirm their departure. In some cases, the deportee does not have a valid passport or is not able to get their baggage or airline ticket ready, and so in this kind of case, the Japanese immigration control officer helps with the preparations to return home, for example, to go to the embassy, etc. in Japan of the deportee and to apply for a temporary passport for return home (a passport which may be used once in order to return home), to raise funds for the expenses to return home, and to request related persons make arrangements for the baggage. However, in many cases there are struggles in arranging for the return even when the person wishes to return as soon as possible since it is sometimes difficult to get in touch with the relevant people or because there is a significant delay in the arrangements for the baggage.



Meanwhile, there are many foreign nationals against whom a written deportation order has been issued who do not wish to be deported and resist complying with the deportation. With such people, it is essential to convince them to return home of their own will by tenaciously conducting interviews, to rid them, as much as possible, of the fears of returning home and of the obstacles to their deportation. I myself talk in the interviews not only about matters which are simply related to my duties, but strive to listen carefully to what the other party has to say however trivial, and where possible, continue to try and convince the person to return home of their own volition. If they still refuse to be deported, the immigration control officer may escort the foreign national to the country, which is the destination of deportation, using an aircraft or vessel and hand him or her over to the local authorities, and in some cases, deportees will be deported en masse using a chartered flight. Moreover, various problems arise when using ordinary commercial aircraft or vessel since the deportees are onboard with other ordinary passengers or the flight may be long, and since there is also the possibility that the deportee will attempt to resist, I practice my arrest techniques on a daily basis and strive not to neglect my training as an escort officer so that I will be able to conduct the deportation safely and reliably no matter what the circumstances.

Deportation work is important work conducted at the final stage of the deportation procedures, and until the deportation is achieved, the procedures for foreign nationals against whom a written deportation order has been issued are not complete. I hope to continue to maintain the awareness that I am engaged in such important work and will continue to strive to properly perform the work in the future.

## 6 Departure Orders

### (1) Investigation into Violations

The number of foreign nationals whose cases were handed over from immigration control officers to immigration inspectors through the departure order procedures was 2,587 in 2014, accounting for 24.2% of the total number of foreign nationals violating the Immigration Control Act.

#### A. Number of Foreign Nationals Ordered to Depart by Nationality/Region

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China (1,283, accounting for 49.6%), followed by Thailand (310, accounting for 12.0%), the Philippines (225, accounting for 8.7%), R.O.Korea (214, accounting for 8.3%), and Viet Nam (196, accounting for 7.6%), and these top five countries account for 86.1% of the total (Table 41).

**Table 41 Number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region (2014)**

(People)

Article Nationality/Region	Total	24-(ii)-3	24-(iv)-(b)	24-(vi)	24-(vi)-2	24-(vii)
Total	2,587	8	2,528	19	0	32
China	1,283	8	1,266	4	0	5
Thailand	310	0	307	2	0	1
Philippines	225	0	208	5	0	12
R.O.Korea	214	0	213	1	0	0
Viet Nam	196	0	191	0	0	5
Indonesia	81	0	76	5	0	0
Mongolia	60	0	58	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	28	0	28	0	0	0
United States of America	25	0	18	0	0	7
Taiwan	20	0	20	0	0	0
Others	145	0	143	1	0	1

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

#### B. Number of Foreign Nationals Ordered to Depart by Applied Article

According to the statistics by applied articles, the number of suspects violating Article 24, item (iv) (b) of the Immigration Control Act was the largest at 2,528 (accounting for 97.7%). This was followed by 32 (1.2%) suspects violating Article 24, item (vii) of the Immigration Control Act, and 19 (0.7%) suspects violating Article 24, item (vi) of the Immigration Control Act (Table 41).

### (2) Examination

#### A. Receipt and Processing of Cases

The number of cases of departure orders received in 2014 was 2,587, accounting for 22.2% of the total number of violations received. This represented an increase of 108 (4.4%) from 2013.

As those subject to a departure order and wishing to depart from Japan voluntarily appear at a regional immigration bureau, they are promptly processed after their cases are sent by immigration control officers.

## B. Issuance of a Written Departure Order

The number of foreign nationals who were recognized as subject to a departure order and to whom a written departure order was issued was 2,592 in 2014.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China (1,282, accounting for 49.5% of the total), followed by Thailand (310, accounting for 12.0%), the Philippines (224, accounting for 8.6%), Korea (214, accounting for 8.3%), and Viet Nam (203, accounting for 7.8%), and the top five countries accounted for 86.1% of the total (Table 42).

