

Part I

Immigration Control and Residency Management in Recent Years

- Chapter 1 Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan
- Chapter 2 Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan
- Chapter 3 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan
- Chapter 4 Implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program
- Chapter 5 Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals
- Chapter 6 Recognition of Refugee Status
- Chapter 7 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Foreign Victims of Domestic Violence

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

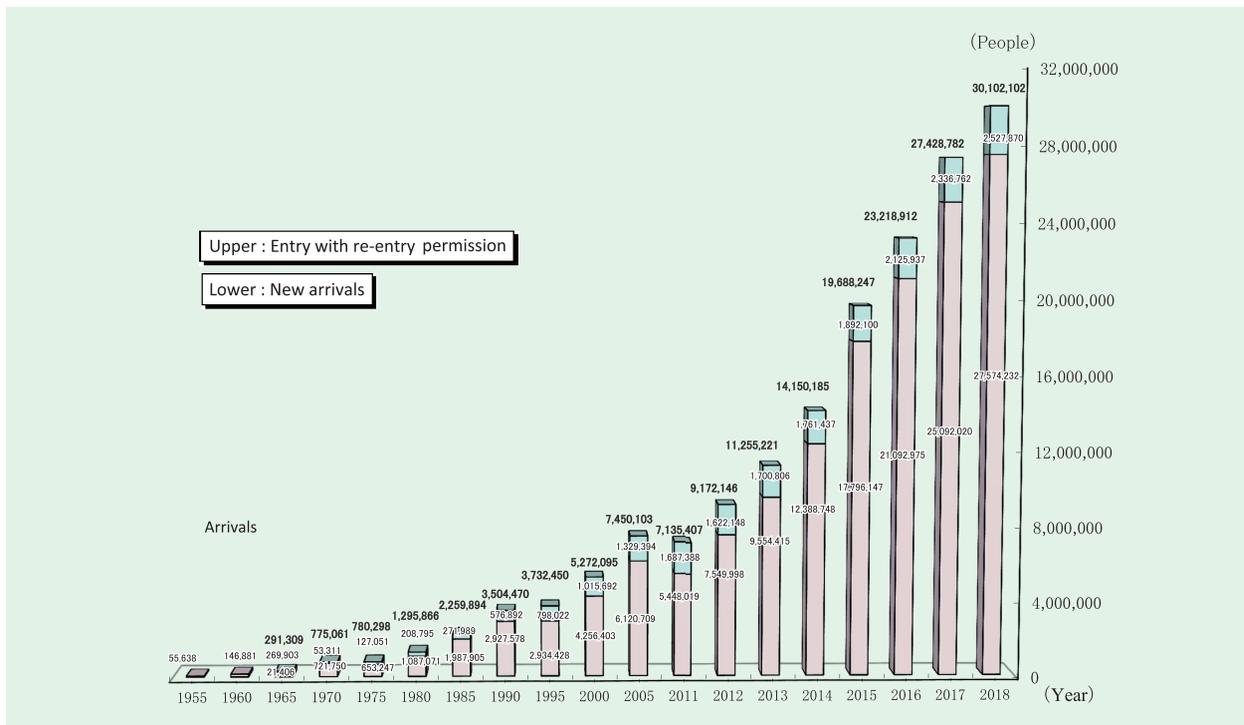
(1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

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. The number of foreign nationals entering Japan has experienced an almost consistent upward trend partly as a result of cheaper and more convenient flights, which is 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, 10 million in 2013, 20 million in 2016 and 30 million in 2018. The number in 2018 was 30,102,102 persons, an increase of 2,673,320 (9.7%) compared to the number of 27,428,782 of 2017, hitting a record high.

Of the 30,102,102 foreign nationals entering Japan in 2018, the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan was 27,574,232, which was an increase of 2,482,212 (9.9%) compared to 25,092,020 in 2017, while the number of foreign nationals re-entering Japan was 2,527,870, which was an increase of 191,108 (8.2%) compared to 2,336,762 in 2017.

It is thought that this overall increase in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan is led by the efforts toward the realization of Japan as a tourism-oriented country by the entire government working together with private sectors encouraging an increase in tourists ([Reference 1](#)).

Reference 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

According to the statistics for the number of foreign nationals entering Japan in 2018 by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals came from the Republic of Korea (R. O. Korea) at 7,815,552, accounting for 26.0% of the total. R.O. Korea was followed by China at 6,931,041 (23.0%), Taiwan at 4,543,362 (15.1%), China (Hong Kong) at 2,107,037 (7.0%) and the U.S. at 1,551,242 (5.2%) (*).

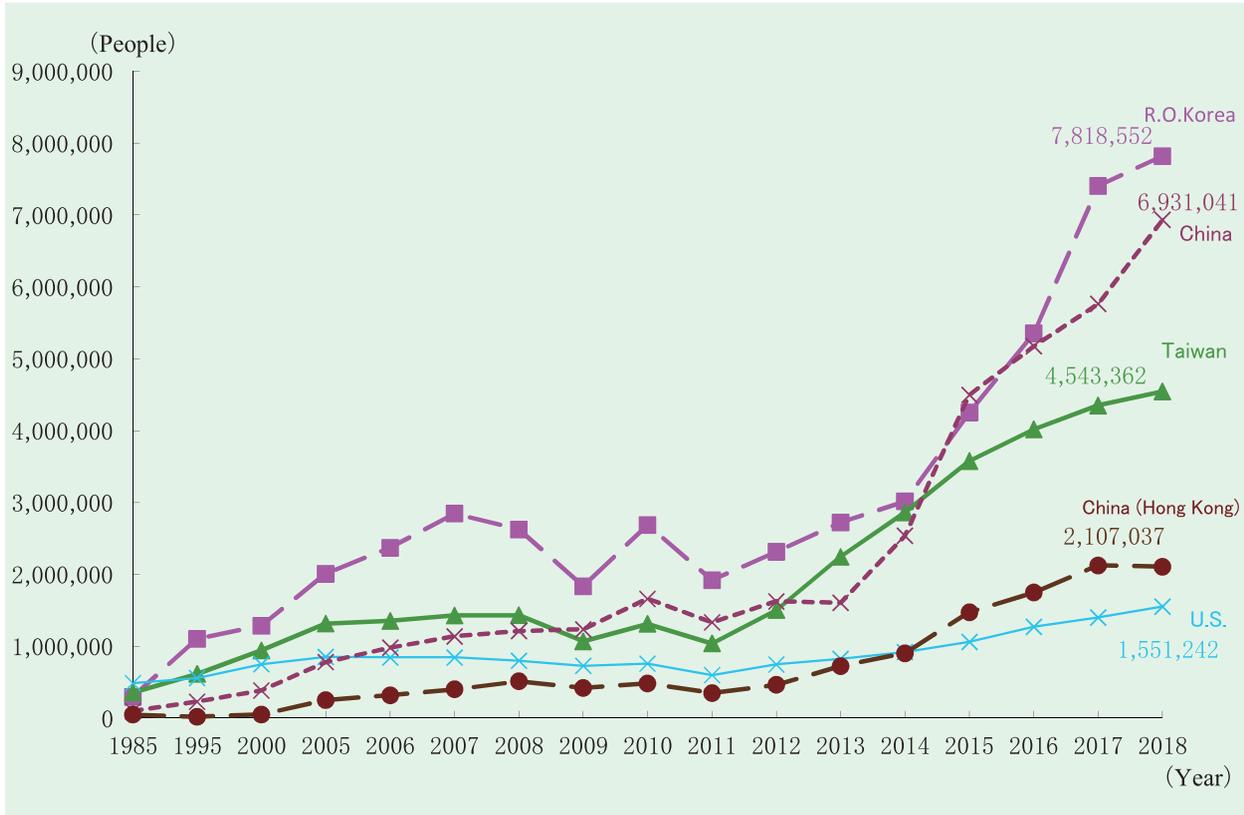
Of these numbers, Japan's four neighboring countries/regions: R.O.Korea, China, Taiwan and China (Hong Kong) accounted for more than half of the total number of foreign nationals entering Japan at 71.1% (Reference 2).

(*) 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 having 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)". 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 by 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 having 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 issued by a government except for the government of China and China (Hong Kong) (for example, Macao, etc.).

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

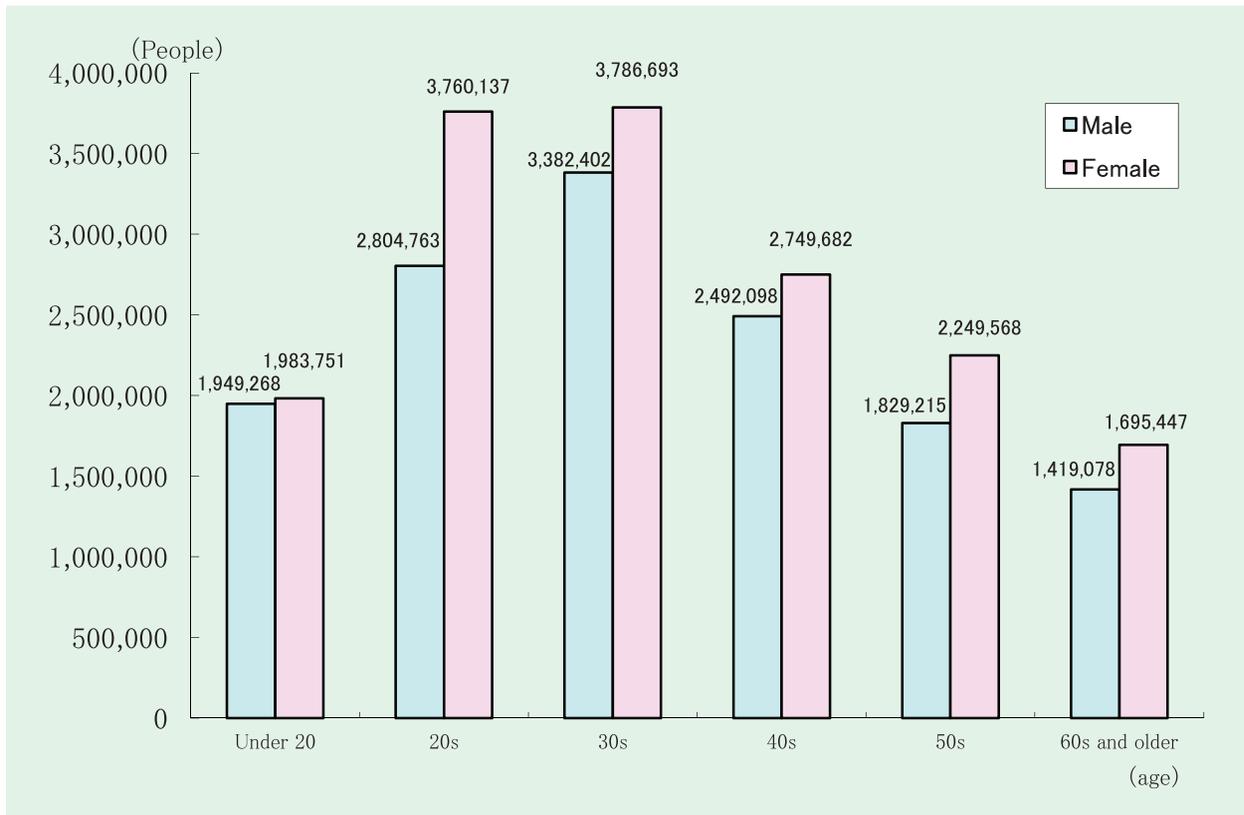


Regarding the top five countries/regions, a comparison of the numbers of foreign nationals entering Japan between 2017 and 2018, R. O. Korea increased at 413,033 (5.6%), China increased at 1,169,977 (20.3%), Taiwan increased at 192,215 (4.4%) and the United States increased at 149,799 (10.7%), in four countries/regions, but China (Hong Kong) decreased at 18,888 (0.9%).

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

Looking at the number of foreign nationals entering in Japan in 2018 by gender, 13,876,824 were males and 16,225,278 were females. Males accounted for 46.1% of the total while females accounted for 53.9%, and therefore, more foreign females came to Japan than males in 2018.

Next, according to the statistics by age, foreign nationals in their 30s represented the largest age group, accounting for 23.8% of the total. Moreover, looking at the numbers for males and females in each of the age groups, one particular characteristic is that the percentages of females were higher in all age groups (Reference 3).

Reference 3 Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2018)**(4) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)**

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan in 2018 was 27,574,232. Looking at this Reference by purpose of entry (status of residence), the most common status of residence was “Temporary Visitor” standing at 27,054,549, which accounted for 98.1% of the total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan, followed by “Technical Intern Training (i) - (b)” at 137,973, accounting for 0.5%, “Student” at 124,269, accounting for 0.5%, and “Entertainer” at 42,703, accounting for 0.2% (**Reference 4**).

Reference 4 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan by status of residence

(People)

| Status of Residence \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total | 12,388,748 | 17,796,147 | 21,092,975 | 25,092,020 | 27,574,232 |
| Diplomat | 9,056 | 9,526 | 9,267 | 9,092 | 9,072 |
| Official | 23,844 | 25,788 | 28,282 | 29,684 | 33,217 |
| Professor | 2,709 | 3,140 | 3,172 | 3,166 | 3,194 |
| Artist | 327 | 360 | 387 | 394 | 435 |
| Religious Activities | 923 | 1,030 | 1,019 | 924 | 872 |
| Journalist | 66 | 81 | 111 | 88 | 43 |
| Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a) | | 11 | 32 | 16 | 26 |
| Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b) | | 107 | 166 | 250 | 432 |
| Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c) | | 18 | 31 | 36 | 73 |
| Highly-Skilled Professional (ii) | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Business Manager | 984 | 1,352 | 2,091 | 1,660 | 1,790 |
| Legal/Accounting Services | 3 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Medical Services | 27 | 29 | 34 | 63 | 55 |
| Researcher | 429 | 356 | 358 | 380 | 368 |
| Instructor | 2,526 | 3,020 | 3,042 | 2,992 | 3,432 |
| Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services | 14,270 | 17,690 | 20,940 | 25,063 | 34,182 |
| Intra-company Transferee | 7,209 | 7,202 | 7,652 | 8,665 | 9,478 |
| Nursing Care | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Entertainer | 35,253 | 37,155 | 39,057 | 39,929 | 42,703 |
| Skilled Labor | 2,360 | 6,421 | 6,404 | 3,692 | 3,551 |
| Technical Intern Training (i)-(a) | 6,377 | 6,680 | 6,665 | 7,492 | 6,222 |
| Technical Intern Training (i)-(b) | 76,139 | 90,307 | 99,453 | 120,179 | 137,973 |
| Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a) | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 12 |
| Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b) | 15 | 16 | 11 | 9 | 242 |
| Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a) | | | | 0 | 64 |
| Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b) | | | | 8 | 5,648 |
| Cultural Activities | 3,230 | 3,467 | 3,531 | 3,377 | 3,539 |
| Temporary Visitor | 12,052,223 | 17,404,987 | 20,665,390 | 24,617,024 | 27,054,549 |
| Student | 82,460 | 99,556 | 108,146 | 123,232 | 124,269 |
| Trainee | 16,162 | 15,702 | 15,740 | 16,393 | 13,389 |
| Dependent | 20,429 | 23,118 | 26,594 | 27,288 | 27,952 |
| Designed Activities | 10,661 | 14,980 | 18,210 | 22,444 | 27,752 |
| Spouse or Child of Japanese National | 9,114 | 9,591 | 10,188 | 9,998 | 10,466 |
| Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident | 2,039 | 2,007 | 1,959 | 2,170 | 2,081 |
| Long-Term Resident | 9,911 | 12,449 | 15,037 | 16,309 | 17,146 |

(*1) The statuses of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a)", "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b)", "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c)" and "Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)" were newly established on April 1, 2015.

(*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".

(*3) The figures for "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services" in 2014 combine the figures for "Engineer" and the "Humanities / International Services".

(*4) The status of residence of "Nursing Care" was newly established on September 1, 2017.

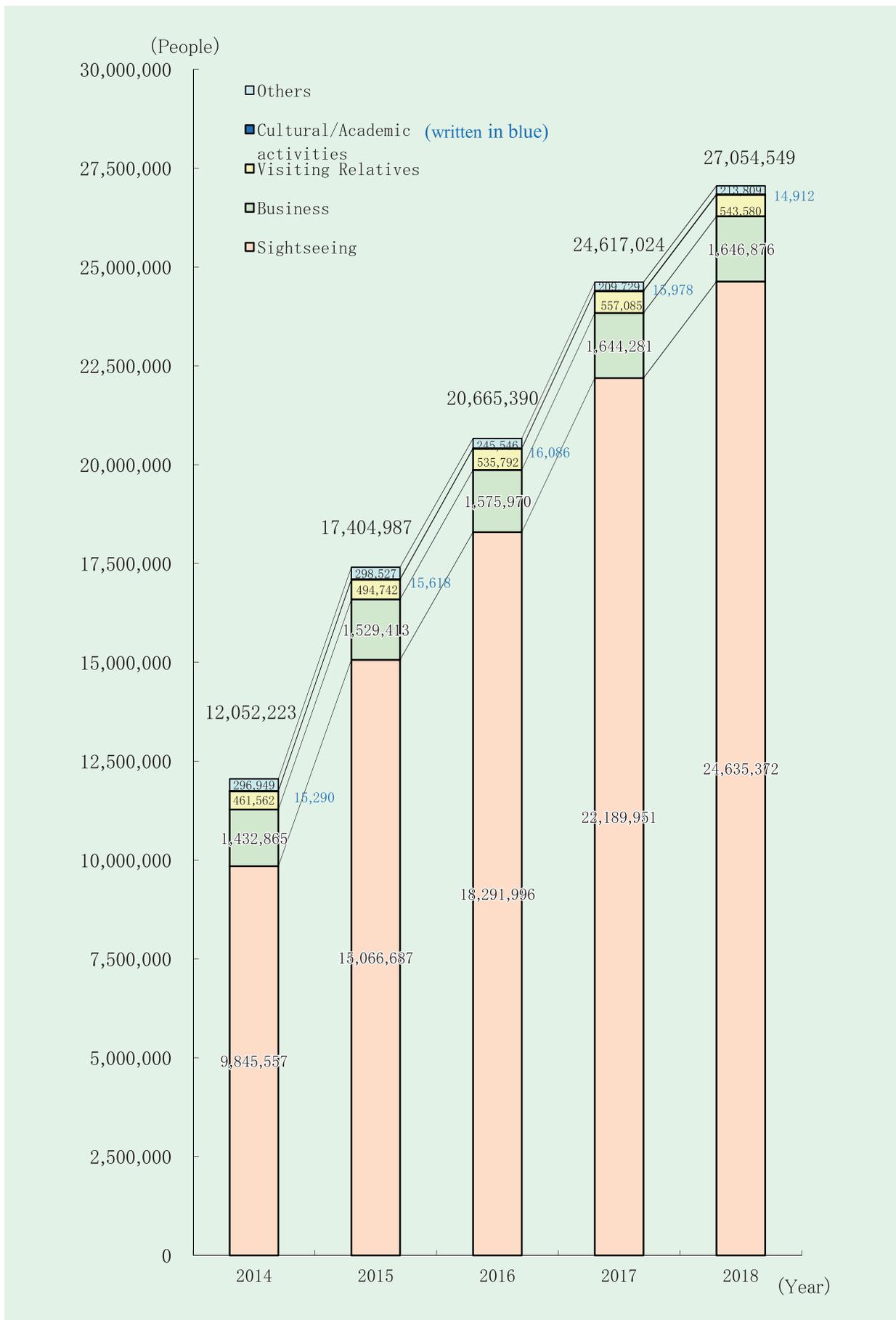
(*5) The status of residence of "Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)" was newly established on November 1, 2017.

A. “Temporary Visitor”

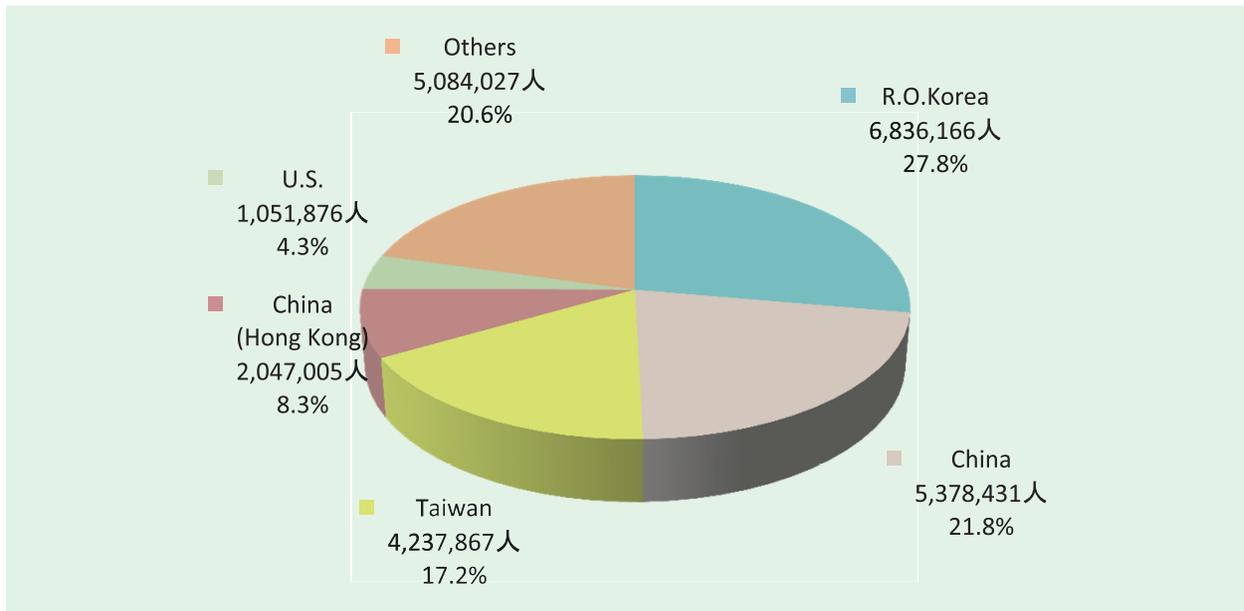
Looking more closely at the number of foreign nationals who newly entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” in 2018, the number of foreign nationals for the purpose of sightseeing was 24,635,372, accounting for 91.1% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” (Reference 5). It is thought that public-private measures toward a tourism-oriented country such as the strategic relaxation of the visa requirements, expansion of the tax exemption system, improvement of the immigration control system, expansion of the airline networks and other public-private measures aimed at realizing a tourism-oriented country contributed to the increase in the number of 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 R.O.Korea at 6,836,166 (27.8%), followed by China at 5,378,431 (21.8%), Taiwan at 4,237,867 (17.2%), China (Hong Kong) at 2,047,005 (8.3%), and U.S. at 1,051,876 (4.3%). The tourists of these top five countries/regions accounted for about 80% of the total number (Reference 6).

Reference 5 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by purpose of entry



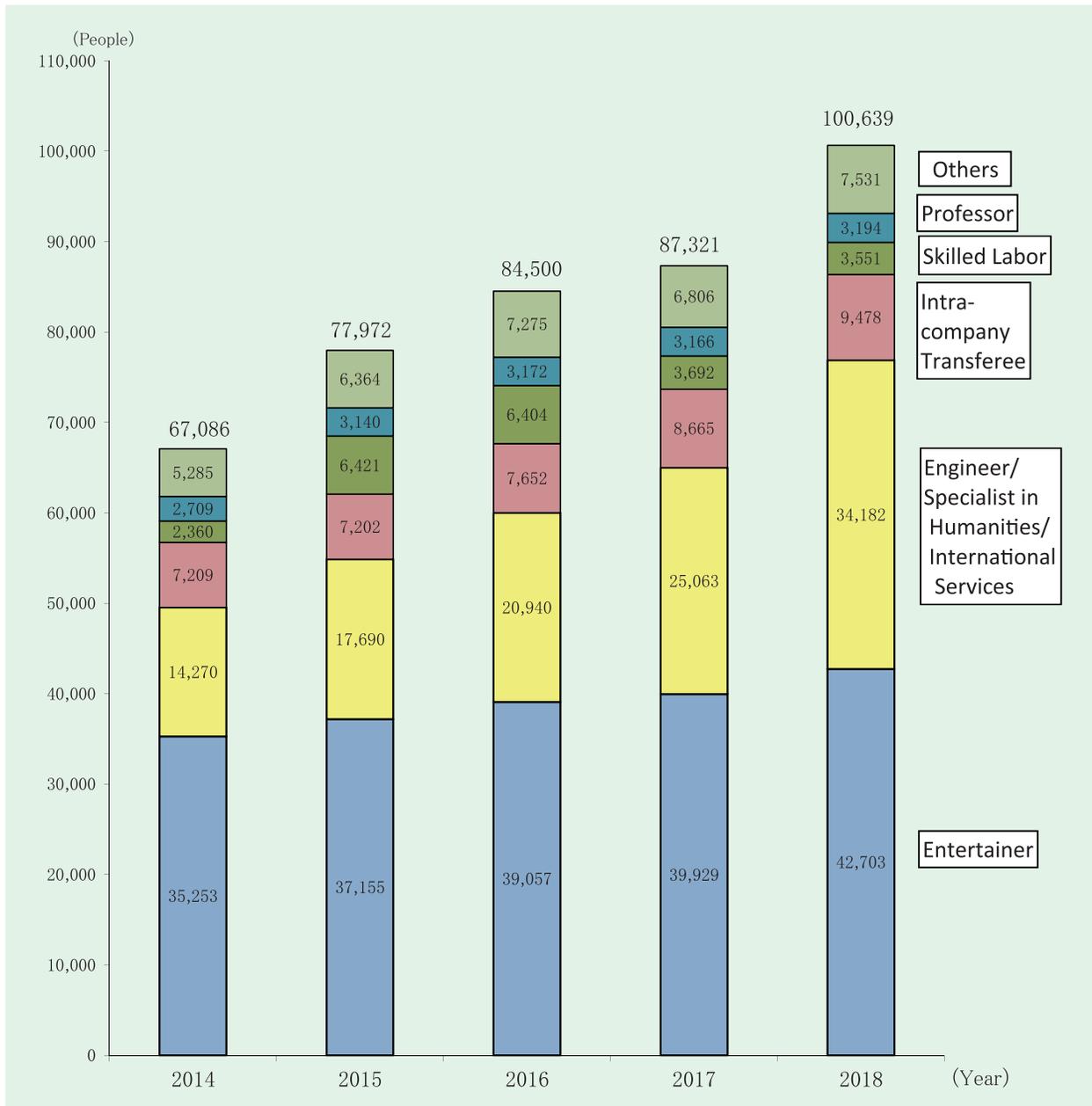
Reference 6 Number of foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region (2018)



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 statuses of residence of “Diplomat”, “Official” and “Technical Intern Training” in the Appended Tables I (1) and I (2) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “Immigration Control Act”)) in 2018 was 100,639, an increase of 13,318 (15.3%) from 2017 ([Reference 7](#)).

Reference 7 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields



(*1) Excludes the statuses of residence of "Diplomat", "Official", and "Technical Intern Training" of the Appended Table I (1) and I (2) of 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".

(*3) The figures for "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services" in 2014 combine the figures for "Engineer" and the "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 0.4% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals in 2018.

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

(a) "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services" and "Intra-company Transferee" (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 3-1, 4-1)

The total number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with a status of residence

corresponding to foreign employees working in companies/organizations in Japan was 43,660 in 2018, consisting of two types of statuses of residence: 34,182 with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, and 9,478 with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”. Foreign employees with the status of residence of “Engineer/ “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” had increased by 9,119 (36.4%), and those with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee” had increased by 813 (9.4%) from 2017, respectively.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” came from Viet Nam at 8,623 (25.2%), followed by China at 6,785 (19.8%), R.O.Korea at 3,833 (11.2%), and India at 2,489 (7.3%). Those top four countries accounted for 63.6% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services”.

Further, with regard to newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Intra-company Transferee”, the statistics by nationality/region show that the largest number came from China at 2,662 (28.1%), followed by the Philippines at 1,357 (14.3%), Thailand at 795 (8.4%), and Viet Nam at 736 (7.8%).

(b) “Entertainer” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 5-1)

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Entertainer” in 2018 was 42,703, an increase of 2,774 (6.9%) when compared to 2017, accounting 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” in 2018 came from R.O.Korea at 8,510 (19.9%), followed by the U.S. at 6,069 (14.2%), the Philippines at 5,245 (12.3%), and the U.K. at 3,344 (7.8%).

(c) “Skilled Labor” (Data Section 4, 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 craftspersons in unique foreign industrial fields, in 2018 was 3,551, a decrease of 141 (3.8%) when compared to 2017.

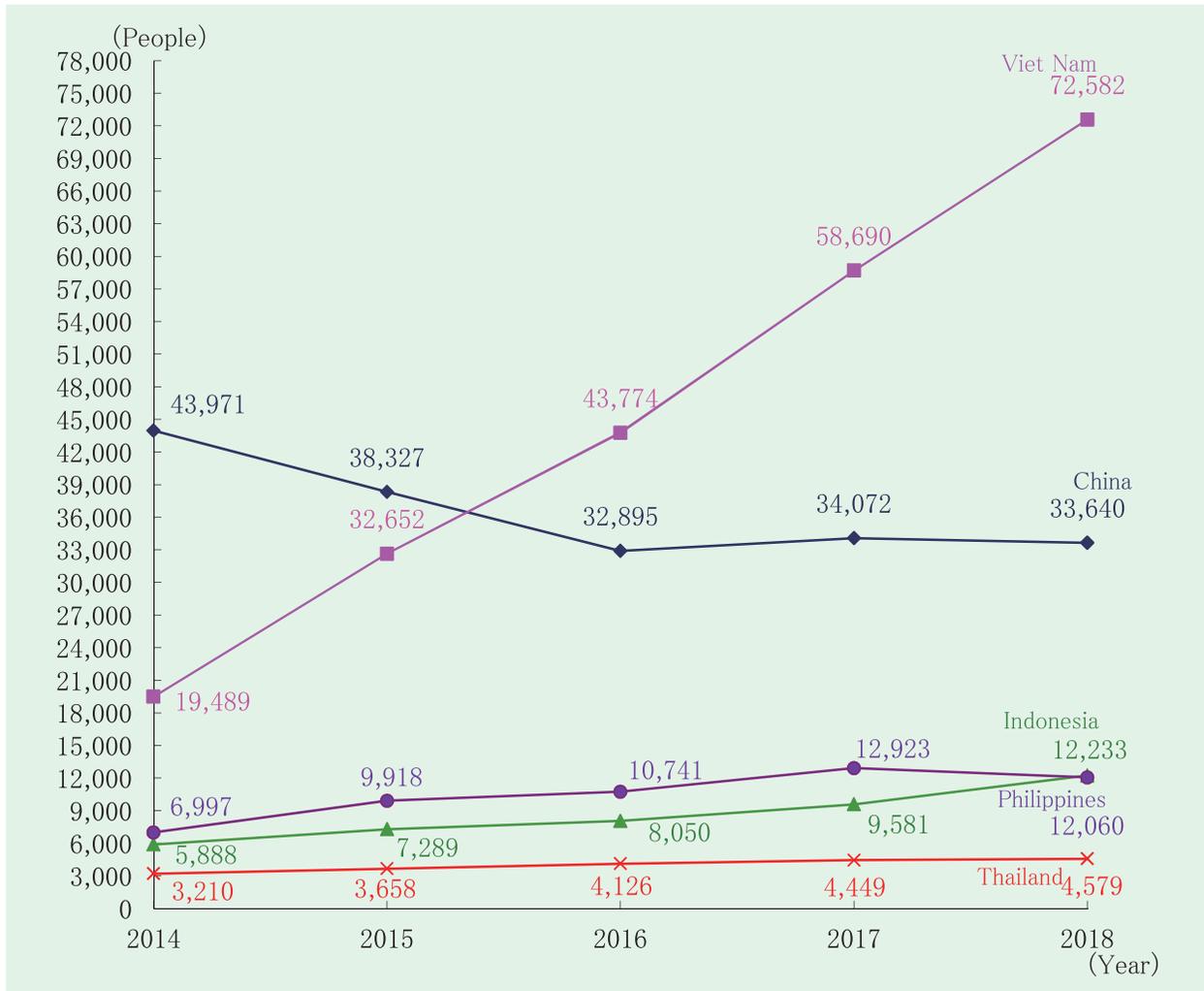
According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor” in 2018 came from China at 1,099 (30.9%), followed by India at 605 (17.0%), Nepal at 338 (9.5%), and Viet Nam at 207 (5.8%). These top four countries accounted for 63.3% of the total number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Skilled Labor”.

C. “Technical Intern Training (i)” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 7-1)

The number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” was 144,195 in 2018, an increase of 16,524 (12.9%) from 2017.

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 Viet Nam at 72,582 (50.3%), followed by China at 33,640 (23.3%), the Indonesia at 12,233 (8.5%), Philippines at 12,060 (8.4%) and Thailand at 4,579 (3.2%) ([Reference 8](#)).

Reference 8 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” by major nationality/region

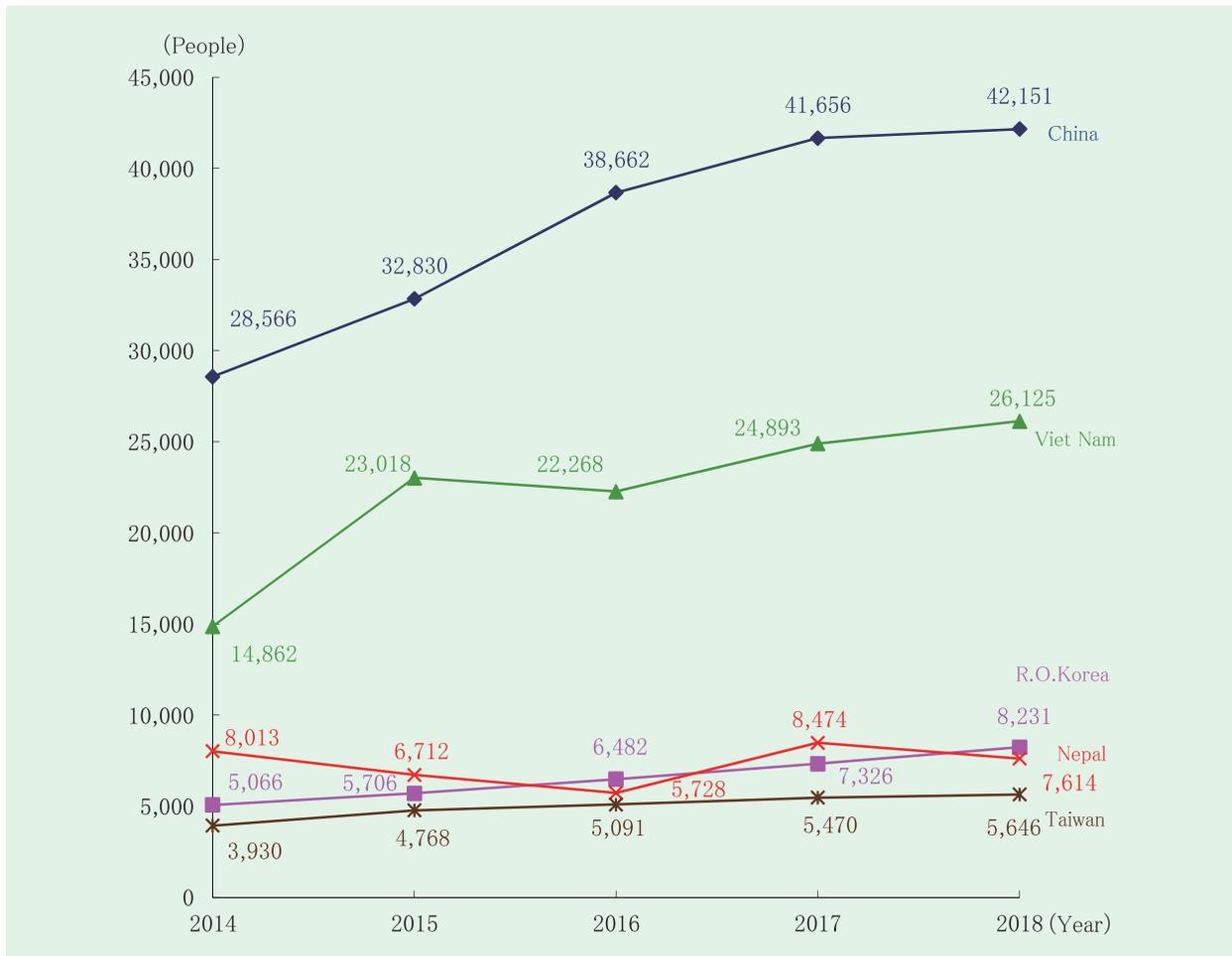


D. “Student” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 10-1)

The number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan with the status of residence of “Student” in 2018 was 124,269, an increase of 1,037 (0.8%) when compared to 2017, with students from Asia accounting for the top five countries/regions (72.2%).

In terms of nationality/region, China stood at 42,151, accounting for 33.9% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 26,125 (21.0%), R.O.Korea at 8,231 (6.6%), Nepal at 7,614 (6.1%) and Taiwan at 5,646 (4.5%) (**Reference 9**).

Reference 9 Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Student” by major nationality/region



E. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 14-1, 15-1)

When foreign nationals enter Japan for 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 the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” shall not be granted to foreign nationals at the time of entry (Article 7, paragraph (1), item (ii) of the Immigration Control Act.)).

In 2018, the number of newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” stood at 10,466, and those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” stood at 2,081, and while those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” saw an increase of 468 (4.7%), those with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident” saw a decrease of 89 (4.1%) from 2017.