**Table 42 Changes in the number of issuance of written departure orders by nationality/region**

(Cases)

Nationality/Region \ Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total	5,186	4,501	2,594	2,478	2,592
China	2,220	2,252	1,252	1,259	1,282
Thailand	229	139	109	135	310
Philippines	754	456	336	241	224
Korea	728	582	348	294	214
Viet Nam	189	189	92	118	203
Indonesia	183	146	90	102	81
Mongolia	82	113	50	46	59
Sri Lanka	151	136	53	43	28
Peru	93	61	37	27	11
Brazil	48	42	22	13	9
Others	509	385	205	200	171

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

### (3) Confirmation of Departure

Foreign nationals who are deemed to be subject to a departure order are required, as with foreign nationals departing within the period of stay, to submit an embarkation card to the immigration inspector in order to receive a seal of verification of departure as well as the written departure order that was issued to them.

## Chapter 6. Recognition of Refugee Status

Due to the recognition that it is important for Japan to fulfill its obligations in the international community by accepting refugees, Japan became a signatory to the Refugee Convention in 1981 and the Protocol in 1982 (hereinafter, “the Refugee Convention” and “the Protocol” are referred to together as “the Refugee Convention, etc.”) and as a result, also established a system for recognition of refugee status.

Thereafter, from the perspective of ensuring proper and prompt protection of refugees through fairer procedures, the refugee recognition system has undergone some revisions. The Act to Amend the Immigration Control Act was enforced on May 16, 2005, which included the establishment of a system to permit provisional stay and the refugee examination counselors system.

The Immigration Bureau has further improved and strengthened its organizational structure and investigation system, and has endeavored to ensure proper implementation of the refugee recognition system, in order to handle applications for refugee status quickly and appropriately.

### Section 1 ◆ Applications and Processing for Recognition of Refugee Status

#### ① Application for Refugee Status

In 2014, the total number of those who applied for recognition of refugee status had increased by 1,740 (53.4%) from 2013 to 5,000, continuing to mark a record high (Table 43).

**Table 43 Changes in the number of applications for refugee recognition**

(People)				
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1,202	1,867	2,545	3,260	5,000

The number of nationality/region of applicants was 73, and the major nationalities/regions from which applicants came were, in descending order, Nepal (1,293, 25.9%), Turkey (845, 16.9%), Sri Lanka (485, 9.7%), Myanmar (434, 8.7%), Viet Nam (294, 5.9%), Bangladesh (284, 5.7%), India (225, 4.5%), Pakistan (212, 4.2%), Thailand (136, 2.7%), Nigeria (86, 1.7%), the Philippines (82, 1.6%), Ghana (70, 1.4%), Cameroon (70, 1.4%), Iran (68, 1.4%), and China (55, 1.1%).

Applicants consisted of 4,134 legal residents (82.7%) and 866 illegal foreign residents (17.3%) at the time of submitting their applications. Of those foreign nationals without a legal status, the number of those who applied after a detention order or deportation order was issued was 684, accounting for 79.0% of the total.

20.4% of the total applicants, standing at 1,019 persons, had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. Those persons consisted of 696 legal residents, 90.2% of whom held the status of residence of “Designated Activities” granted by reason that their applications were undergoing examination, and 323 illegal foreign residents, 81.1% of whom had already been issued with a deportation order.

## ② Processing of Applications for Refugee Status

The total number of those whose application for recognition of refugee status was processed in 2014 was 3,169, an increase of 527 (19.9%) from 2013. The number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 6 (\*1), while the number of applicants who were not recognized was 2,906. The number of applicants who withdrew their applications and others was 257.

Further, the immigration administration is allowed to make exceptional arrangements within its authority for applicants who have special extenuating circumstances, even if they have not been recognized as refugees who fall under the definition of refugees specified in the Refugee Convention, etc. For example, if an applicant, who is denied recognition of refugee status, is unable to return to his or her home country due to situational problems in his or her country or has some other special reason necessitating that he or she stay in Japan, special arrangements may be made flexibly on a case-by-case basis, taking the situation of the foreign national into consideration within the Japanese immigration control framework. In 2014, 110 applicants were allowed to stay in Japan (Table 44).