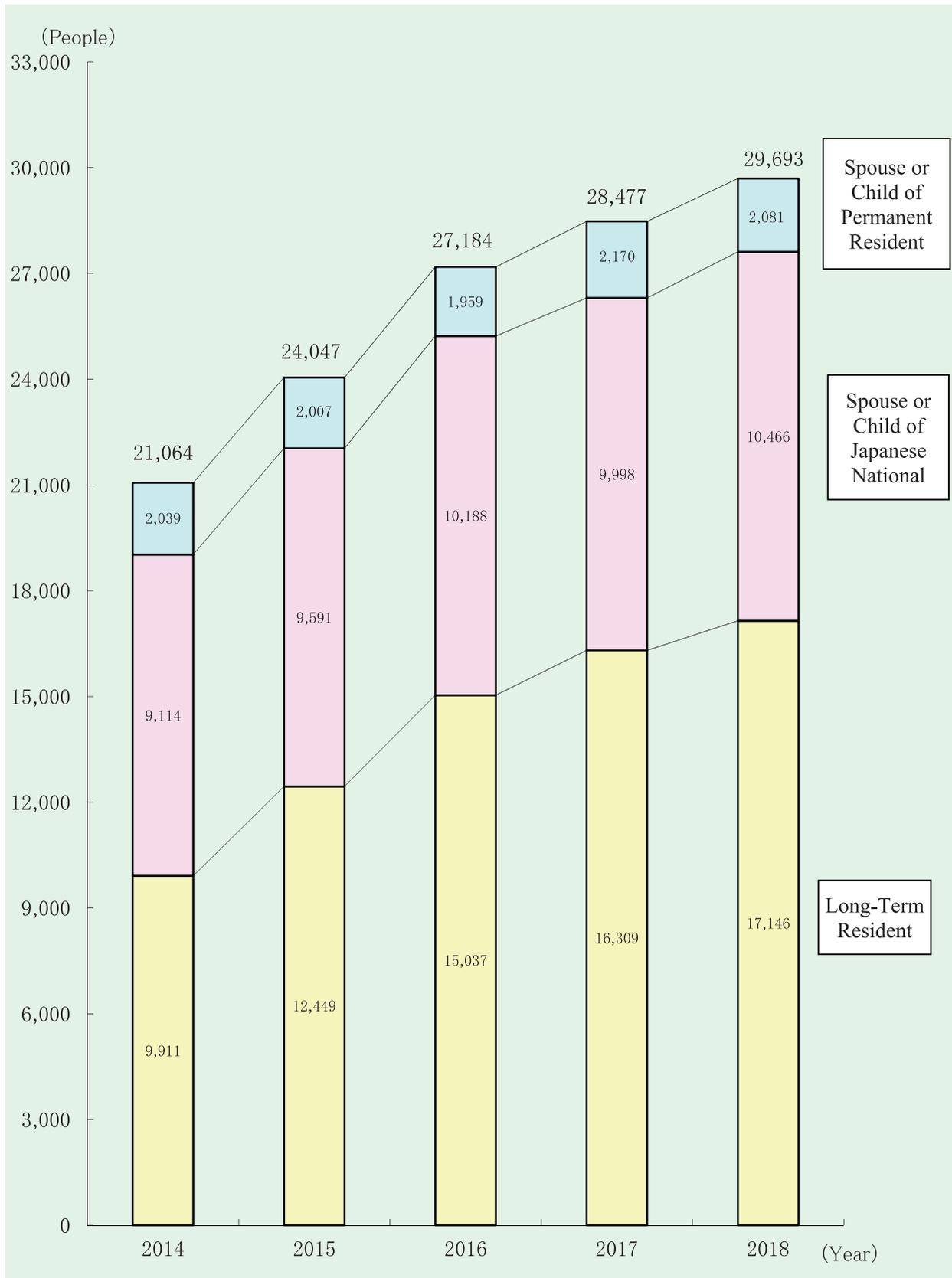
The number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” in 2018 had increased by 837 (5.1%) to 17,146 from 2017 ([Reference 10](#)).

According to the statistics for newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by nationality/region, the largest number came from Brazil at 2,490 (23.8%). Brazil was followed by China at 2,025 (19.3%) and the Philippines at

1,825 (17.4%).

According to the statistics by nationality/region for newly entering foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident”, the largest number came from Brazil at 11,214 (65.4%). Brazil was followed by the Philippines at 2,413 (14.1%) and China at 1,558 (9.1%).

Reference 10 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 cases in which received special landing permission in 2018 was 5,364,421, a decrease of 137,756 (2.5%) from 2017.

Among those, the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2018 was 3,007,588, and the number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 2,337,803, which combined accounted for 99.6% of the total number of cases of special landing permission ([Reference 11](#)).

Reference 11 Changes in the number of cases of special landing permission (Cases)

| Division \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 2,452,119 | 3,527,959 | 4,749,924 | 5,502,177 | 5,364,421 |
| Permission for Landing at a Port of Call | 257,873 | 15,944 | 16,694 | 13,217 | 13,331 |
| Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists | | 1,071,724 | 1,936,469 | 2,449,299 | 2,337,803 |
| Permission for Landing in Transit | 3,372 | 5,150 | 5,871 | 4,979 | 5,235 |
| Landing Permission for Crew Members | 2,190,439 | 2,434,617 | 2,790,348 | 3,034,126 | 3,007,588 |
| Permission for Emergency Landing | 360 | 434 | 473 | 464 | 444 |
| Landing Permission Due to Distress | 74 | 86 | 68 | 90 | 18 |
| Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

(*) The permission of “Landing Permission for Cruise ship Tourists” was newly established on January 1, 2015.

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 cases being granted “Permission for Landing at a Port of Call” in 2018 was 3,331, an increase of 114 (0.9%) from 2017.

(2) Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” was 2,337,803 in 2018, which was a decrease of 111,496 (4.6%) compared with 2017.

The system of landing permission for cruise ship tourists commenced in January 2015.

(3) Permission for Landing in Transit

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Landing in Transit” in 2018 was 5,235, an increase of 256 (5.1%) from 2017.

(4) Landing Permission for Crew Members

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Crew Members” in 2018 was 3,007,588, a decrease of 26,538 (0.9%) from 2017.

(5) Permission for Emergency Landing

The number of cases in which received “Permission for Emergency Landing” in 2018 was 444, a decrease of 20 (4.3%) from 2017.

(6) Landing Permission Due to Distress

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission Due to Distress” in 2018 was 18, a decrease of 72 (80.0%) from 2017.

(7) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

The number of cases in which received “Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge” in 2018 was 2, the same as in 2017.

3 Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan

The number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan without having acquired a re-entry permit was 27,252,517 in 2018, an increase of 2,482,149 (10.0%) from 2017.

Among them, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 15 days was 26,108,961, which accounted for a significant 95.8% of the total. Further, the number of foreign nationals leaving Japan with a period of stay of within 3 months was 27,021,188, which accounted for 99.2% of the total ([Reference 12](#)).

Reference 12 Changes in the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan by period of stay (People)

| Period of Stay \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total | 12,148,890 | 17,506,732 | 20,808,527 | 24,770,368 | 27,252,517 |
| Within 15 days | 11,446,502 | 16,677,056 | 19,895,977 | 23,760,799 | 26,108,961 |
| More than 15 days to 1 month | 330,820 | 425,450 | 483,187 | 539,458 | 625,674 |
| More than 1 month to 3 months | 214,865 | 238,018 | 253,698 | 270,021 | 286,553 |
| More than 3 months to 6 months | 34,899 | 41,322 | 45,730 | 50,125 | 52,501 |
| More than 6 months to 1 year | 36,569 | 39,855 | 41,692 | 46,094 | 51,650 |
| More than 1 year to 3 years | 59,692 | 63,822 | 64,029 | 74,330 | 87,981 |
| More than 3 years | 24,476 | 20,183 | 23,140 | 28,332 | 37,857 |
| Unknown | 1,067 | 1,026 | 1,074 | 1,209 | 1,340 |

Article**At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration**
(Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations)
(Third Inspection Department, Haneda Airport District Immigration Office, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau: Miyazaki Takumi)

As immigration inspectors, we conduct the entry and departure examinations for foreign nationals visiting Japan and check the departure and return of Japanese nationals at the airport examination booths. In the entry examinations for foreign nationals, we carry out examinations to see whether the passport and visa possessed by the foreign national are valid, whether the activities he or she intends to engage in while in Japan come under the status of residence stipulated in the Immigration Control Act, and confirm that the foreign national has not made a false statement about the activities.

Haneda Airport, where I work, is close to the city center and is convenient for sightseeing and business. Therefore, in recent years, the number of international flights and passengers have increased rapidly, which makes us immigration inspectors strongly realize the increase in the number of foreign visitors to Japan.

Most of the foreign nationals who visit Japan are law-abiding tourists and businesspersons, but it is necessary to take strict measures at the border to prevent the entry of those who should not be permitted to enter Japan such as criminals, terrorists and those intending to stay in Japan illegally beyond their authorized period of stay. For this reason, immigration inspectors are required to balance two seemingly conflicting goals: “prompt and smooth examinations” but “strict examinations”. In order to balance these two, as well as improving the skills of the immigration inspectors, automated gates using facial recognition technology (facial recognition automated gates) are being utilized, and equipments known as Bio Carts will be introduced in the future, which will help improve the efficiency of the immigration examinations and reduce the waiting time of foreign visitors to Japan for examinations.

I personally think it is important to properly greet foreign nationals during the examination process. By greeting the person, we hopefully not only give a good impression of Japan, but can also observe whether the person is a suspicious one or not from the reply to the greeting. Also,



at the time of the examination, I strive to grasp knowledge relating to document forensics so as not to miss any forged or altered passports or other documents and grasp various kinds of information such as tendencies of foreign nationals who intend to stay illegally beyond their authorized period of stay, and also, I aim to realize prompt, polite but strict examinations. Although examination work is a repetitive act of steady work, when we prevent

the entry of a foreign national who should not be permitted to enter Japan, it feels like we have been able to protect the security of Japan and so the work is rewarding.

From now, Japan will attract even more attention from all over the world with the hosting of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. As an immigration inspector, I will always try to be considerate at the examinations and intend to conduct the examinations with a strong sense that I am at the frontline of the border measures.

Section 2 Judgment for Landing

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



Hearing for landing

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 being granted landing permission by an immigration inspector) in 2018 was 11,756, an increase of 1,980 (20.3%) from 2017.

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 others while their real purpose of entry was illegal 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 8,686, an increase of 1,993 (29.8%) from 2017, accounting for 73.9% of the total number of new cases in 2018. 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 attempting to illegally 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 1,940, an increase of 128 cases (7.1%) from 2017, accounting for 16.5% of the total number of new cases in 2018. Furthermore, cases suspected to fall 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

1,128, a decrease of 142 cases (11.2%) from 2017, accounting for 9.6% of the total number of new cases in 2018. In addition, the number of cases that foreign nationals refuse to provide the immigration inspector with their Biometric information, which became mandatory by law from November 20, 2007 (coming under paragraph (4) of Article 7 of the Immigration Control Act) was 2 cases in 2018 (Reference 13).

Reference 13 Changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing (Cases)

| Conditions for Landing | Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Total | | 7,567 | 8,166 | 8,880 | 9,776 |
| Using counterfeit passports or visas, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(i)) | | 1,905 | 2,015 | 1,723 | 1,812 | 1,940 |
| False landing application, etc. (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(ii)) | | 4,582 | 5,034 | 6,014 | 6,693 | 8,686 |
| Ineligibility for the period of stay relating to the application (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iii)) | | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Falling under the grounds for denial of landing (Not conforming to Article 7-(1)-(iv)) | | 1,073 | 1,117 | 1,141 | 1,270 | 1,128 |
| Not providing Biometric information (Not conforming to Article 7-(4)) | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

With regard to results of the hearings for landing in 2018^(*), the number of cases where landing permission was granted as it was found during the hearing that the foreign national conformed to the conditions for landing was 1,260, a decrease of 161 (11.3%) from 2017.

In addition, cases in which foreign nationals were ordered to depart 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 7,934, an increase of 1,948 (32.5%) from 2017. Cases in which foreign nationals filed an objection with the Minister of Justice because they were not satisfied with the findings by the special inquiry officer that they did not meet the conditions for landing numbered 1,911, an increase of 141 (8.0%) from 2017 (Reference 14).

(*) The reason why the total number in the changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing (Reference 13) and the total number in the changes in the processing of the hearings for landing (Reference 14) are inconsistent is because, depending on the case, the processing of the hearing may carry over to the following year, for example, when a case was handed over at the end of the year by an immigration inspector to a special inquiry officer.

Reference 14 Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing

(Cases)

| Division \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total | 7,567 | 8,164 | 8,875 | 9,770 | 11,763 |
| Landing permission | 2,255 | 1,627 | 1,740 | 1,421 | 1,260 |
| Expulsion order | 2,730 | 3,692 | 4,846 | 5,986 | 7,934 |
| Filing of objection | 2,161 | 2,374 | 1,827 | 1,770 | 1,911 |
| Withdrawal of the landing application | 348 | 391 | 363 | 481 | 585 |
| Others | 73 | 80 | 99 | 112 | 73 |

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

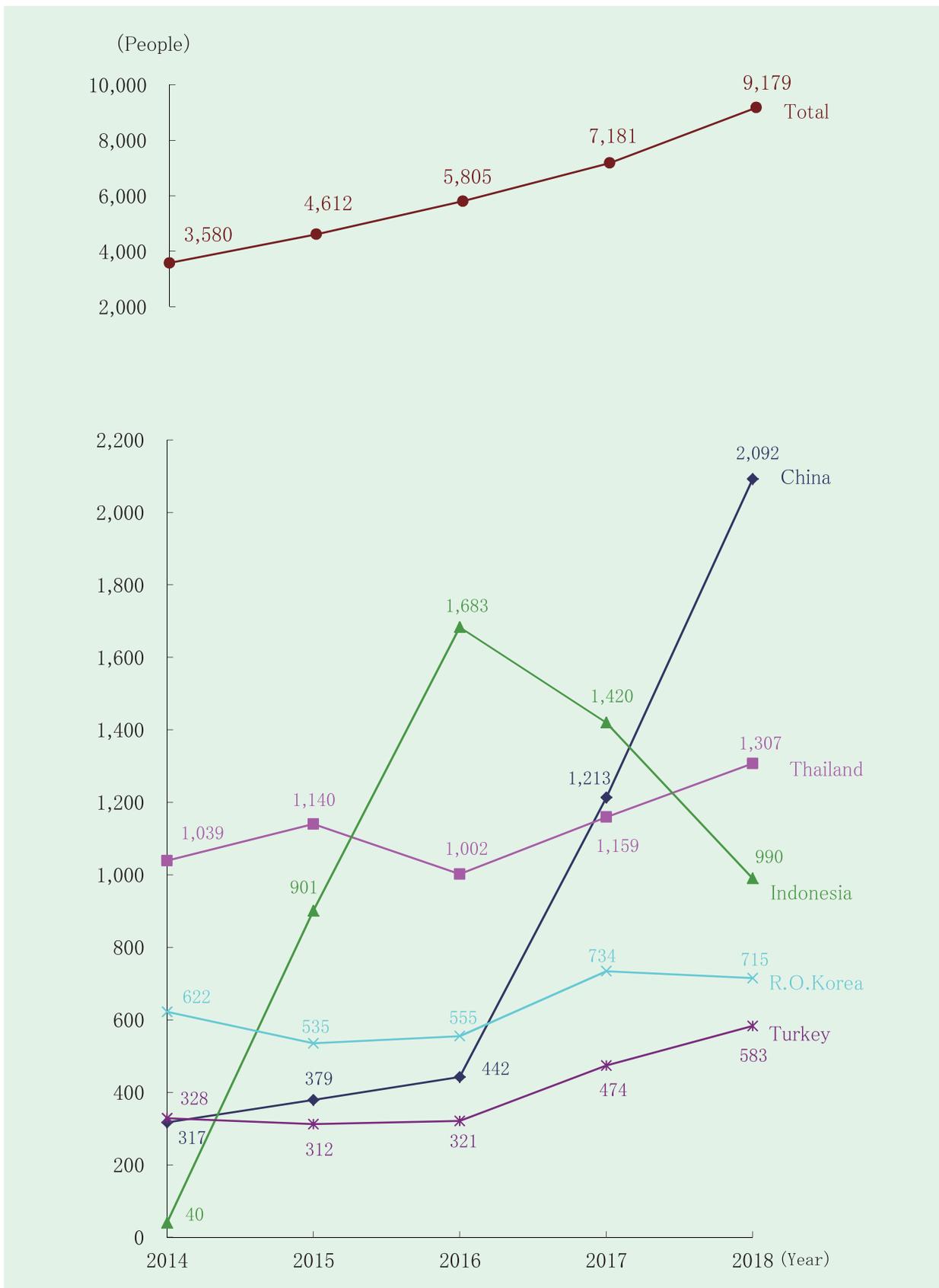
2 Foreign Nationals Falling Under Any of the Grounds for Denial of Landing

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

The number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing in 2018 was 9,179, an increase of 1,998 (27.8%) from 2017.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals denied permission for landing came from China standing at 2,092 (22.8%), followed by Thailand at 1,307 (14.2%) and Indonesia at 990 (10.8%). These top three countries accounted for 47.8% of the total (**Reference 15**). Among them, China's large increase is thought to be due to the fact that the number of people eligible for a visa increased through the relaxing of the visa requirements that commenced in May 2017.

Reference 15 Changes in the number of foreign nationals who were denied landing by major nationality/region



3 Special Permission for Landing

The number of cases in which the Minister of Justice granted special permission for landing to foreign nationals in 2018 was 1,333, an increase of 92 (7.4%) from 2017 ([Reference 16](#)).

Reference 16 Changes in the number of objections filed and decisions by the Minister of Justice

(Cases)

| Division | | Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Filing of Objection (*) | | | 2,179 | 2,386 | 1,845 | 1,781 | 1,919 |
| Decisions | With reason (Landing Permission) | | 22 | 15 | 12 | 4 | 5 |
| | without reason | Order to depart | 366 | 348 | 347 | 439 | 404 |
| | | Special Permission for Landing | 1,746 | 1,946 | 1,418 | 1,241 | 1,333 |
| Withdrawal | | | 33 | 59 | 57 | 89 | 160 |
| Outstanding | | | 12 | 18 | 11 | 8 | 17 |

(*) "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 cases of advance consultation for visa issuance was 5,336 in 2018, showing a decrease of 2,539 (32.2%) from 2017.

2 Certificate of Eligibility

The number of cases of applications for Certificates of Eligibility was 533,568 in 2018, an increase of 52,448 (10.9%) from 2017.

The advance consultation for visa issuance and the examination of Certificates of Eligibility are 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 ([Reference 17](#)).

Reference 17 Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examinations

(Cases)

| Division | Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Advance consultation for visa issuance | | 4,741 | 6,307 | 6,614 | 7,875 | 5,336 |
| Application for a certificate of eligibility | | 327,785 | 384,582 | 418,764 | 481,120 | 533,568 |

(*) please note that incorrect figures were given as shown below for the figures of "Application for a certificate of eligibility" published in the 2015 to 2017 edition
 (Correct figures) 2014: 327,785
 (Incorrect figures) 2014: 290,119

Chapter 2

Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan

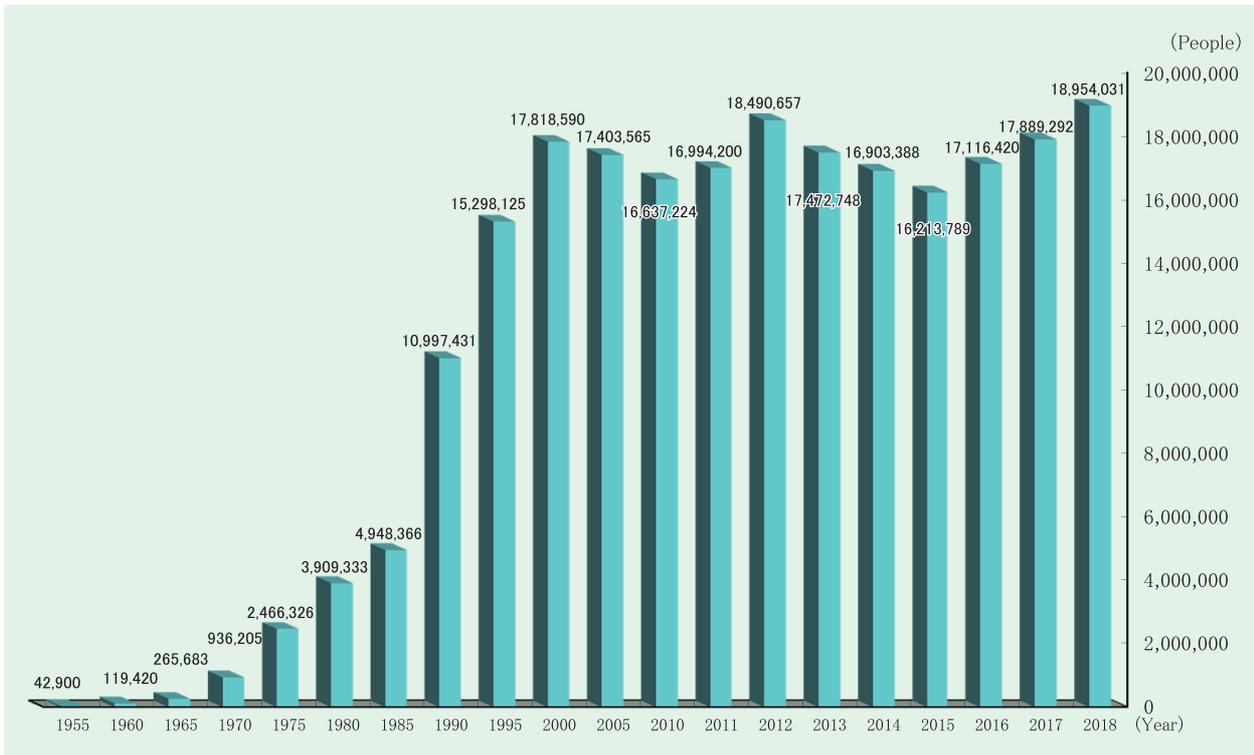
Section 1

Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

1 Total Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan

The number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2018 was 18,954,031, an increase of 1,064,739 (6.0%) from 2017 (Reference 18).