**Table 44 Changes in the number of foreign nationals protected as refugees etc.**

(People)

Refugee Status	1978 ~ 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Recognized as a refugee	538	39	21	18	6	11
Refugees for resettlement	11,319	27	18	0	18	23
Others	1383	363	248	112	151	110
Total	13,240	429	287	130	175	144

(\*1) The number of persons recognized as refugees includes those who were denied recognition as a refugee in the primary examination, but were recognized as a result of the filing of an objection.

(\*2) The number of the "Refugees for resettlement" consists of (1) so-called "boat people" who fled from Indo-China countries during the 1970s through to the 1980s and their family/relatives (their legal protection was based on the approval of the Cabinet on April 28, 1978, and June 17, 1980), and (2) accepted Myanmar refugees who had been protected temporarily in Thailand as a pilot project of resettlement which started in 2010. Therefore, the numbers for the "refugees for resettlement" for before 2006 show the people who fall under category (1) while the numbers for "refugees for resettlement" after 2010 indicate the people who fall under category (2).

(\*3) The number of "Others" includes those who were denied recognition as a refugee in the primary examination but were later found to have enough grounds for being granted special permission to stay in Japan by the Minister of Justice, in accordance with Article 61-2-2 (2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, etc.

## ③ Implementation of the System for Permission for Provisional Stay

In 2014, the number of those who were granted permission for provisional stay was 111, an increase of 16 (16.8%) from 2013.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 901. The major reasons for decisions not granting permission were as follows (\*2):

- (i) Applicants had applied for recognition of refugee status after the deadline of six months from the date of landing in Japan (in the case of those for whom the grounds for being a refugee had arisen during their stay in Japan, the date such fact became known to them): 562 persons.
- (ii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 438 persons.

(\*1) As for the number of applicants who were recognized as refugees as a result of the objection, see Section 2, Subsection 2.

(\*2) If one applicant fell under several grounds for denial of permission, all grounds were included.

## Section 2 ◆ Filing of an Objection

### ① Filing of an Objection

The total number of objections filed by applicants who were denied refugee status, etc. in 2014 was 2,533, an increase of 125 (5.2%) from 2013 (Table 45).

**Table 45 Changes in the number of objections filed, and decisions of the Minister of Justice**

Division		Year										(People)
		1982~2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Not recognized as a refugee		2,773	389	446	791	1,703	1,336	2,002	2,083	2,499	2,906	16,928
Filing of objection		1,862	340	362	429	1,156	859	1,719	1,738	2,408	2,533	13,406
Decisions	With reason	32	12	4	17	8	13	14	13	3	5	121
	Without reason	1,425	127	183	300	230	325	635	790	921	1,171	6,107
	Withdrawn	295	33	34	34	70	113	231	193	211	344	1,558

(\*) Since the procedure for the “filing of an objection” was newly established through the amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, which entered into force on May 16, 2005, the “application for objection” made prior to the implementation of the amended Act was deemed to be replaced by “filing of an objection” after the implementation.

### ② Processing of the Objection

Of the objections filed by applicants who failed to obtain refugee status, 1,520 of them were handled in 2014, an increase of 385 (33.9%) from 2013. According to the statistics, 5 objections were found to be with reasonable grounds (3 in the previous year), 1,171 objections were found to be without any reasonable grounds (921 in the previous year), and 344 objections were withdrawn by the foreign nationals who had filed the objections (211 in the previous year) (Table 45).

## Section 3 ◆ Purpose of the Refugee Examination Counselors System and the Implementation

The Refugee Examination Counselors System was started in May 2005 in order to ensure the equity and neutrality of the objection filing procedures. This procedure made it mandatory for the Minister of Justice to hear the opinions of refugee examination counselors when making a decision on objections filed against the disposition, such as denial of recognition of refugee status or revocation of recognition of refugee status.

The refugee examination counselors are persons of good character, are persons who are able to make a fair judgment regarding objections to the disposition, such as denial of recognition of refugee status, and moreover are persons with an academic background in law or international current affairs, and they are appointed by the Minister of Justice, in some cases after having been recommended by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, an NGO or some other organization.

The Act provides that the Minister of Justice must hear the opinions of refugee examination counselors on all the cases in which an objection has been filed. Prior to this process, an oral statement of opinions by the petitioner, etc. is given in which the petitioner or other person states his or her opinion and a hearing is

held where the refugee inquirer or refugee examination counselors may ask questions to the petitioner.

The number of times refugee examination counselors were present at an oral statement of opinions by the petitioner, etc. and a hearing was a total of 1,015 times in 2014.

After the oral statement of opinions and the hearing, refugee examination counselors exchange opinions with the other refugee examination counselors, then draw up a written opinion and submit it to the Minister of Justice.

Cases in which written opinions were presented by refugee examination counselors numbered 1,152 in 2014.

#### **Section 4 ◆ Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge**

With respect to landing permission for temporary refuge, 236 applications were submitted and 18 applications were granted such permission over the past five years (from 2010 to 2014).

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (voice of a refugee inquirer) (Refugee Examination Department, Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau: Hiromi Yamamoto)

The work of refugee recognition can be roughly divided into the two categories of work to conduct examinations based on the applications for recognition of refugee status submitted by foreign nationals seeking asylum from the Japanese government, and the work of handling objections against findings that the applicant has not been recognized as a refugee. The Refugee Examination Department of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau to which I belong specializes in the former.



The number of applications for refugee recognition has been steadily increasing with the number of new applications in 2014 reaching 5,000 across the country, and this is a number which is approximately double compared to 2012. My department deals with about 80% of these applications.

The nationalities of the applicants mainly comprise Asian countries such as Nepal, Turkey, Myanmar and Thailand but also extend to countries in the Middle East and Africa, and therefore it is necessary to keep abreast of the latest international situations and laws and regulations of each of the countries using such resources as books and newspapers inside and outside of Japan and the Internet.

We refugee inquirers are responsible for “inquiry into the facts” such as meeting with the applicants, conducting interviews to listen to the details of the petition submitted by the applicant.

The contents of what the applicant talks about become crucial evidence in the refugee recognition procedures and therefore “listening skills” are very important in the interview.

The nationality, language, culture and religion of the applicants vary widely, and there are some who appeal to us that they have finally come to Japan having experienced harsh conditions such as torture in their home country that are difficult for those of us who were born and raised in this peaceful Japan to imagine. In such a case, the applicant is often suffering from physical and mental fatigue, and also has to recall painful experiences when responding in the interview. Therefore, I try to listen carefully and sincerely while easing the anxieties of the applicant in the interview, by paying close attention to the state of the applicant and striving to create a relaxing atmosphere such as engaging the applicant in conversation. On the other hand, there are some applicants who file an application for refugee recognition simply to reside or work in Japan, and therefore, it is necessary for the refugee inquirer to have the ability to determine the truth from the applicant’s petition.

Without forgetting the weight of my responsibility as a refugee inquirer, I will continue in the future to listen to the voices of those truly in need of asylum, and I would like to continue with my daily education and focus on my work.

## Chapter 7. Promotion of Measures Against Trafficking in Persons and Proper Protection of Foreign Victims of Domestic Violence

### Section 1 ◆ Promotion of Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

#### ① Measures Against Trafficking in Persons

Trafficking in persons is a grave violation of human rights and a prompt and accurate response is called for from a humanitarian perspective. This is due to the fact that trafficking in persons inflicts serious mental and physical pain on the victims, especially on women and children and it is difficult to recover from such damage. Moreover, it is an issue of serious concern to the international community since it is a crime which is committed across borders. The Japanese government formulated the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons” through the relevant ministries and agencies in December 2004 and the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2009” through the Ministerial Conference for Measures against Crime in December 2009, and although the entire government had been promoting measures up to this point, the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014” was formulated through the same Conference in December 2014 in order to work on more powerful, comprehensive and all-encompassing measures against human trafficking. Then, in May 2015, the “Conference for the Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons” comprising the competent ministers in charge of measures against human trafficking held its first meeting, and currently, the relevant government ministries and agencies led by the Conference are promoting efforts in concert against the trafficking of persons.

In addition, based on the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014”, the Immigration Bureau has also been striving to prevent human trafficking by further strengthening its system of cooperation with the related organizations, has been tracking hidden cases where there is the possibility of human trafficking and has been proactively engaged in eradicating trafficking in persons and offering appropriate protection to the victims.

#### ② Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons

The Immigration Bureau gives full consideration to the position of the victims of trafficking, and grants permission such as extension of the period of stay or a change in the status of residence from the perspective of victim protection, and moreover, if the victim is in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as by staying beyond the authorized period of stay, the legal status of the victim will be stabilized through such means as granting special permission to stay to the victim.