Reference 18 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan



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

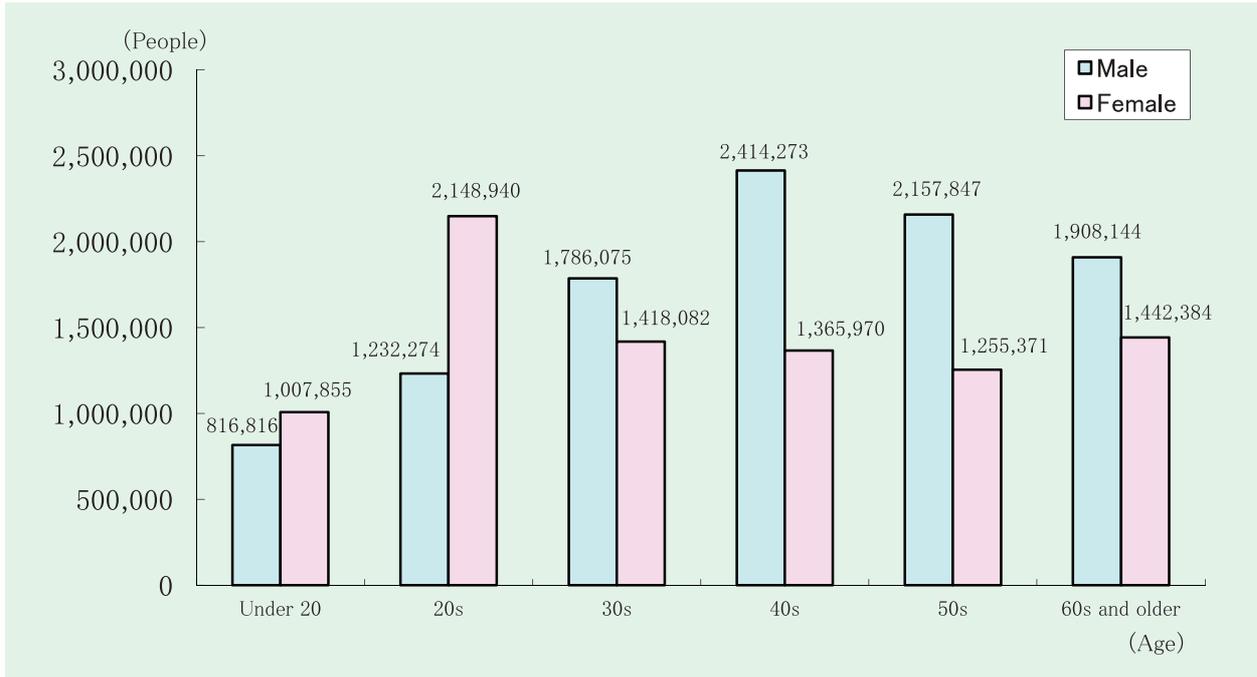
According to the statistics by gender, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2018 was composed of 10,315,429 males and 8,638,602 females; males accounted for 54.4% of the total and females accounted for 45.6%. There have been no significant changes in the percentages of either males or females since 2001, and the percentage of males continues to exceed that of females.

According to the statistics by age, the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2018 was composed of 3,780,243 Japanese nationals in their 40s, which accounted for 19.9% of the total, followed by 3,413,218 in their 50s, accounting for 18.0%, 3,381,214 in their 20s,

accounting for 17.8%, 3,355,528 in their 60s and older, accounting for 17.7% and 3,204,157 in their 30s, accounting for 16.9%.

According to the statistics on percentages of males and females by age group, the percentages of Japanese females ages under 20 and 20s exceeded those of males and, in particular, females in their 20s accounted for the extremely high percentage of 63.6%, but with the other age groups, the percentage of males departing from Japan exceeded that of females (Reference 19).

Reference 19 Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2018)



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

Looking at the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan in 2018 by airports and seaport of departure, the number of departing passengers using airports was 18,774,450, accounting for 99.0% of the total, and when comparing to the 29,323,221 (97.4%) foreign nationals entering Japan using the airports, the percentage of airport users is higher.

Looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using airports in 2018, the number of users of Narita Airport was 7,096,049, accounting for 37.8% of the total number of departing passengers from airports, the number of users of Haneda Airport was 4,819,298, accounting for 25.7%, and the number of users of Kansai Airport was 3,495,826, accounting for 18.6%. These three airports accounted for 82.1% of the total number of departing passengers from airports.

On the other hand, looking at the Japanese nationals departing from Japan using seaports during 2018, the number of Hakata Port users was 55,383, accounting for 30.2% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports, followed by Yokohama Port at 23,052 (12.6%), and Kobe Port at 16,063 (8.7%). These three seaports accounted for 51.5% of the total number of departing passengers from seaports. Kanazawa Port at 13,010 (7.1%) and Ishigaki Port at 12,579 (6.9%) followed these three seaports.

Section 2

Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan



Airport landing examination

The total number of returning Japanese nationals in 2018 was 18,908,954. By period of stay in foreign countries after departure, the number of persons returning within one month of departure was 17,246,711, which accounted for 91.2% of the total. Of those, the number of persons returning within 10 days was 15,692,532, which accounted for 91.0% of those who returned within one month of departure.

This is thought to be because most Japanese going abroad 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 ([Reference 20](#)).

Reference 20 Changes in the number of Japanese nationals returning to Japan by period of stay (People)

| Period of Stay \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Total | 16,915,797 | 16,258,889 | 17,088,252 | 17,876,453 | 18,908,954 |
| Within 5 days | 9,499,435 | 9,126,508 | 10,067,736 | 10,590,134 | 11,396,585 |
| More than 5 days to 10 days | 4,299,701 | 4,033,466 | 3,905,780 | 4,106,292 | 4,295,947 |
| More than 10 days to 20 days | 1,119,965 | 1,086,094 | 1,067,194 | 1,116,348 | 1,143,763 |
| More than 20 days to 1 month | 417,716 | 402,491 | 409,434 | 412,805 | 410,416 |
| More than 1 month to 3 months | 655,267 | 670,011 | 678,113 | 686,350 | 693,432 |
| More than 3 months to 6 months | 386,518 | 387,233 | 393,187 | 400,249 | 402,650 |
| More than 6 months to 1 year | 301,338 | 305,442 | 307,247 | 310,126 | 313,425 |
| More than 1 year to 3 years | 133,068 | 135,515 | 129,203 | 122,306 | 123,677 |
| More than 3 years | 13,203 | 13,161 | 12,800 | 10,610 | 9,193 |
| Unknown | 89,586 | 98,968 | 117,558 | 121,233 | 119,866 |

Chapter 3

Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan

Section 1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

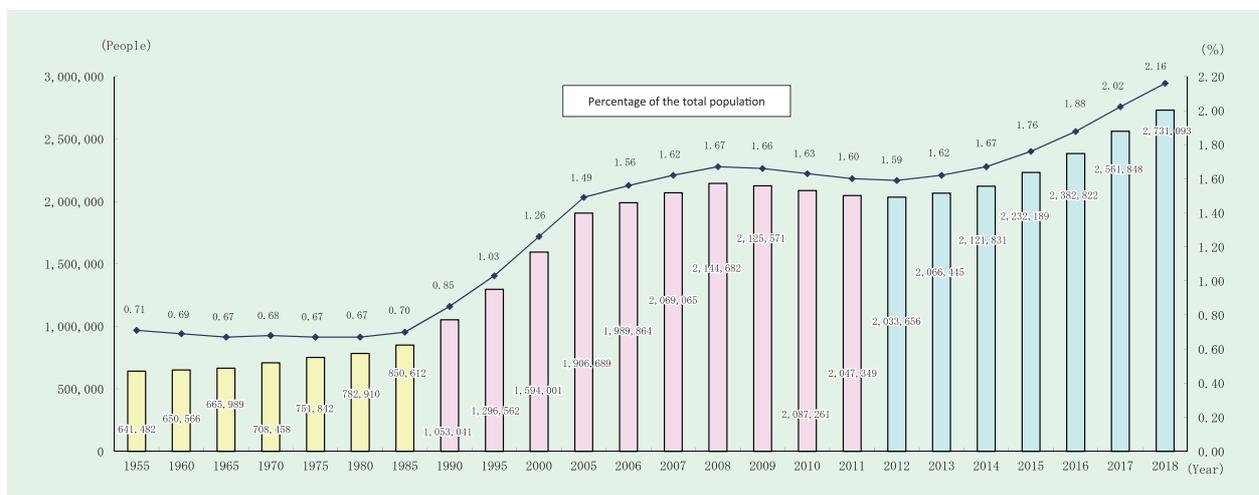
1 Number of Foreign Residents in Japan

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 2018, the number of mid to long-term residents (see Data Section 1, Section 4, Subsection 1) in Japan was 2,409,677 and the number of special permanent residents was 321,416. Adding these two numbers together, the total number of foreign residents was 2,731,093, an increase of 169,245 (6.6%) compared to the end of 2017.

In addition, the percentage of foreign nationals residing in Japan was 2.16% out of the total population of Japan which was 126,440,000 as of the end of 2018 (population estimate as of October 1, 2018 (Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)), which was 0.14 points higher than the 2.02% at the end of 2017 ([Reference 21](#)).

Reference 21 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.

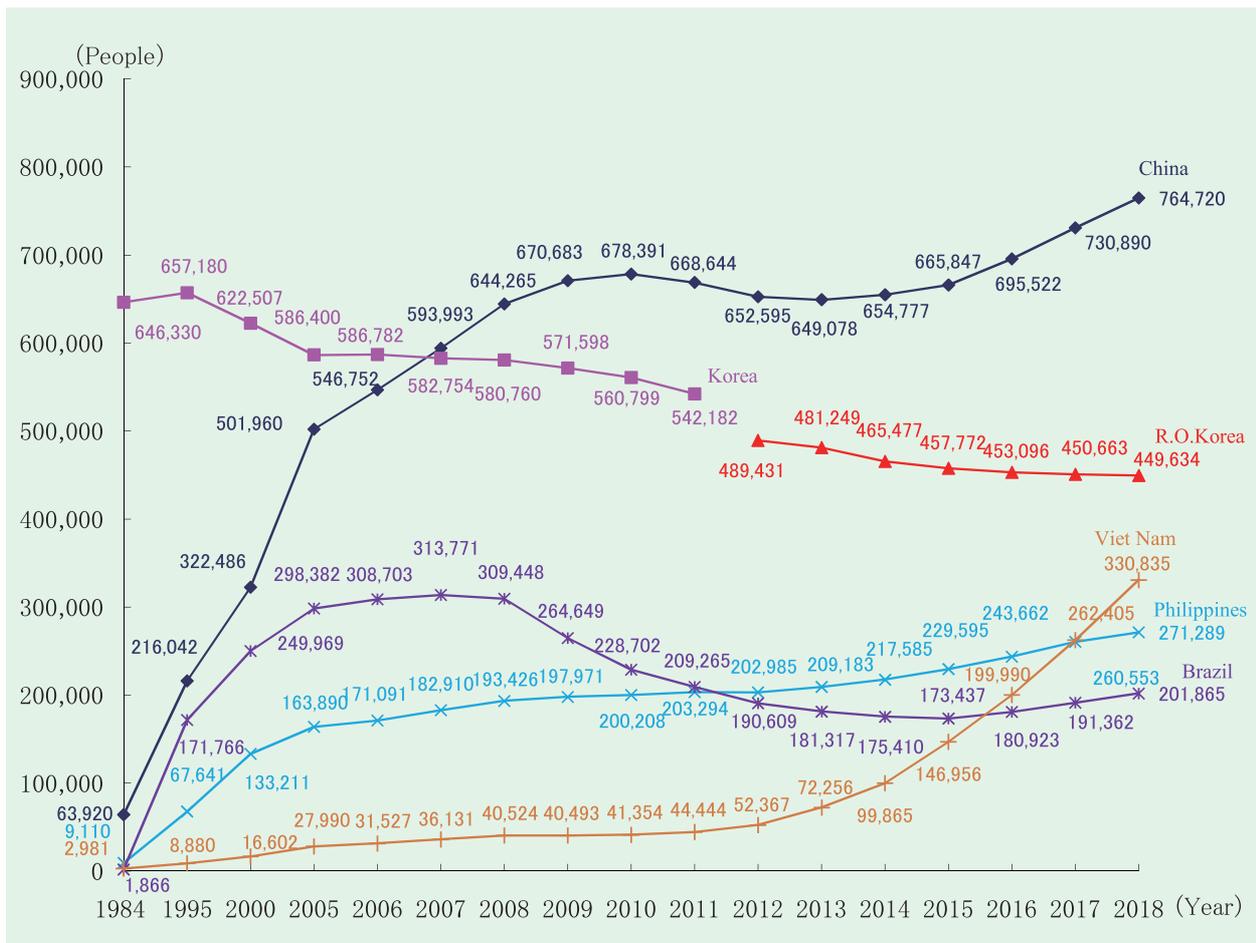
(*3) The “percentage of the total population of Japan” is calculated based on the population as of October 1 each year taken from the “Population Estimates” and the “Population Census” of the Statistics Bureau of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

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 2018, China marked the largest number at 764,720, accounting for 28.0% of the total. China was followed by R.O.Korea at 449,634 (16.5%), Viet Nam at 330,835 (12.1%), the Philippines at 271,289 (9.9%), and Brazil at 201,865 (7.4%).

According to the changes in the number of foreign residents by year, the number of foreign residents from China has been on an upward trend, with an increase of 33,830 (4.6%) at the end of 2018 when compared to the end of 2017. The number of foreign residents from R.O. Korea has been declining with a decrease of 1,029 (0.2%) at the end of 2018 compared to the end of 2017. In addition, Viet Nam has been on an upward trend since the end of 2010, and increased significantly by 68,430 (26.1%) at the end of 2018 compared to the end of 2017, and the Philippines increased by 10,736 (4.1%) at the end of 2018 compared to the end of 2017. In addition, Brazil had continued its decreasing trend since it peaked at the end of 2007, but it has been on an upward trend since the end of 2016, and by the end of 2018 it has increased by 10,503 (5.5%) compared to the end of 2017 ([Reference 22](#)).

Reference 22 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 with "Taiwan" listed in the "nationality/region" box.
- (*3) Up until the end of 2011, R.O.Korea and Korea used to be calculated jointly as "Korea", but from the end of 2012, they are calculated separately as "R.O.Korea" and "Korea", for the purpose of the statistics.

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

(1) “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 13)

According to the statistics for the number of foreign residents by status of residence at the end of 2018, those with the status of “Permanent Resident” (excluding “Special Permanent Residents”) comprised the largest group. The number of those with the status of “Permanent Resident” was 771,568, an increase of 22,377 (3.0%) from the end of 2017, accounting for 28.3% of the total ([Reference 23](#)).

Reference 23 Changes in the number of foreign residents by status

(people)

| Status | | Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | | | 2,121,831 | 2,232,189 | 2,382,822 | 2,561,848 | 2,731,093 |
| Mid to long-term resident | Professor | | 7,565 | 7,651 | 7,463 | 7,403 | 7,360 |
| | Artist | | 409 | 433 | 438 | 426 | 461 |
| | Religious Activities | | 4,528 | 4,397 | 4,428 | 4,402 | 4,299 |
| | Journalist | | 225 | 231 | 246 | 236 | 215 |
| | Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a) | | | 297 | 731 | 1,194 | 1,576 |
| | Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(b) | | | 1,144 | 2,813 | 6,046 | 8,774 |
| | Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(c) | | | 51 | 132 | 257 | 395 |
| | Highly-Skilled Professional (ii) | | | 16 | 63 | 171 | 316 |
| | Business Manager | | 15,184 | 18,109 | 21,877 | 24,033 | 25,670 |
| | Legal/Accounting Services | | 143 | 142 | 148 | 147 | 147 |
| | Medical Services | | 695 | 1,015 | 1,342 | 1,653 | 1,936 |
| | Researcher | | 1,841 | 1,644 | 1,609 | 1,596 | 1,528 |
| | Instructor | | 10,141 | 10,670 | 11,159 | 11,524 | 12,462 |
| | Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services | | 122,794 | 137,706 | 161,124 | 189,273 | 225,724 |
| | Intra-company Transferee | | 15,378 | 15,465 | 15,772 | 16,486 | 17,328 |
| | Nursing Care | | | | | 18 | 185 |
| | Entertainer | | 1,967 | 1,869 | 2,187 | 2,094 | 2,389 |
| | Skilled Labor | | 33,374 | 37,202 | 39,756 | 39,177 | 39,915 |
| | Technical Intern Training (i)-(a) | | 4,371 | 4,815 | 4,943 | 5,971 | 5,128 |
| | Technical Intern Training (i)-(b) | | 73,145 | 87,070 | 97,642 | 118,101 | 138,249 |
| | Technical Intern Training (ii)-(a) | | 2,553 | 2,684 | 3,207 | 3,424 | 3,712 |
| | Technical Intern Training (ii)-(b) | | 87,557 | 98,086 | 122,796 | 146,729 | 173,873 |
| | Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a) | | | | | 0 | 220 |
| | Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b) | | | | | 8 | 7,178 |
| | Cultural Activities | | 2,614 | 2,582 | 2,704 | 2,859 | 2,825 |
| | Student | | 214,525 | 246,679 | 277,331 | 311,505 | 337,000 |
| | Trainee | | 1,427 | 1,521 | 1,379 | 1,460 | 1,443 |
| | Dependent | | 125,992 | 133,589 | 149,303 | 166,561 | 182,452 |
| | Designated Activities | | 28,001 | 37,175 | 47,039 | 64,776 | 62,956 |
| | Permanent Resident | | 677,019 | 700,500 | 727,111 | 749,191 | 771,568 |
| Spouse or Child of Japanese National | | 145,312 | 140,349 | 139,327 | 140,839 | 142,381 | |
| Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident | | 27,066 | 28,939 | 30,972 | 34,632 | 37,998 | |
| Long-Term Resident | | 159,596 | 161,532 | 168,830 | 179,834 | 192,014 | |
| Special Permanent Resident | | 358,409 | 348,626 | 338,950 | 329,822 | 321,416 | |

- (*1) The status of residence of "Highly-Skilled Professional (i)-(a), (i)-(b), (i)-(c), (ii)" were newly established from April 1, 2015.
- (*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".
- (*3) The figures for "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services" in 2014 combine the figures for "Engineer" and the "Humanities / International Services".
- (*4) The status of residence of "Nursing Care" was newly established on September 1, 2017.
- (*5) The status of residence of "Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)" was newly established on November 1, 2017.