The number of foreign nationals for whom the Immigration Bureau implemented procedures for protection as victims of trafficking in persons (including support to return to their home countries) was 9 persons in 2014 (12 persons in the previous year). According to the statistics by nationality/region, the Philippines had 7 victims (6 in the previous year), followed by Thailand with one victim (6 in the previous year), and Rwanda with one victim.

The number of victims who had a status of residence out of the total of 9 victims was 5 persons (8 persons in the previous year) and the number of victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as illegally staying beyond the authorized period of stay was 4 persons (4 person in the

previous year). In addition, all of the victims who were in violation of the Immigration Control Act were granted special permission to stay in Japan (Table 46).

The number of victims has declined significantly since 2005, when the Immigration Bureau started the survey and protected 115 victims, and the number has been hovering around 10 victims in recent years, and this is thought to be because the entire government has come together to work on measures under the Action Plans for Measures against Trafficking in Persons, and owing to the fact that measures to prevent and eradicate trafficking in persons, such as the revision of the Ordinance on Criteria pertaining to the status of residence of “Entertainer” and the implementation of strict landing examinations after the same year, have had a certain level of effect (Table 47).

**Table 46 Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2014)**

(People)

Breakdown Nationality/Region	Recognized as a victim of trafficking in persons		Total
	Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence	Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special Permission to Stay in Japan)	
Philippines	4	3(3)	7
Thailand	0	1(1)	1
Rwanda	1	0	1
Total	5	4(4)	9

(\*1) The victims were all women.

(\*2) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was “Temporary Visitor”, 2 persons; “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, 1 person; “Long-Term Resident”, 1 person; “Dependent”, 1 person.

(\*3) There are some cases where those who had a status of residence were made to enter Japan under the guise of engaging in activities with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” and, without engaging in the activities corresponding to the status of residence, were forced into prostitution after entry into Japan.

(\*4) The type of violation of the 4 foreign nationals granted special permission to stay was “illegally overstaying”, 4 persons.

(\*5) The breakdown of the statuses of residence, etc. before staying illegally beyond the authorized period of stay was two foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” and two foreign nationals with “Permission for Landing at a Port of Call”.

**Table 47 Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons**

(People)

Breakdown	Year	2005	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total		115	29	21	9	12	9
Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence		68	23	6	8	8	5
Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan)		47(47)	6(6)	15(15)	1(1)	4(4)	4(4)

### ③ Foreign Nationals Deported for Committing Trafficking in Persons (\*)

In 2014, the National Police Agency, Ministry of Justice, Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Japan Coast Guard established the “Task Force for the Enforcement of Laws and Regulations Relating to Trafficking in Persons”, and this task force has been conducting improved information sharing and cooperation in order to ensure crackdowns on human trafficking-related offenses, and consequently, two foreign nationals were deported by the Immigration Bureau as perpetrators of human trafficking in the same year (one person in the previous year), and whose nationality was Thailand.

(\*) Through the amendment of the Immigration Control Act in 2005, a “person who committed trafficking in persons, or has incited or aided another to commit trafficking in persons” was made subject to deportation (Article 24, item (iv), (c) of the Immigration Control Act).

## Section 2 ◆ Proper Protection of Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

### ① Outline

Domestic violence, which includes an act that may constitute a crime, is a serious infringement against human rights. Similar to cases of trafficking in persons, an immediate and accurate response is required from a humanitarian point of view.

If the Immigration Bureau identifies a foreign national as a victim of domestic violence, the Bureau will offer secure protection for the physical welfare of the victim in cooperation with the related organizations, and if the victim has applied for an extension of the period of stay or has applied for a change in the status of residence where a change has become necessary owing to domestic violence and the victim finds it difficult to prepare the necessary papers having suddenly been forced out of his or her home, the Immigration Bureau will give full consideration to the position of the victim, and will respond appropriately in a humanitarian manner such as granting permission taking into account individual circumstances. In addition, with regard to victims who are in violation of the Immigration Control Act such as staying beyond their authorized period of stay due to domestic violence, the Immigration Bureau gives sufficient consideration to the case and, depending on the case, will take humanitarian measures, such as granting special permission to stay.