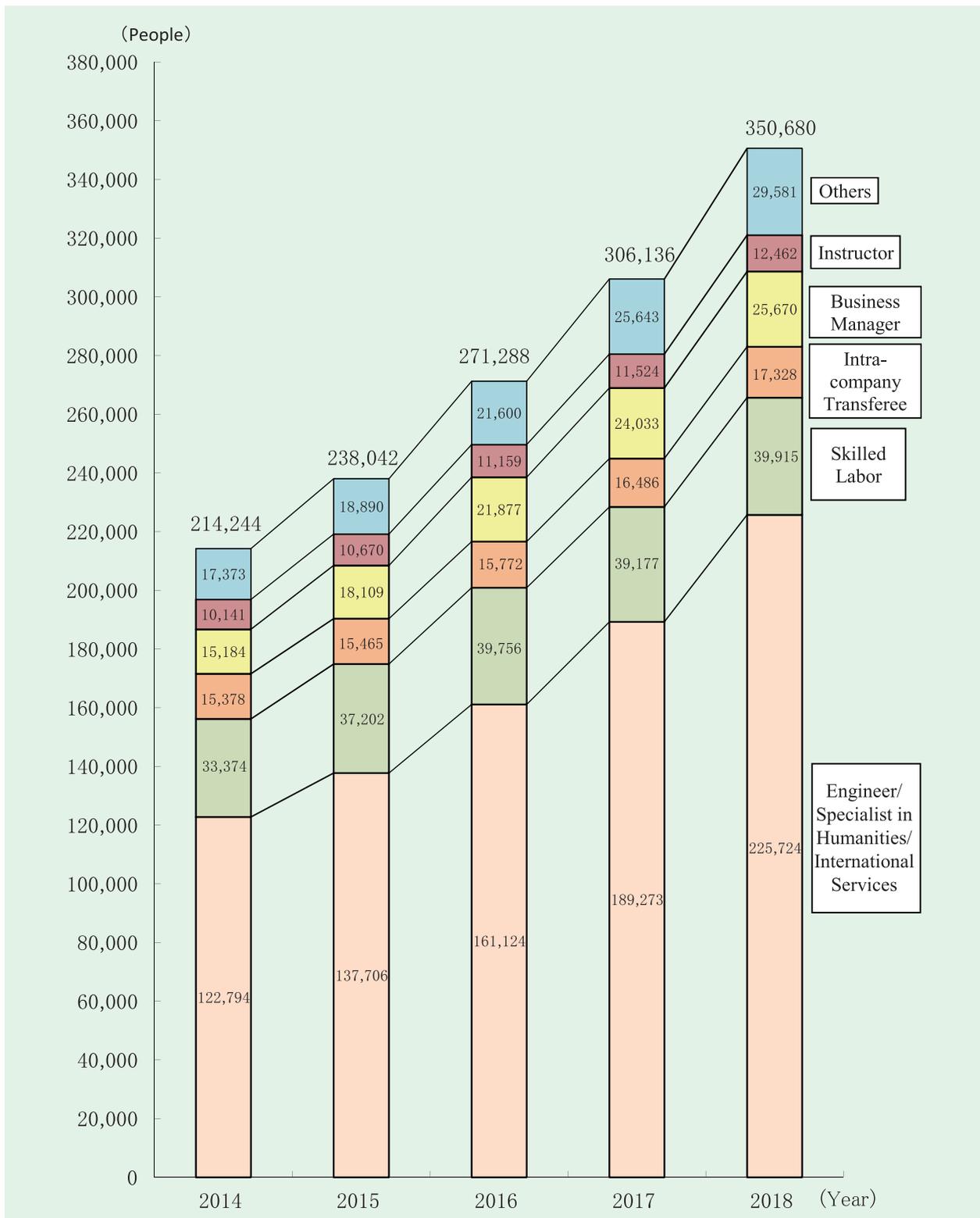
Looking at changes in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” between the end of 2014 and the end of 2018, there was a steady increase, and the number increased by 94,549 (14.0%) at the end of 2018 from 677,019 at the end of 2014.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Permanent Resident” came from China totaling 260,963 at the end of 2018, followed by the Philippines, Brazil, R.O.Korea, and Peru.

On the other hand, the number of foreign nationals with the status of “Special Permanent Resident” 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, reaching 11.8% at the end of 2018. 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

At the end of 2018, 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 350,680 accounting for 12.8% of the total, an increase of 44,544 (14.6%) compared to the end of 2017, and an upward trend has been continuing since 2012 ([Reference 24](#)).

Reference 24 Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields


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

(*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".

(*3) The figures for "Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services" in 2014 combine the figures for "Engineer" and the "Humanities / International Services".

(*4) Please note that incorrect figures were given as shown below for the figures of "Total number" and "Others" of FY2015 for the table of "Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents based on the status of residence for the purpose of employment in specialized and technical fields" published in the 2016 edition.
 (Correct figures) 2015: Total number: 238,042, Others: 18,890
 (Incorrect figures) 2015: Total number: 236,534, Others: 17,382

At the end of 2018, 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 companies/organizations was 225,724 for “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and 17,328 for “Intra-company Transferee”, and when compared to the end of 2017, the respective numbers have been increasing: 36,451 (19.3%) and 842 (5.1%).

At the end of 2018, the percentages of mid to long-term residents with the statuses of residence of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” to the total number of mid to long-term residents with a status of residence for the purpose of employment in professional or technical fields were 64.4%, and 4.9%, respectively.

(3) “Technical Intern Training”^(*) (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 7-2, 8,9)

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” at the end of 2018 was 143,377, an increase of 19,305 (15.6%) when compared to the end of 2017. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 74,150, accounting for 51.7% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 32,178 (22.4%), Indonesia at 12,162 (8.5%), and the Philippines at 11,793 (8.2%).

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” at the end of 2018 was 177,585, an increase of 27,432 (18.3%) when compared to the end of 2017. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 86,155 accounting for 48.5% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 44,331 (25.0%), the Philippines at 17,798 (10.0%) and Indonesia at 14,144 (8.0%).

In addition, with the establishment of the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii)” on November 1, 2017, the number of mid to long-term residents with this status of residence at the end of 2018 was 7,398, according to the statistics by nationality/region, the number of those from Viet Nam was 4,194 accounting for 56.7% of the total. Viet Nam was followed by China at 1,297 (17.5%), the Philippines at 730 (9.9%) and Indonesia at 608 (8.2%).

(4) “Student” (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 10-2)

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Student” at the end of 2018 was 337,000, an increase of 25,495 (8.2%) compared to the end of 2017, comprising 12.3% of the total number of foreign residents. According to the statistics by nationality/region, the number from China was 132,411 accounting for 39.3% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 81,009 (24.0%).

(5) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position (Data Section 4, Statistics (1) 14-2, 15-2)

The number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at the end of 2018 was 142,381, accounting for 5.2% of the total number of foreign residents, an increase of 1,542 (1.1%) when compared to the end of 2017.

Looking at these numbers by nationality/region, China stood at 30,900, accounting for 21.7%

(*) “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)”, and “Technical Intern Training (iii)” represents the sum of “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(a)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)-(b)”.

of the total, followed by the Philippines at 26,322 (18.5%), and Brazil at 17,668 (12.4%), and looking at the trends of these three countries from the end of 2014 to the end of 2018, China and the Philippines continued to decrease, but Brazil has been on an upward trend since the end of 2016.

At the end of 2018, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” was 192,014 accounting for 7.0% of the total number of foreign residents, the number at the end of 2018 has increased by 12,180 (6.8%) when compared to the end of 2017.

Looking at these number by nationality/region, Brazil accounts for 65,021 (33.9%), followed by the Philippines at 52,008 (27.1%) and China at 28,282 (14.7%).

Section 2 Examination of Statuses of Residence

The total number of applications related to residence examinations was 1,323,871 in 2018, an increase of 135,614 (11.4%) when compared to 2017 ([Reference 25](#)).

Reference 25 Changes in the number of permission examined in status of residence examinations

(Cases)

| Division \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total | 867,760 | 953,906 | 1,042,879 | 1,188,257 | 1,323,871 |
| Permission for change of status of residence | 142,700 | 159,235 | 180,480 | 215,599 | 325,149 |
| Permission for extension of period of stay | 443,703 | 487,440 | 532,800 | 610,924 | 603,043 |
| Permission for permanent residence | 35,697 | 39,726 | 35,595 | 28,869 | 31,451 |
| Permission for special permanent residence | 103 | 94 | 84 | 73 | 75 |
| Permission for acquisition of status of residence | 9,866 | 9,862 | 12,010 | 12,976 | 13,188 |
| Re-entry permission | 48,225 | 37,835 | 31,553 | 35,310 | 37,030 |
| Permission to engage in anactivity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted | 187,466 | 219,714 | 250,357 | 284,506 | 313,935 |

(*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 figures (case numbers) were given as shown below for the figures of “Total number”, “Permanent residents” and “Special permanent residents” of 2015 for the table of “Changes in the number of cases of work permission in the work of residence examinations” published in the 2016 edition.

(Correct figures) 2015: Total number: 953,906, Permanent Residents: 39,726, Special Permanent Residents: 94

(Incorrect figures) 2015: Total number: 954,004 Permanent Residents: 39,820, Special Permanent Residents: 98



Residence examination counter

1 Permission for Change in the Status of Residence

In 2018, the number of cases in which obtained permission for a change in the status of residence was 325,149, an increase of 109,550 (50.8%) when compared to 2017.

(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 to a status of residence for the purpose of employment was 25,942 in 2018, an increase of 3,523 (15.7%) when compared to 2017.

The number of these foreign nationals had been steadily increased between 2003 and 2008. Though the number reached a peak in 2008, it started to decline owing to the impact of the global recession. However, the number subsequently started seeing signs of recovery with a record high reached in 2018.

According to the statistics by status of residence, the number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status to that of “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” made up the largest number, totaling 24,188 (93.2%), an increase of 3,702 (18.1%) when compared to 2017 ([Reference 26](#)).

Reference 26 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 (People)

| Status of Residence \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 12,958 | 15,657 | 19,435 | 22,419 | 25,942 |
| Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/ International Services | | 13,791 | 17,353 | 20,486 | 24,188 |
| Specialist in Humanities/ International Services | 8,758 | | | | |
| Engineer | 2,748 | | | | |
| Business Manager | 383 | 682 | 916 | 712 | 560 |
| Professor | 704 | 684 | 598 | 626 | 538 |
| Medical Services | 114 | 234 | 257 | 254 | 246 |
| Instructor | 59 | 73 | 87 | 93 | 137 |
| Resercher | 124 | 102 | 87 | 102 | 85 |
| Nursing Care | | | | 18 | 83 |
| Highly Skilled Professional | | 17 | 27 | 43 | 65 |
| Religious Activities | 8 | 20 | 14 | 25 | 15 |
| Artist | 6 | 18 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| Official | 5 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 2 |
| Others | 49 | 33 | 91 | 44 | 21 |

(*) In accordance with an amendment of the Act, the statuses of residence of “Engineer” and “Specialist in Humanities/International Services” were revised and combined into “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” on April 1, 2015.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of foreign nationals who obtained permission to change their status for employment purposes was from China at 10,886, accounting for 42.0%, followed by Viet Nam at 5,244 (20.2%) and Nepal at 2,934 (11.3%) (**Reference 27**).

Reference 27 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 (People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 12,958 | 15,657 | 19,435 | 22,419 | 25,942 |
| China | 8,347 | 9,847 | 11,039 | 10,326 | 10,886 |
| Viet Nam | 611 | 1,153 | 2,488 | 4,633 | 5,244 |
| Nepal | 278 | 503 | 1,167 | 2,026 | 2,934 |
| R.O.Korea | 1,234 | 1,288 | 1,422 | 1,487 | 1,575 |
| Taiwan | 514 | 649 | 689 | 810 | 1,065 |
| Sri Lanka | 87 | 121 | 177 | 242 | 432 |
| Indonesia | 124 | 147 | 214 | 253 | 362 |
| Myanmar | 129 | 160 | 183 | 212 | 348 |
| Philippines | 65 | 126 | 168 | 230 | 319 |
| Thailand | 171 | 200 | 238 | 239 | 298 |
| Others | 1,398 | 1,463 | 1,650 | 1,961 | 2,479 |

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

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

The Technical Intern Training Program was established in 1993 to enable foreign nationals to acquire skills etc. 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.

The Technical Intern Training Program is being transferred to a new program pursuant to the “Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees” (Act No. 89 of 2016; hereinafter referred to as “Technical Intern Training Act”), which came into effect on November 1, 2017, and with regard to the old program prior to the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act, as under the current program, permission to change the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (ii)” is required when engaging in work requiring the skills, etc. already acquired through “Technical Intern Training (i)” to increase proficiency in the skills, etc.

The skills, etc. in the “Technical Intern Training (ii)” are ones that are publicly evaluated in Japan and also meet demand in the countries sending the trainees. Specifically, as of May 7, 2019, there are 55 job categories, such as formwork, and machine processing, etc., which can be tested through the evaluation system for the Basic National Trade Skills Test, which is a national examination, and 25 job categories such as melding and spinning operations for which there is no national examination but there is an official evaluation system approved by the Director-General for Human Resources Development of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, making a total of 80 job categories.

The number of foreign trainees who were permitted to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” in 2018 had increased by 15,592 (18.0%) from 2017 to 102,175. In total, more than 950,000 foreign trainees have gone on to this training as of the end of 2018 since the Technical Intern Training Program was first established in 1993.

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 2018 came from Viet Nam at 50,762 (49.7%), followed by China at 24,811 (24.3%), the Philippines at 10,004 (9.8%), Indonesia at 8,027 (7.9%), and Thailand at 2,829 (2.8%) (**References 28**).

In addition, “Technical Intern Training (iii)” has been newly established under the current program as a status of residence for those who have completed “Technical Intern Training (ii)” to enable the mastery of further proficiency, and only excellent supervising organizations and implementing organizations are able to accept trainees with this status of residence (The total number of applicable skills, etc. was 73 as of May 7, 2019).

According to the statistics of foreign nationals who received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” in 2018 by nationality/region, the order was Vietnam at 960 (59.8%) followed by the Philippines at 215 (13.4%), China at 148 (9.2%), Indonesia at 119 (7.4%) and Cambodia at 51 (3.2%) (**Reference 29**).

According to the statistics of the technical intern training plans accredited in 2018 by job type, the largest numbers for technical intern training (ii) were “Crop farming”, “Prepared food industry”, “Welding”, and for technical intern training (iii) were “Women/Children’s apparel production”, “Welding”, “Steeplejack” (**Reference 30, 31**).

Reference 28 Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Total | 49,536 | 61,809 | 75,089 | 86,583 | 102,175 |
| Viet Nam | 8,664 | 16,968 | 28,457 | 38,985 | 50,762 |
| China | 31,822 | 31,055 | 27,180 | 24,904 | 24,811 |
| Philippines | 3,380 | 5,216 | 7,705 | 8,436 | 10,004 |
| Indonesia | 3,440 | 4,997 | 6,069 | 6,602 | 8,027 |
| Thailand | 1,411 | 1,741 | 2,025 | 2,664 | 2,829 |
| Others | 819 | 1,832 | 3,653 | 4,992 | 5,742 |

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

(*2) Since 2018 was a program transition period in which there were those to whom the program following the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act applied and those to whom it did not, the method of calculation used for the figures of 2018 differs from that used in and before 2017.

Reference 29 Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by nationality/region

(People)

| Occupation \ Year | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------------|------|-------|
| Total | 0 | 1,605 |
| Viet Nam | 0 | 960 |
| Philippines | 0 | 215 |
| China | 0 | 148 |
| Indonesia | 0 | 119 |
| Cambodia | 0 | 51 |
| Others | 0 | 112 |

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

(*2) Although the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)” was newly established on November 1, 2017, no foreign nationals received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)” in 2017.

Reference 30 Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (ii)” by job categories

(Cases)

| Occupation \ Year | 2018 |
|--|---------|
| Total | 195,311 |
| Crop farming | 17,462 |
| Prepared food industry | 16,822 |
| Welding | 14,506 |
| Women/Children's apparel production | 14,197 |
| Plastic molding | 10,975 |
| Steeplejack | 9,288 |
| Machining | 7,927 |
| Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing | 7,141 |
| Electronics assembly | 6,933 |
| Painting | 6,179 |
| Others | 83,881 |

Reference 31 Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by job categories (Cases)

| Occupation | Year | 2018 |
|--|------|--------|
| Total | | 10,804 |
| Women/Children's apparel production | | 1,015 |
| Welding | | 891 |
| Steeplejack | | 655 |
| Crop farming | | 538 |
| Machining | | 475 |
| Plastic molding | | 464 |
| Steel reinforcement construction | | 463 |
| Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing | | 445 |
| Painting | | 441 |
| Mold construction | | 357 |
| Others | | 5,060 |

Reference Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by job categories (People)

| Occupation | Year | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | | 48,792 | 49,536 | 61,809 | 75,089 | 86,583 |
| Crop farming | | 5,510 | 5,537 | 6,325 | 7,077 | 8,383 |
| Women/Children's apparel production | | 8,141 | 7,349 | 7,292 | 7,305 | 7,282 |
| Prepared food industry | | 0 | 0 | 71 | 1,655 | 6,912 |
| Welding | | 3,824 | 3,951 | 6,224 | 7,403 | 6,749 |
| Plastic molding | | 3,135 | 3,330 | 4,073 | 4,459 | 4,948 |
| Steeplejack | | 994 | 1,274 | 2,073 | 3,263 | 3,935 |
| Unheated fishery processing products manufacturing | | 2,540 | 2,406 | 2,792 | 2,910 | 3,618 |
| Machining | | 2,245 | 2,310 | 2,929 | 3,250 | 3,227 |
| Electronics assembly | | 1,884 | 1,294 | 2,056 | 2,809 | 2,945 |
| Painting | | 1,297 | 1,357 | 1,808 | 2,386 | 2,879 |
| Metal press work | | 1,759 | 1,685 | 2,140 | 2,297 | 2,720 |
| Heated fishery processing products manufacturing | | 1,840 | 1,862 | 2,122 | 2,290 | 2,071 |
| Steel reinforcement construction | | 856 | 1,128 | 1,640 | 2,116 | 2,066 |
| Mold construction | | 739 | 886 | 1,451 | 2,105 | 2,018 |
| Livestock agriculture | | 1,231 | 1,268 | 1,460 | 1,710 | 1,998 |
| Others | | 12,797 | 13,899 | 17,353 | 22,054 | 24,832 |

(*) Although the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)” was newly established on November 1, 2017, no foreign nationals received permission to change their status of residence to “Technical Intern Training (iii) (a) and (b)” in 2017.

2 Permission for Extension of the Period of Stay

The number of cases in which obtained permission for extension of their period of stay in 2018 was 603,043, a decrease of 7,881 (1.3%) from 2017.

3 Permission for Permanent Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for permanent residence in 2018 was 31,451, an increase of 2,582 (8.9%) in 2018 when compared to 2017 ([Reference 32](#)).

Reference 32 Changes in the number of cases of permission for permanent residence by nationality/region (Cases)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 35,697 | 39,726 | 35,595 | 28,869 | 31,451 |
| China | 15,670 | 16,635 | 15,285 | 12,816 | 14,626 |
| Philippines | 4,769 | 5,455 | 4,795 | 3,549 | 3,077 |
| Brazil | 4,030 | 4,822 | 3,866 | 2,716 | 2,255 |
| R.O.Korea/Korea | 2,697 | | | | |
| R.O.Korea | | 2,978 | 2,731 | 2,241 | 2,742 |
| Viet Nam | 926 | 967 | 994 | 873 | 1,343 |
| Others | 7,605 | 8,869 | 7,924 | 6,674 | 7,408 |

(*1) The number for "China" is the number including China (Hong Kong), China (others), and excluding those who have already received residence cards with "Taiwan" in the nationality/region section.

(*2) From 2015, "R.O.Korea" and "Korea" are calculated separately.

(*3) This table does not include the number of permits for special permanent residence.

4 Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence

The number of cases in which were granted permission for acquisition of a status of residence in 2018 was 13,188, an increase of 212 (1.6%) when compared to 2017.

5 Re-entry Permission

The number of cases in which were granted re-entry permission in 2018 was 37,030, an increase of 1,720 (4.9%) when compared to 2017.

In addition, the number of foreign nationals who departed from Japan having obtained special re-entry permission in 2018 was 2,600,648 accounting for 96.0% of the total number of 2,497,774 foreign nationals who departed from Japan through re-entry permission.

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

The number of cases in which obtained permission to engage in an activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted in 2018 was 313,935, an increase of 29,429 (10.3%) from 2017.

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

1 Residence Cards

The number of residence cards issued in 2018 was 1,364,484. According to the statistics by category, the number of residence cards issued at the time of granting permission relating to landing/status of residence was 1,301,718 accounting for 95.7% of the total, followed by applications for reissuance at 43,508 (3.2%), extension of the period of validity at 10,511 (0.8%), and notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 4,713 (0.3%).

By category of regional immigration bureaus, the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau issued 764,506 residence cards, accounting for 56.2% of the total, followed by Nagoya at 227,253 (16.7%), Osaka at 169,931 (12.5%) and Fukuoka at 90,008 (6.6%) ([Reference 33](#)).

Reference 33 Number of issuance of residence cards (2018)

(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 |
|------------------------------|-----------|--|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Total | 1,360,484 | 1,301,718 | 4,713 | 10,511 | 43,508 | 34 |
| Sapporo | 21,365 | 20,899 | 34 | 58 | 374 | 0 |
| Sendai | 22,008 | 21,162 | 76 | 165 | 605 | 0 |
| Tokyo | 764,506 | 731,039 | 2,302 | 5,282 | 25,858 | 25 |
| Nagoya | 227,253 | 215,935 | 1,400 | 3,088 | 6,823 | 7 |
| Osaka | 169,931 | 162,578 | 365 | 1,168 | 5,818 | 2 |
| Hiroshima | 48,987 | 47,266 | 298 | 242 | 1,181 | 0 |
| Takamatsu | 16,426 | 15,894 | 39 | 146 | 347 | 0 |
| Fukuoka | 90,008 | 86,945 | 199 | 362 | 2,502 | 0 |

2 Special Permanent Resident Certificates

The number of special permanent resident certificates issued in 2018 was 61,234. According to the statistics by category, the number of special permanent resident certificates issued at the time of extension of the period of validity was 47,682 accounting for 77.9% of the total, followed by notification of a change in the registered matters aside from the place of residence at 4,968 (8.1%), switching over to the special permanent resident certificate at 4,093 (6.7%), and applications for reissuance at 3,755 (6.1%) ([Reference 34](#)).

Reference 34 Number of issuance of special permanent resident certificates (2018)

(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 |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| 632 | 77 | 4,968 | 47,682 | 3,755 | 4,093 | 27 | 0 | 61,234 |

Article**At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration
(Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of status examinations)
(Permanent Resident Inspection Department, Nagoya Regional
Immigration Services Bureau: Takahashi Hidemasa)**

The Tokai region under the jurisdiction of the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau is known for its prosperous manufacturing industry. Due to this, a large number of foreign nationals of Japanese descent with the nationalities of countries in South America and Southeast Asia who work in these industries are living in the area. The Tokai region accounts for more than half of the foreign nationals of Japanese descent residing in Japan. Against this background, the number of applications submitted by foreign nationals of Japanese descent to the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau is one of the largest in the country.

Here, I would like to talk about the examinations of foreign nationals of Japanese descent for which the Permanent Residence Examination Department to which I am assigned is responsible. When conducting the examinations for foreign nationals of Japanese descent, it is necessary to check the family relationships of each individual. First, foreign nationals of Japanese descent are the descendants of first-generation Japanese nationals who moved to South America or other regions during the Meiji and Taisho eras and built a base for living there. Some of the identification documents are so old that the characters printed on the documents are unclear, and since consideration has to be given to whether their status was valid according to the laws of both the country of nationality and the country of residence at that time, therefore the examination sometimes has to be conducted within the scope of limited information. In the process of the examination based on such a historical background, it is necessary to conduct the examination pursuant to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, but also in light of the Family Register Act and civil laws such as the Act on General Rules Relating to Application of the Laws as well as such laws as the family laws of other countries. For this reason, in conjunction with our regular work, I strive to acquire knowledge about these laws to ensure proper and rigorous examinations based on the latest information.

With the start of the system of further acceptance of fourth-generation foreign nationals of Japanese descent in 2018, the system for foreign nationals to reside in Japan, has been expanding year by year. We, as the ones conducting the examinations, will strive on a daily basis to improve our examination skills so that we are ready to respond to this wave of change.



Chapter 4

Implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program

Section 1 Outline of the Program

The Technical Intern Training Program is a program which accepts people from the developing countries or regions for a certain period and enables them to acquire, increase and attain proficiency in (hereinafter referred to as “acquire” in this Chapter) the skills, techniques or knowledge (hereinafter referred to as “skills”) cultivated in Japan, and contributes to “human resource development” which leads to the development of the country or region etc. through such people utilizing these skills acquired in Japan after they have returned to their home country.

The Technical Intern Training Program established in 1993 was a program which enabled foreign nationals who had acquired skills above a certain level through training, to enter into a new employment contract and to further acquire the skills in a more practical way after they had completed the training at the same institution where they had received the training.

In response to criticism that some of the organizations accepting the trainees and technical intern trainees did not fully understand the original purpose of the program, and were treating them in all essence as low wage workers, a new status of residence of “Technical Intern Training” was established in the Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and Special Act on the Immigration Control of, Inter Alia, Those Who Have Lost Japanese Nationality Pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan, and Other Related Laws enacted in July 2009, and measures have been taken to legally protect the technical intern trainees and stabilize their legal status such as ensuring that the labor laws and regulations will be applied under an employment relationship from the first year of entry into Japan.

However, while there has still been criticism that for example, there are still those who fail to understand the purpose of the program and misunderstand that this is a way of securing inexpensive labor that makes up for the shortage of labor in Japan, thereby resulting in violations of labor-related laws and regulations and human rights violations, on the other hand, requests have been received for expansion of the Technical Intern Training Program such as expansion of the job categories and extension of the technical intern training period.

For this reason, in order to properly implement the technical intern training for foreign nationals and to protect the technical intern trainees, the Technical Intern Training Act incorporating a program for accreditation of technical intern training plan and license of supervising organization, as well as measures to establish the Organization for Technical Intern Training to conduct the administrative affairs thereof, was enacted on November 18, 2016, promulgated on the 28th of the same month, and entered into effect on November 1, 2017.

Section 2

Applications and processing of license of supervising organizations

1 Applications for license of supervising organizations

From November 1, 2017, in order to accept technical intern trainees through the “Association supervised scheme technical intern training”, juridical persons, which intend to become a supervising organization are required to obtain a license of supervising organization from the competent minister (Minister of Justice and Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare). The number of applications and license (cumulative) of supervising organization until 2018 was 2,573 (Reference 35).

2 License of supervising organizations

The number of license (cumulative) of supervising organizations until 2018 was 2,422, of which 1,064 licenses were granted for general supervision business (excellent supervising organizations), and 1,358 licenses were granted for specified supervision business (other supervising organizations) (Reference 35).

Reference 35 Changes in the number of applications and grant of license of supervising organization (Cases)

| | | Year | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Number of applications | | | 2,003 | 2,573 |
| Number of licenses | General supervision business | | 414 | 1,064 |
| | Specified supervision business | | 613 | 1,358 |
| | Total | | 1,027 | 2,422 |

(*) The numbers in the table are cumulative values at the end of each year.

Section 3

Applications and processing of accreditation of the technical intern training plans

1 Applications for accreditation of the technical intern training plans

From November 1, 2017, in order for an implementing organization to accept technical intern trainees, it is necessary for the technical intern training plan prepared for each technical intern trainee to be accredited by the Organization for Technical Intern Training. The number of applications for accreditation of the technical intern training plans in 2018 was 379,077, of which 11,142 applications were for company-arranged scheme technical training plans, and 367,935 applications were for Association supervised scheme technical intern training plans (Reference 36).

2 Number of cases of accreditation of the technical intern training plans

The number of cases of accreditation of the technical intern training plans in 2018 was 378,015, with the number of cases of accreditation of company-arranged scheme technical training plans at 11,119 and the number of cases of Association supervised scheme technical intern training plans at 366,896 (Reference 36).

Reference 36 Changes in the number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan (Cases)

| | | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|---------|
| Number of applications | Company-arranged scheme | 1,032 | 11,142 |
| | Association-supervised scheme | 30,001 | 367,935 |
| | Total | 31,033 | 379,077 |
| Number of accreditations | Company-arranged scheme | 327 | 11,119 |
| | Association-supervised scheme | 4,439 | 366,896 |
| | Total | 4,766 | 378,015 |

Section 4

Responses to Cases of Inappropriate Acceptance

1 Current program

Under the technical intern training program, if there is a violation of the licensing or accreditation criteria, or a violation of the laws or regulations, etc. by a supervising organization or implementing organization, depending on the severity or manner of the violation, the license of the supervising organization or the accreditation of the technical intern training plan may be revoked, an order may be issued for suspension of business (only supervising organizations or improvement), and the name of such organizations may be published. In addition, supervising organizations and implementing organizations whose license or accreditation has been revoked, will not be able to continue with the technical intern training, and will not be allowed to accept new technical intern trainees for the next five years. During 2018, the accreditation of the technical intern training plans for four companies was revoked and the license of one supervising organization was revoked (Reference 37).

Furthermore, the Organization for Technical Intern Training is working to optimize the technical intern training program and protect the technical intern trainees by conducting regular on-site inspections and setting up consultation and reporting countermeasures operated in the native language of the trainees. In 2018, 1,959 consultations were provided in the native language and 33 reports were accepted, and in addition, support was given in 32 cases to enable a technical intern trainee to change the implementing organization, and support was given in 10 cases for accommodation.

Reference 37 Number of administrative dispositions, etc. (2018) (Cases)

| Year | 2018 |
|--|------|
| Revocation of technical intern training plans | 4 |
| Revocation of the license of the supervising organizations | 1 |

2 Former program

With regard to organizations that conducted improper acts in relation to technical intern training based on the old program prior to the enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act, a notification of “misconduct” is issued, and based on the provisions of the Ministry of Justice ordinance, depending on the type of misconduct, such organization will not be able to accept technical intern trainees for 5 years, 3 years or 1 year. In 2018, there were 112 organizations which were notified of “misconduct”.

According to the statistics by type of acceptance arrangement, 1 organizations (0.9%) which had accepted trainees under the Company-arranged scheme and 111 organizations (99.1%) which had accepted trainees under Association-supervised scheme were notified of findings of misconduct, and taking a look by type of accepting organization under Association-supervised scheme, there were 7 supervising organizations (6.3%) and 104 organizations implementing technical intern training (93.7%) (**Reference 38**).

Reference 38 Changes in the number of organizations subject to a finding of misconduct by type of accepting arrangement (Organizations)

| Year | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| Type of Accepting Arrangement | | | | | | |
| Company-arranged scheme | | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Association-supervised scheme | Supervising organization (Primary accepting organization) | 23 | 32 | 35 | 27 | 7 |
| | Implementing organization (Secondary accepting organization) | 218 | 238 | 202 | 183 | 104 |
| Total | | 241 | 273 | 239 | 213 | 112 |

The types of misconduct fell under “nonpayment of wages”, “using or providing forged or altered documents, etc.”, and “collection of deposit”, and these three types accounted for 79.5% of the total (**Reference 39**).

Reference 39 Number of cases of misconduct by category (2018)

(Cases)

| Category | Company-arranged scheme (1 Organizations) | Association-supervised scheme | | Total (112 Organizations) |
|---|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| | | Supervising organization (7 Organizations) | Program implementing organization (104 Organizations) | |
| Violence/threats/confinement | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Confiscation of passport/residence card | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Nonpayment | 1 | 0 | 82 | 82 |
| Human rights infringement | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Document forgery/preparation and use of fraudulent documents | 0 | 4 | 33 | 38 |
| Confiscation of deposit | 0 | 0 | 16 | 16 |
| Engaging in work activities during course study period | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Dual contract | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Discrepancy compared with Technical Intern Training Plan | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Name lending | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Implementing organization's failure to report misconduct/failure to report the impossibility of continuing the program | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Supervising organization's failure to report misconduct, etc. /failure to conduct audit or to establish a consultation system | | 6 | | 6 |
| Frequency of trainees going missing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Employment of illegal foreign workers | 0 | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Violation of labor-related laws and regulations | 0 | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Arrangement with profit purpose | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Repeated misconduct | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Failure to submit a daily report | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Failure to submit a report regarding leaving trainees | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Work outside of the trainees' prescribed work hours | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 2 | 12 | 157 | 171 |

(*) 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.

The number of technical intern trainees who have absconded from the program has been on an upward trend, and this number surged to 9,052 in 2018 while it was 4,847 in 2014. The motive for the disappearance was partly due to improper treatment on the part of the implementing organization, but since the disappearance was often considered to be due to the financial circumstances of the technical intern trainee, as well as striving to exclude unscrupulous sending organizations under the framework of bilateral agreements, the Organization for Technical Intern Training rigorously examines the applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans pertaining to the acceptance of technical intern trainees by sending organizations and supervising organizations that have caused a large number of disappearances, and moreover, on-site inspections of implementing organizations which have caused a disappearance are prioritized (Reference 40).

Reference 40 Changes in the number of technical intern trainees absconding by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 4,847 | 5,803 | 5,058 | 7,089 | 9,052 |
| Viet Nam | 1,022 | 1,705 | 2,025 | 3,751 | 5,801 |
| China | 3,065 | 3,116 | 1,987 | 1,594 | 1,537 |
| Cambodia | | 58 | 284 | 656 | 758 |
| Myanmar | 107 | 336 | 216 | 446 | 345 |
| Indonesia | 276 | 252 | 200 | 242 | 339 |
| Others | 377 | 336 | 346 | 400 | 272 |

(*1) The indication of China in the table does not include Taiwan, China (Hong Kong) or China (others).

(*2) The numbers of Cambodia in 2014 is included in the category of Others respectively.

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 (at that time), the estimated number of foreign nationals who overstayed (those who illegally stay in Japan beyond their authorized period of stay) was 74,167 as of January 1, 2019. This was an increase of 7,669 (11.5%) when compared to the 66,498 as of January 1, 2018, and as of January 1 each year, it has increased for five consecutive years.

The number of deportation procedures against those who overstayed their authorized period of stay in 2018 was larger than in 2017. Meanwhile, as a result of the entire government's efforts toward a tourism-oriented country that have been taken in recent years, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan has increased significantly, and it is thought that this has had a considerable influence on the increase in the number of foreign nationals who overstayed their authorized period of stay.

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

At the time 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, 2019, the largest number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was from R.O.Korea at 12,776 (17.2%), followed by Viet Nam at 11,131 (15.0%), China at 10,119 (13.6%), Thailand at 7,480 (10.1%), and the Philippines at 5,417 (7.3%).

Taking a look at the changes after May 1, 1993, although the number of foreign nationals

newly entering Japan significantly increased owing to visa waiver being implemented with regard to R.O.Korea for those foreign nationals intending to engage in activities under the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor”, the number of those from R.O.Korea overstaying their period of stay has been consistently decreasing since January 1, 1999. Meanwhile, the number of those from Viet Nam increased by 4,371 (64.7%) to 11,131 compared with January 1, 2018, and this number has been increasing for seven consecutive years. Of the illegal residents from Viet Nam staying beyond their authorized period of stay, “Technical Intern Training” accounted for about 50% of the total, and it is thought that these technical intern trainees, planning to engage in illegal work, absconded from the technical intern training site and stayed beyond their authorized period of stay. In addition, regarding foreign nationals from Thailand, although this number continued to decline consistently from May 1, 1993, due to the relaxing of the visa requirements in July 2013, the number of new entrants with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” has been increasing significantly, and saw an increase of 712 (10.5%) to 7,480, compared to January 1, 2018, which was an increase of six consecutive years (References 41, 42).

Reference 41 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

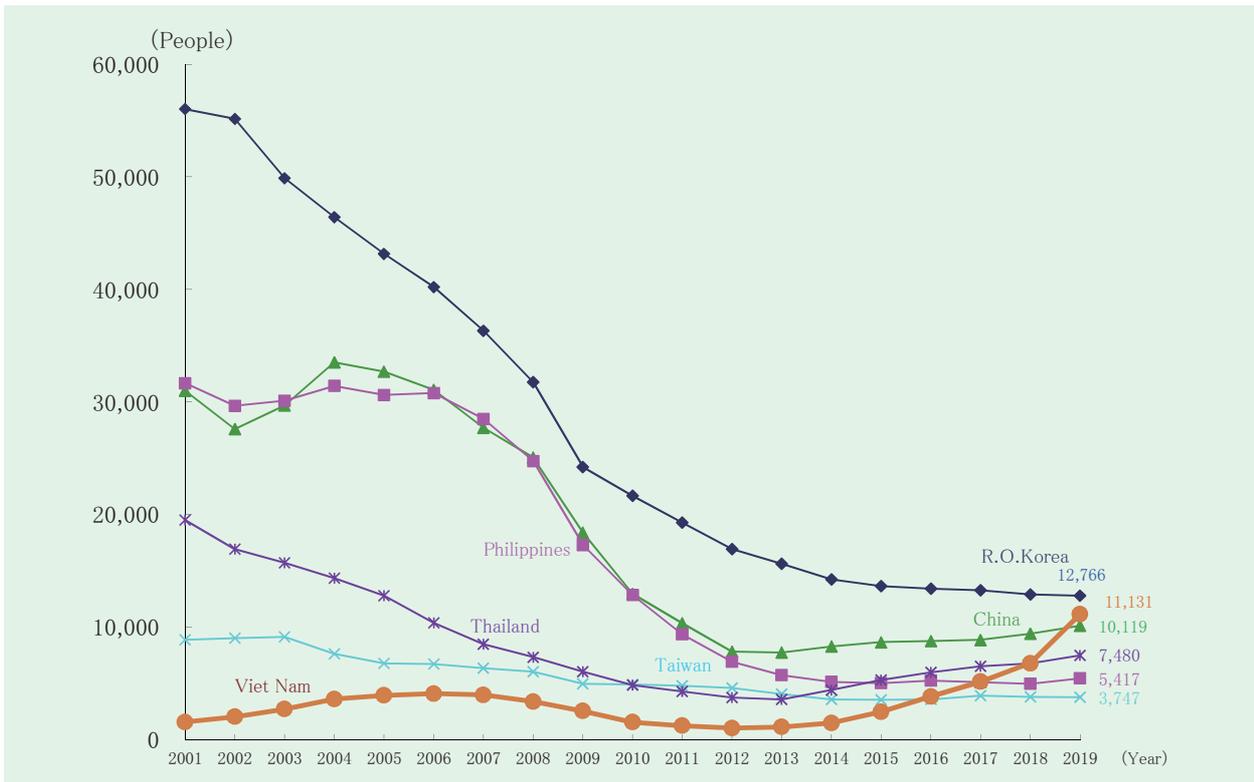
(People)

| 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 | January 1 2005 | January 1 2006 |
| 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 | 207,299 | 193,745 |
| 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 | 43,151 | 40,203 |
| Viet Nam | 852 | 869 | 453 | 448 | 231 | 731 | 880 | 1,092 | 1,550 | 2,021 | 2,697 | 3,582 | 3,916 | 4,071 |
| 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 | 32,683 | 31,074 |
| 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 | 12,787 | 10,352 |
| 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 | 30,619 | 30,777 |
| 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 | 6,760 | 6,696 |
| 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 | 7,169 | 6,926 |
| 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 | 7,431 | 6,822 |
| 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 | 3,075 | 3,587 |
| 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 | 4,905 | 2,762 |
| 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 | 54,803 | 50,475 |

| Nationality/ Region | Date | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 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 | January 1 2016 | January 1 2017 | January 1 2018 | January 1 2019 |
| Total | 170,839 | 149,785 | 113,072 | 91,778 | 78,488 | 67,065 | 62,009 | 59,061 | 60,007 | 62,818 | 65,270 | 66,498 | 74,167 |
| R.O.Korea | 36,321 | 31,758 | 24,198 | 21,660 | 19,271 | 16,927 | 15,607 | 14,233 | 13,634 | 13,412 | 13,265 | 12,876 | 12,766 |
| Viet Nam | 3,959 | 3,362 | 2,527 | 1,531 | 1,221 | 1,014 | 1,110 | 1,471 | 2,453 | 3,809 | 5,137 | 6,760 | 11,131 |
| China | 27,698 | 25,057 | 18,385 | 12,933 | 10,337 | 7,807 | 7,730 | 8,257 | 8,647 | 8,741 | 8,846 | 9,390 | 10,119 |
| Thailand | 8,460 | 7,314 | 6,023 | 4,836 | 4,264 | 3,714 | 3,558 | 4,391 | 5,277 | 5,959 | 6,507 | 6,768 | 7,480 |
| Philippines | 28,491 | 24,741 | 17,287 | 12,842 | 9,329 | 6,908 | 5,722 | 5,117 | 4,991 | 5,240 | 5,082 | 4,933 | 5,417 |
| Taiwan | 6,347 | 6,031 | 4,950 | 4,889 | 4,774 | 4,571 | 4,047 | 3,557 | 3,532 | 3,543 | 3,887 | 3,784 | 3,747 |
| Indonesia | 6,354 | 5,096 | 3,126 | 1,820 | 1,265 | 1,037 | 1,073 | 1,097 | 1,258 | 2,228 | 2,222 | 2,076 | 3,323 |
| Malaysia | 6,397 | 4,804 | 2,986 | 2,661 | 2,442 | 2,237 | 2,192 | 1,819 | 1,788 | 1,763 | 1,761 | 1,784 | 1,808 |
| Singapore | 2,241 | 2,207 | 2,128 | 2,107 | 1,789 | 1,586 | 1,304 | 1,079 | 1,066 | 1,055 | 1,046 | 1,034 | 1,021 |
| Brazil | 2,286 | 2,297 | 1,939 | 1,645 | 1,536 | 1,290 | 1,075 | 1,013 | 988 | 983 | 959 | 976 | 938 |
| Others | 42,285 | 37,118 | 29,523 | 24,854 | 22,260 | 19,974 | 18,591 | 17,027 | 16,373 | 16,085 | 16,558 | 16,117 | 16,417 |

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

Reference 42 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by major nationality/region



(*) It shows the number of foreign nationals overstaying as of January 1 of each year.