Further, a law to partially amend the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims was enforced in January 2008, and the “Basic Policy Relating to Measures to Prevent Spousal Violence and Protect Victims” (\*) was formulated by the relevant ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, based on this law. In light of this basic policy, the Ministry of Justice established its own guidelines on the measures in July of the same year, and in cases where a person is identified as a victim of domestic violence, taking into full consideration the fact that the victim has been placed in a harsh situation both physically and mentally, the Immigration Bureau deals appropriately according to the physical and mental condition, etc., of the victim, and strives to further protect the victim by cooperating with the Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Center, the Women’s Consulting Offices, police and other related organizations.

### ② Number of Recognized Foreign Domestic Violence Victims

The Immigration Bureau places emphasis the most on the protection of victims and treats the victims properly from a humanitarian perspective by ensuring coordination with the agencies concerned, and gives careful consideration to the wishes and situation of the victims in the procedures for such as examination of the status of residence or the deportation procedures while considering their individual circumstances. The number of foreign domestic violence victims who were recognized in the process of residence examination or the deportation procedures during 2014 was 75 (Table 48, 49).

The Immigration Bureau took the individual situations of the victims into account and permitted in most of the cases extension of the period of stay or a change to the status of residence.

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(\*) The Act was renamed “The Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims” in accordance with the partially re-amended act enforced in January 2014. Following this rename, the “Basic Policy Relating to Measures for Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims” was set out along with the enforced Act.

**Table 48 Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2014)**

(People)

Division Nationality/Region	Residence Procedures	Deportation Procedures	Consultations	Others	Total
Philippines	41	1	5	0	47
China	7	0	1	0	8
Brazil	4	0	3	0	7
Viet Nam	2	0	0	0	2
R.O.Korea	2	0	0	0	2
Peru	1	1	0	0	2
Sri Lanka	1	0	1	0	2
Colombia	1	0	0	0	1
India	1	0	0	0	1
Indonesia	1	0	0	0	1
Nepal	0	0	1	0	1
Russia	1	0	0	0	1
Total	62	2	11	0	75

(\*) "China" does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

**Table 49 Changes in the number of domestic violence cases recognized by regional immigration bureau**

(People)

Regional Immigration Bureaus Year	Sapporo	Sendai	Tokyo	Nagoya	Osaka	Hiroshima	Takamatsu	Fukuoka	Total
2013	0	3	21	19	17	6	2	10	78
2014	0	3	16	31	7	10	0	8	75

## Article: At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (voice of an officer in charge of the measures against trafficking in persons) (Second Investigation Department, Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau: Suguru Sakai)

All of the countries around the world are working respectively on their measures against trafficking in persons, and this applies to Japan as well, where in line with approval to conclude the 2005 Trafficking Protocol, the laws, including the Immigration Control Act, were amended for the purpose of the measures against trafficking in persons, and the relevant ministries and agencies have since been working together in concert on these measures. I am an immigration control officer, and since the Second Investigation Department to which I belong exclusively handles cases that require investigation into the relationships behind the scenes in the exposure of foreign nationals in violation of the laws such as the mediation of brokers, there are occasions where I come into contact with cases related to trafficking in persons.



The case which left the deepest impression on me is a case which took place last year (2014), in which we protected three Filipino women who had been traded for money to Japanese men. In the beginning, one Filipino woman who had been traded escaped from the house of a Japanese national, who was the perpetrator, and asked for protection from the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo. From the fact that this victim said that there were other victims, in cooperation with the Metropolitan Police Department, the other Filipino women were given protection on that same day and this also led to the arrest of the perpetrators.

Usually, my main duties consist of crackdowns on violators of the laws, but I believe that protection of the victims should be the highest priority in human trafficking cases. The trafficking of persons is a crime where, in many cases, foreign nationals, particularly women, are the victims, and as it is the Immigration Bureau which works to stabilize the legal status of the victims such as by granting special permission to stay taking into account the position of the victim of trafficking in persons, and based on the hopes etc. of the victim, it is the immigration control officer who carries out the very first procedure. I am proud of the fact that in our role as immigration officers, who have contact with a variety of foreign nationals on a daily basis, we are able to protect these foreign nationals who had been trafficked to a foreign country, Japan, and that we are able to provide appropriate care and support, and I believe that we were able to sufficiently utilize our past experience and knowledge in this particular case.

In the future, as an immigration officer, I hope to steadily carry out my work without prejudgment and to lend an ear to the voices of those potential victims of trafficking in persons, who are unable to raise their voices and to ask for help, and based on the dual aspects of “protection of the victims” and “crackdowns on the perpetrators”, I would like to continue working hard on my duties aimed at the eradication and stamping out of human trafficking in Japan.