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

Taking a look at the foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay as of January 1, 2019 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 2018 to make up the largest number at 47,399 accounting for 63.9% of the total number, followed by “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” at 5,318 (7.2%), “Student” at 4,708 (6.3%), “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” at 4,015 (5.4%) and “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” at 2,946 (4.0%). In addition, when compared to the previous year, while there was an increase in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by 2,807 (6.3%), “Technical Intern Training (ii) (b)” by 1,330 (33.4%), “Technical Intern Training (i) (b)” by 1,121 (38.7%) and “Student” by 608 (14.8%), there was a decline in the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Spouse or Child of Japanese National” by 146 (4.7%) ([Reference 43](#)).

Reference 43 Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by status of residence

(People)

| Status of Residence \ Date | January 1 2013 | January 1 2014 | January 1 2015 | January 1 2016 | January 1 2017 | January 1 2018 | January 1 2019 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Total | 62,009 | 59,061 | 60,007 | 62,818 | 65,270 | 66,498 | 74,167 |
| Temporary Visitor | 43,943 | 41,403 | 41,090 | 42,478 | 44,167 | 44,592 | 47,399 |
| Technical Intern Training (ii) - (b) | 943 | 1,699 | 2,831 | 3,413 | 3,748 | 3,988 | 5,318 |
| Student | 2,847 | 2,777 | 2,806 | 3,422 | 3,807 | 4,100 | 4,708 |
| Technical Intern Training (i) - (b) | 645 | 1,089 | 1,799 | 2,439 | 2,741 | 2,894 | 4,015 |
| Spouse or Child of Japanese National | 4,291 | 3,719 | 3,709 | 3,433 | 3,287 | 3,092 | 2,946 |
| Others | 9,340 | 8,374 | 7,772 | 7,633 | 7,520 | 7,832 | 9,781 |

(*) 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 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 2018, the number of foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced on account of violation of the Immigration Control Act was 16,269, an increase of 2,583 (18.9%) when compared to 2017. Of these, 6,245 were handed over to immigration inspectors as those subject to the departure order system. Although the number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act had been steadily decreasing since 2005, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan owing to the implementation of measures such as visa waiver, and this has contributed to an increase in the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay, and it has increased for the fourth consecutive year.

According to the statistics of the number of foreign nationals by grounds for deportation, the largest number of foreign nationals was deported for overstaying at 14,353 (88.2%), followed by activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted at 476 (2.9%) and criminal offenses at 460 (2.8%). Overstaying continued to account for a predominant percentage (**Reference 44**).

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 Viet Nam at 4,395 (27.0%), followed by China at 4,185 (25.7%) and Thailand at 2,101 (12.9%). These top three countries made up 65.7% of the total (**Reference 45**).

Reference 44 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation

(People)

| Grounds for Deportation \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 10,676 | 12,272 | 13,361 | 13,686 | 16,269 |
| Illegal entry | 844 | 752 | 599 | 577 | 409 |
| Illegal landing | 249 | 268 | 238 | 151 | 140 |
| Activity other than those permitted | 422 | 399 | 511 | 648 | 476 |
| Overstay | 8,274 | 9,982 | 11,198 | 11,502 | 14,353 |
| Criminal offenses | 392 | 397 | 432 | 470 | 460 |
| Others | 495 | 474 | 383 | 338 | 431 |
| Illegal worker | 6,702 | 7,973 | 9,003 | 9,134 | 10,086 |

Reference 45 Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 10,676 | 12,272 | 13,361 | 13,686 | 16,269 |
| Viet Nam | 953 | 1,643 | 2,273 | 2,931 | 4,395 |
| China | 3,975 | 4,311 | 3,979 | 3,901 | 4,185 |
| Thailand | 899 | 1,475 | 1,770 | 2,096 | 2,101 |
| Philippines | 1,414 | 1,467 | 1,452 | 1,310 | 1,692 |
| Indonesia | 268 | 507 | 1,059 | 727 | 850 |
| Nepal | 113 | 146 | 185 | 198 | 374 |
| R.O.Korea | 921 | 704 | 599 | 440 | 353 |
| Brazil | 316 | 296 | 268 | 232 | 275 |
| Turkey | 157 | 124 | 125 | 127 | 209 |
| Uzbekistan | 13 | 7 | 13 | 15 | 154 |
| Others | 1,647 | 1,592 | 1,638 | 1,709 | 1,681 |

(*) "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 2018, the number of illegal entrants^(*) was 409, accounting for 2.5%, a decline of 168 (29.1%) from 2017. Looking at past records, the number increased from 2003 but started to decrease since 2006. The fact that the number of illegal entrants as a percentage of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act is decreasing is one of the reasons to consider that the countermeasures to prevent illegal entry have been quite effective.

(*) 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.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from the Philippines at 128 (31.3%), followed by China at 99 (24.2%) and R.O.Korea at 32 (7.8%) (Reference 46).

According to the statistics by means of transportation used for illegal entry, the number of illegal entrants using aircraft was 332. Though it showed a decline of 150 (31.1%) from 2017, the percentage of illegal entry using aircraft was still high at 81.2%. In addition, the number of illegal entrants using a vessel was 77, accounting for 18.8%, a decline of 18 (18.9%) from 2017 (Reference 47, 48).

Reference 46 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region (People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total | 844 | 752 | 599 | 577 | 409 |
| Philippines | 214 | 166 | 143 | 117 | 128 |
| China | 262 | 211 | 143 | 104 | 99 |
| R.O.Korea | 69 | 50 | 45 | 32 | 32 |
| Thailand | 43 | 31 | 21 | 20 | 23 |
| Iran | 53 | 64 | 76 | 115 | 16 |
| Russia | 6 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 14 |
| Sri Lanka | 28 | 18 | 13 | 24 | 11 |
| Indonesia | 21 | 27 | 29 | 23 | 10 |
| Nigeria | 16 | 13 | 7 | 10 | 10 |
| Peru | 29 | 26 | 29 | 20 | 10 |
| Others | 103 | 140 | 88 | 109 | 56 |

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

Reference 47 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using aircraft by nationality/region (People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total | 640 | 594 | 488 | 482 | 332 |
| Philippines | 208 | 158 | 138 | 114 | 122 |
| China | 112 | 96 | 67 | 48 | 52 |
| Thailand | 40 | 31 | 20 | 20 | 22 |
| Iran | 48 | 61 | 74 | 108 | 16 |
| R.O.Korea | 33 | 22 | 23 | 17 | 13 |
| Others | 199 | 226 | 166 | 175 | 107 |

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

Reference 48 Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using vessel by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total | 204 | 158 | 111 | 95 | 77 |
| China | 150 | 115 | 76 | 56 | 47 |
| R.O.Korea | 36 | 28 | 22 | 15 | 19 |
| Philippines | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Russia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Thailand | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Others | 9 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 2 |

(*) "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 during 2018, 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 permission for landing from an immigration inspector was 140 (0.9%), which was a decrease of 11 (7.3%) from 2017 (**Reference 49**).

Reference 49 Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total | 249 | 268 | 238 | 151 | 140 |
| Turkey | 97 | 90 | 82 | 34 | 33 |
| Russia | 36 | 20 | 16 | 11 | 20 |
| United States of America | 3 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| China | 4 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 10 |
| Sri Lanka | 54 | 95 | 39 | 38 | 10 |
| Cameroon | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 8 |
| Pakistan | 4 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| Others | 49 | 49 | 76 | 34 | 38 |

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

(3) Overstay

Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act during 2018, the number of those who overstayed the authorized period of stay was 14,353 (88.2%), which was an increase of 2,851 (24.8%) from 2017 and still overwhelmingly high.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 3,951 (27.5%), followed by China at 3,819 (26.6%), Thailand at 2,018 (14.1%), the Philippines at 1,401 (9.8%), and Indonesia at 806 (5.6%) (**Reference 50**).

Reference 50 Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total | 8,274 | 9,982 | 11,198 | 11,502 | 14,353 |
| Viet Nam | 780 | 1,422 | 1,994 | 2,515 | 3,951 |
| China | 3,170 | 3,623 | 3,488 | 3,534 | 3,819 |
| Thailand | 797 | 1,389 | 1,699 | 2,017 | 2,018 |
| Philippines | 1,034 | 1,139 | 1,157 | 961 | 1,401 |
| Indonesia | 233 | 465 | 935 | 619 | 806 |
| Nepal | 62 | 63 | 93 | 139 | 335 |
| R.O.Korea | 715 | 559 | 473 | 358 | 269 |
| Brazil | 227 | 227 | 181 | 132 | 182 |
| Turkey | 54 | 30 | 40 | 86 | 170 |
| Uzbekistan | 11 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 150 |
| Others | 1,191 | 1,058 | 1,125 | 1,127 | 1,252 |

(*) "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. Of the foreign nationals against whom deportation procedures were enforced for being in violation of the Immigration Control Act in 2018, the number of foreign nationals against whom the procedures were enforced because of the activity other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted was 476 (2.9%), which was a decrease of 172 (26.5%) from 2017.

Accordingly to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from Viet Nam at 234 (49.2%), followed by China at 47 (9.9%) and the Philippines at 39 (8.2%), and these top three countries accounted for 67.2% of the total ([Reference 51](#)).

Reference 51 Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total | 422 | 399 | 511 | 648 | 476 |
| Viet Nam | 110 | 104 | 154 | 280 | 234 |
| China | 167 | 145 | 91 | 41 | 47 |
| Philippines | 24 | 41 | 24 | 124 | 39 |
| Thailand | 13 | 8 | 8 | 20 | 25 |
| Cambodia | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 24 |
| Nepal | 34 | 31 | 67 | 47 | 22 |
| India | 1 | 0 | 4 | 7 | 18 |
| Indonesia | 9 | 10 | 76 | 70 | 18 |
| Myanmar | 0 | 0 | 17 | 19 | 16 |
| R.O.Korea | 48 | 35 | 28 | 7 | 8 |
| Others | 15 | 25 | 37 | 30 | 25 |

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



Detection of violator

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 2018, the number of those who were considered to be illegally working was 10,086 (62.0%). 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, have a serious negative impact on a fair labor market as they, for example, take away employment opportunities from Japanese workers. 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 Services Agency promotes crackdown on foreign nationals who encourage illegal work.

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

The illegal foreign workers came from 55 countries/regions, mainly from neighboring Asian countries, which indicates that foreign nationals from various countries/regions are still working illegally.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, illegal workers from China made up the largest number at 3,112 (30.9%), followed by Viet Nam at 3,035 (30.1%), Thailand at 1,868 (18.5%), the Philippines at 660 (6.5%) and Indonesia at 594 (5.9%). These top five countries represented 91.9% of the total.

Looking at the changes over the past few years, China still accounts for a high proportion, but the proportion of Viet Nam is also increasing ([Reference 52](#)).

Reference 52 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region (People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total | | 6,702 | 7,973 | 9,003 | 9,134 | 10,086 |
| | Male | 4,160 | 5,167 | 6,093 | 6,120 | 6,754 |
| | Female | 2,542 | 2,806 | 2,910 | 3,014 | 3,332 |
| China | | 2,819 | 3,266 | 3,080 | 2,915 | 3,112 |
| | Male | 1,869 | 2,166 | 2,130 | 1,982 | 2,170 |
| | Female | 950 | 1,100 | 950 | 933 | 942 |
| Viet Nam | | 701 | 1,160 | 1,638 | 2,152 | 3,035 |
| | Male | 454 | 873 | 1,246 | 1,657 | 2,259 |
| | Female | 247 | 287 | 392 | 495 | 776 |
| Thailand | | 681 | 1,215 | 1,536 | 1,855 | 1,868 |
| | Male | 384 | 699 | 850 | 966 | 903 |
| | Female | 297 | 516 | 686 | 889 | 965 |
| Philippines | | 763 | 756 | 830 | 711 | 660 |
| | Male | 308 | 341 | 426 | 366 | 369 |
| | Female | 455 | 415 | 404 | 345 | 291 |
| Indonesia | | 231 | 396 | 819 | 588 | 594 |
| | Male | 193 | 338 | 699 | 514 | 498 |
| | Female | 38 | 58 | 120 | 74 | 96 |
| R.O.Korea | | 606 | 435 | 359 | 239 | 169 |
| | Male | 237 | 167 | 167 | 118 | 69 |
| | Female | 369 | 268 | 192 | 121 | 100 |
| Mongolia | | 101 | 81 | 133 | 146 | 117 |
| | Male | 72 | 51 | 90 | 95 | 70 |
| | Female | 29 | 30 | 43 | 51 | 47 |
| Nepal | | 75 | 68 | 95 | 77 | 71 |
| | Male | 47 | 51 | 76 | 52 | 52 |
| | Female | 28 | 17 | 19 | 25 | 19 |
| Brazil | | 68 | 77 | 46 | 31 | 55 |
| | Male | 55 | 64 | 37 | 28 | 46 |
| | Female | 13 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 9 |
| Sri Lanka | | 119 | 57 | 68 | 53 | 42 |
| | Male | 112 | 54 | 67 | 48 | 41 |
| | Female | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Others | | 538 | 462 | 399 | 367 | 363 |
| | Male | 429 | 363 | 305 | 294 | 277 |
| | Female | 109 | 99 | 94 | 73 | 86 |

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

(3) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Gender

The composition of illegal foreign workers by gender was 6,754 males (67.0%) and 3,332 females (33.0%).

(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 were agricultural workers at 2,504 (24.8%), followed by factory workers at 1,875 (18.6%) and construction workers at 1,835 (18.2%).

In addition, according to the statistics by gender, the largest number of males worked as construction workers, followed by agricultural workers then factory workers, while the largest number of females worked as agricultural workers, followed by factory workers, then worker in other service industry ([Reference 53](#)).

Reference 53 Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work

(People)

| Job Categories | | Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------------------------------|--------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total | | | 6,702 | 7,973 | 9,003 | 9,134 | 10,086 |
| | Male | | 4,160 | 5,167 | 6,093 | 6,120 | 6,754 |
| | Female | | 2,542 | 2,806 | 2,910 | 3,014 | 3,332 |
| Agricultural worker | | | 946 | 1,744 | 2,215 | 2,501 | 2,504 |
| | Male | | 632 | 1,113 | 1,438 | 1,585 | 1,480 |
| | Female | | 314 | 631 | 777 | 916 | 1,024 |
| Factory worker | | | 1,230 | 1,342 | 1,410 | 1,411 | 1,875 |
| | Male | | 769 | 857 | 1,008 | 942 | 1,236 |
| | Female | | 461 | 485 | 402 | 469 | 639 |
| Construction worker | | | 1,336 | 1,638 | 1,713 | 1,548 | 1,835 |
| | Male | | 1,323 | 1,622 | 1,697 | 1,529 | 1,818 |
| | Female | | 13 | 16 | 16 | 19 | 17 |
| Other labor worker | | | 525 | 686 | 1,076 | 1,059 | 998 |
| | Male | | 424 | 543 | 837 | 811 | 794 |
| | Female | | 101 | 143 | 239 | 248 | 204 |
| Worker in other service industry | | | 413 | 425 | 453 | 495 | 589 |
| | Male | | 127 | 118 | 127 | 152 | 213 |
| | Female | | 286 | 307 | 326 | 343 | 376 |
| Attendants such as bar hostess | | | 629 | 523 | 482 | 369 | 337 |
| | Male | | 41 | 33 | 27 | 25 | 7 |
| | Female | | 588 | 490 | 455 | 344 | 330 |
| Others | | | 1,623 | 1,615 | 1,654 | 1,751 | 1,948 |
| | Male | | 844 | 881 | 959 | 1,076 | 1,206 |
| | Female | | 779 | 734 | 695 | 675 | 742 |

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

Illegal foreign workers are known to be working in 45 prefectures throughout Japan. According to the statistics on the place of work of the illegal foreign workers by prefecture, Ibaraki prefecture had the largest number at 1,975 (19.6%) as in 2017, followed by Chiba prefecture at 1,666 (16.5%), Tokyo at 1,437 (14.2%), Aichi prefecture at 912 (9.0%) and Saitama prefecture at 860 (8.5%) ([Reference 54](#)).

According to the statistics by region, the number of illegal foreign workers in Tokyo and the six prefectures (Kanagawa, Chiba, Saitama, Ibaraki, Gunma, and Tochigi) in the Kanto district was 7,224 (71.6%), 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 1,421 (14.1%). Illegal foreign workers in the Kanto and Chubu districts making up 85.7% (8,645) of the total accounted for a substantial percentage of the total number of illegal foreign workers.

Reference 54 Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area (People)

| Prefecture \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total | 6,702 | 7,973 | 9,003 | 9,134 | 10,086 |
| Ibaraki | 1,047 | 1,714 | 2,038 | 2,213 | 1,975 |
| Chiba | 955 | 1,238 | 1,559 | 1,505 | 1,666 |
| Tokyo | 1,175 | 1,086 | 1,187 | 1,184 | 1,437 |
| Aichi | 794 | 757 | 891 | 811 | 912 |
| Saitama | 460 | 595 | 716 | 765 | 860 |
| Kanagawa | 656 | 638 | 602 | 446 | 556 |
| Gunma | 155 | 451 | 453 | 453 | 456 |
| Osaka | 273 | 252 | 226 | 294 | 317 |
| Tochigi | 109 | 193 | 224 | 195 | 274 |
| Hyogo | 184 | 104 | 131 | 112 | 209 |
| Others | 894 | 945 | 976 | 1,156 | 1,424 |

4 Outline of Decisions on Violations

(1) Receipt and 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

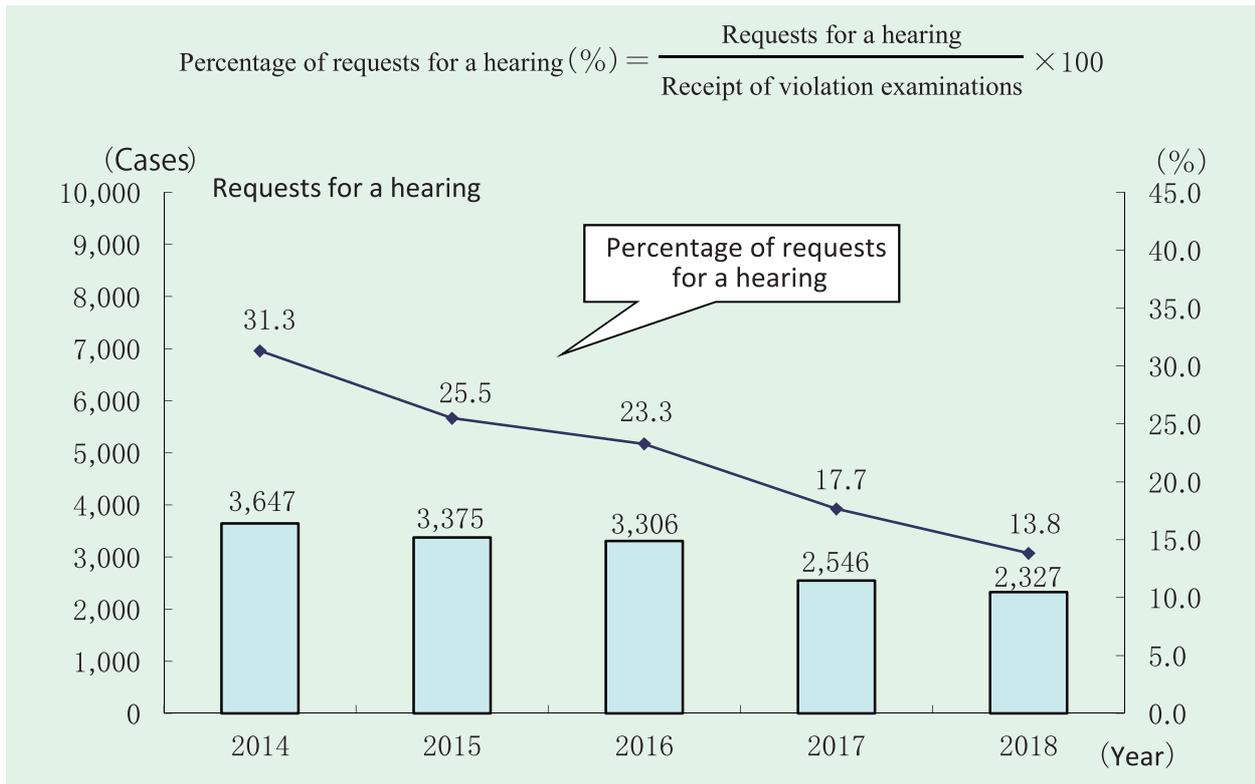
The number of cases which underwent an examination of violations in 2018 was 16,827, which has continued to increase since 2017 ([Reference 55](#)).

Reference 55 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 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Violation examination by immigration inspector | Receipt | | 11,645 (670) | 13,233 (594) | 14,198 (484) | 14,407 (414) | 16,827 (402) |
| | Completed | Found not to fall under one of the reasons for deportation | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| | | Issuance of written deportation order | 4,482 | 5,409 | 6,008 | 6,723 | 7,736 |
| | | Request for hearing | 3,647 | 3,375 | 3,306 | 2,546 | 2,327 |
| | | Issuance of written departure order | 2,592 | 3,573 | 4,101 | 4,423 | 6,223 |
| | Not completed, others | 924 | 871 | 780 | 713 | 540 | |
| Hearing by special inquiry officer | Receipt | | 4,282 (527) | 3,871 (476) | 3,945 (568) | 3,273 (653) | 2,946 (547) |
| | Completed | Error in the findings | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | | Issuance of written deportation order | 74 | 77 | 145 | 159 | 114 |
| | | Filing of an objection | 3,596 | 3,163 | 3,078 | 2,522 | 2,128 |
| | | Issuance of written departure order | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Not completed, others | 612 | 630 | 722 | 591 | 704 | | |
| Decision of the Minister of Justice | Receipt | | 3,936 (297) | 3,526 (357) | 3,478 (376) | 3,352 (818) | 2,966 (822) |
| | Completed | Objection with reason | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | | Objection without reason | 3,544 | 3,110 | 2,588 | 2,415 | 2,331 |
| | | Issuance of written departure order | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Not completed, others | 391 | 416 | 889 | 936 | 635 | |

(*) 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 an examination of the violation in 2018 was 2,327 accounting for 13.8% of the total number of cases which underwent an examination of the violation, a decline of 219 (8.6%) from 2017 ([Reference 55, 56](#)).

Reference 56 Changes in the number and percentage of requests for a hearing

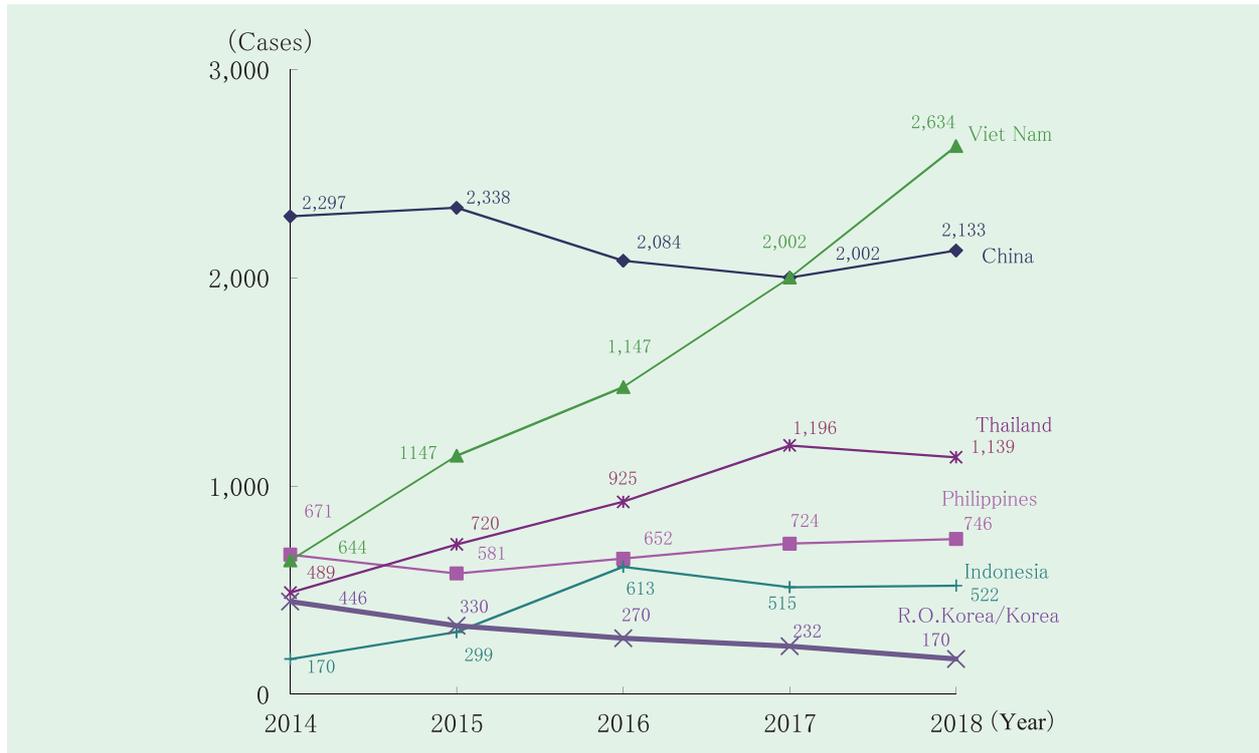
The number of objections filed by foreign nationals who were not satisfied with the decision made by the special inquiry officer at the hearing was 2,128 in 2018, a decline of 394 (15.6%) from 2017 ([Reference 55](#)).

(2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order

The number of written deportation orders issued in 2018 was 8,865. According to the statistics by ground for deportation, the cases of overstay amounted to 6,658, accounting for 75.1% of the total, while the percentage of cases of illegal entry was 4.1% ([Reference 57](#)).

Reference 57 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation

| Grounds for Deportation | (Cases) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Total | | 5,821 | 6,589 | 7,241 | 8,130 | 8,865 |
| Overstay | | 3,574 | 4,218 | 4,981 | 5,872 | 6,658 |
| Illegal entry | | 733 | 638 | 495 | 503 | 365 |
| Illegal landing | | 160 | 223 | 233 | 140 | 93 |
| Activity other than those permitted | | 405 | 374 | 497 | 644 | 480 |
| Criminal offenses | | 404 | 472 | 428 | 411 | 426 |
| Others | | 545 | 664 | 607 | 560 | 843 |

Reference 58 Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/region

(3) Provisional Release

The number of cases where foreign nationals who had been detained due to a written detention order were provisionally released in 2018 was 812, a decrease of 110 (11.9%) compared to 2017. The number of foreign nationals detained under a written deportation order who were granted provisional release was 523, a decrease of 299 (36.4%) from 2017 (**Reference 59**).

Reference 59 Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release (Cases)

| Type of Order \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|
| By written detention order | 1,293 | 1,293 | 1,491 | 922 | 812 |
| By written deportation order | 926 | 1,063 | 1,160 | 822 | 523 |

(4) Special Permission to Stay in Japan

The number of cases in which received special permission to stay in Japan from the Minister of Justice in 2018 was 1,371, an increase of 116 (9.2%) when compared to 2017.

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.

Looking at the foreign nationals who came under the grounds of deportation but were granted special permission to stay in Japan, the grounds for the largest number in 2018 was staying beyond the authorized period of stay at 970 (70.8%), followed by illegal entry and illegal landing at 143 (10.4%). Overstaying, illegal entry and illegal landing accounted for 81.2% of the total (**Reference 60**).

Reference 60 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation (Cases)

| Grounds for Deportation \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 2,291 | 2,023 | 1,552 | 1,255 | 1,371 |
| Overstay | 1,643 | 1,504 | 1,106 | 868 | 970 |
| Illegal entry/Illegal landing | 223 | 155 | 130 | 128 | 143 |
| Criminal offenses etc. | 425 | 364 | 316 | 259 | 258 |

According to statistics by nationality/region in 2018, the largest number of foreign nationals who were granted special permission to stay in Japan came from the Philippines at 349 (25.5%), followed by China at 248 (18.1%), R.O.Korea/Korea combined at 115 (8.4%), Viet Nam at 102 (7.4%), and Thailand at 63 (4.6%) (**Reference 61**).

Reference 61 Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region (Cases)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 2,291 | 2,023 | 1,552 | 1,255 | 1,371 |
| Philippines | 581 | 517 | 413 | 270 | 349 |
| China | 421 | 393 | 284 | 210 | 248 |
| R.O.Korea/Korea | 286 | 222 | 166 | 125 | 115 |
| Viet Nam | 100 | 84 | 84 | 101 | 102 |
| Thailand | 93 | 104 | 79 | 72 | 63 |
| Others | 810 | 703 | 526 | 477 | 494 |

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

5 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals

The number of deportees in 2018 was 9,369, which was an increase of 1,224 (15.0%) when compared to 2017.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number of deportees was from Viet Nam at 2,698 (28.8%), followed by China at 2,152 (23.0%), Thailand at 1,167 (12.5%), the Philippines at 893 (9.5%), and Indonesia at 532 (5.7%) (**Reference 62**).

Reference 62 Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 5,542 | 6,174 | 7,014 | 8,145 | 9,369 |
| Viet Nam | 627 | 1,064 | 1,412 | 2,038 | 2,698 |
| China | 2,282 | 2,296 | 2,058 | 1,954 | 2,152 |
| Thailand | 483 | 707 | 914 | 1,224 | 1,167 |
| Philippines | 616 | 593 | 618 | 705 | 893 |
| Indonesia | 159 | 287 | 561 | 549 | 532 |
| R.O.Korea | 456 | 328 | 288 | 248 | 209 |
| Nepal | 48 | 82 | 113 | 196 | 198 |
| Sri Lanka | 123 | 69 | 115 | 127 | 148 |
| Brazil | 76 | 65 | 74 | 94 | 124 |
| Turkey | 48 | 49 | 62 | 70 | 116 |
| Others | 624 | 634 | 799 | 940 | 1,132 |

(*) “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

Reference 63 Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation

(People)

| Measure of Deportation \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 5,542 | 6,174 | 7,014 | 8,145 | 9,369 |
| Voluntary departure | 5,228 | 5,853 | 6,575 | 7,622 | 8,755 |
| Deportation in accordance with Article 59 | 47 | 49 | 63 | 68 | 69 |
| Individual deportation at the expense of the government | 203 | 206 | 308 | 385 | 470 |
| Group deportation at the expense of the government | 32 | 22 | 30 | 43 | 47 |
| Others | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons | 32 | 43 | 38 | 27 | 28 |

(*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 the deportees' home country.

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

Of the deportees, the number of those deported at their own expense stood at 8,755 (93.4%), which was an increase of 1,133 (14.9%) when compared to 2017 (**References 63, 64**).

The Immigration Services Agency deports foreign nationals issued with a written deportation order 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 Services Agency not only enforces the deportation procedures but also instructs deportees to make contact with relevant people in Japan or their home country in order to ask for assistance such as financial assistance for deportation. In cases where deportees do not possess a passport, the Immigration Services Agency asks foreign diplomatic establishments in Japan for the early issuance of a passport for the deportee.

Reference 64 Changes in the number of deportees through voluntary departure by nationality/region

(People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 5,228 | 5,853 | 6,575 | 7,622 | 8,755 |
| Viet Nam | 608 | 1,046 | 1,358 | 1,968 | 2,600 |
| China | 2,257 | 2,262 | 2,015 | 1,912 | 2,093 |
| Thailand | 467 | 699 | 909 | 1,185 | 1,156 |
| Philippines | 578 | 555 | 578 | 653 | 801 |
| Indonesia | 154 | 277 | 552 | 530 | 511 |
| R.O.Korea | 448 | 311 | 267 | 229 | 192 |
| Nepal | 45 | 64 | 96 | 178 | 174 |
| Sri Lanka | 91 | 67 | 77 | 98 | 121 |
| Trukey | 32 | 29 | 37 | 59 | 101 |
| Malaysia | 21 | 50 | 34 | 62 | 95 |
| Others | 527 | 493 | 652 | 748 | 911 |

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

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

As foreign nationals, who are in violation of the Immigration Control Act tend to stay for a longer period and have more diversified lifestyles than before. There are deportees who do not depart at the expense of the foreign national as they refuse deportation for various reasons, cannot afford the travel expenses for return to their home country, or suffer from illness. Of these foreign nationals, the number of those deported at the expense of the government in consideration of individual circumstances, etc. stood at 517 (5.5%) in 2018, which was an increase of 89 (20.8%) from 2017.

Moreover, in 2018, in order to implement safe and secure deportations, 47 foreign nationals were deported with a private chartered plane ([Reference 63](#)).

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

A carrier who operates an aircraft or vessel that has transported a foreign national who does not meet the requirements for landing is responsible for deporting the deportee 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 2018 was 69 (0.7%), an increase of 1 (1.5%) from 2017 ([Reference 63](#)).

6 Departure Orders**(1) Investigation into Violations**

The number of foreign nationals whose cases were handed over from immigration control

(*) Carriers are 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 written exclusion 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.

officers to immigration inspectors through the departure order procedures was 6,245 in 2018, accounting for 38.4% of the total number of foreign nationals in violation of the Immigration Control Act.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China at 1,877 (30.1%), followed by Viet Nam at 1,677 (26.9%), Thailand at 896 (14.3%), the Philippines at 672 (10.8%) and Indonesia at 360 (5.8%), and these top five countries accounted for 87.8% of the total ([Reference 65](#)).

Reference 65 Changes in the number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region (People)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 2,587 | 3,571 | 4,094 | 4,410 | 6,245 |
| China | 1,283 | 1,660 | 1,695 | 1,714 | 1,877 |
| Viet Nam | 196 | 387 | 629 | 867 | 1,677 |
| Thailand | 310 | 641 | 765 | 839 | 896 |
| Philippines | 225 | 299 | 322 | 289 | 672 |
| Indonesia | 81 | 187 | 257 | 240 | 360 |
| Nepal | 15 | 13 | 23 | 49 | 215 |
| Uzbekistan | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 89 |
| R.O.Korea | 214 | 169 | 154 | 116 | 86 |
| Mongolia | 60 | 50 | 70 | 77 | 65 |
| Myanmar | 11 | 10 | 7 | 50 | 39 |
| Others | 187 | 152 | 163 | 161 | 269 |

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

(2) Examination

A. Receipt and Processing of Cases

The number of cases of departure orders in 2018 was 6,245, accounting for 37.1% of the total number of cases of examination of the violation. This represented an increase of 1,835 (41.6%) when compared to 2017.

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

B. Issuance of a Written Departure Order

The number of cases in which were issued with a written departure order having been determined to be eligible for a departure order, was 6,223 in 2018.

According to the statistics by nationality/region, the largest number was from China at 1,872, accounting for 30.1% of the total, followed by Viet Nam at 1,668 (26.8%), Thailand at 894 (14.4%), the Philippines at 671 (10.8%), and Indonesia at 356 (5.7%), and the top five countries accounted for 87.8% of the total ([Reference 66](#)).

Reference 66 Changes in the number of issuances of written departure orders by nationality/region

(Cases)

| Nationality/Region \ Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total | 2,592 | 3,573 | 4,101 | 4,423 | 6,223 |
| China | 1,282 | 1,662 | 1,701 | 1,721 | 1,872 |
| Viet Nam | 203 | 387 | 627 | 872 | 1,668 |
| Thailand | 310 | 641 | 766 | 841 | 894 |
| Philippines | 224 | 298 | 326 | 288 | 671 |
| Indonesia | 81 | 188 | 256 | 236 | 356 |
| Nepal | 15 | 13 | 23 | 50 | 215 |
| R.O.Korea/Korea | 214 | 169 | 154 | 117 | 86 |
| Mongolia | 59 | 51 | 69 | 78 | 65 |
| Brazil | 9 | 9 | 17 | 13 | 19 |
| Peru | 11 | 16 | 20 | 13 | 17 |
| Others | 184 | 139 | 142 | 194 | 360 |

(*) "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 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 Services Agency has further improved and strengthened its organizational structure and investigation system, and has endeavored to ensure proper implementation of the refugee recognition system to handle applications for refugee status quickly and appropriately.

Section 1

Applications and Processing for Recognition of Refugee Status

1 Application for Recognition of Refugee Status

In 2018, the total number of applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status in Japan was 10,493, which was a significant decrease of 9,136 (46.5%) when compared to 2017 ([Reference 67](#)).

Reference 67 Changes in the number of applications for recognition of refugee status

| | (People) | | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Applications | 5,000 | 7,586 | 10,901 | 19,629 | 10,493 |

The number of nationalities/regions of the applicants was 74, and the major nationalities/regions from which applicants came were in descending order: Nepal at 1,713 (16.3%), Sri Lanka at 1,551 (14.8%), Cambodia at 961 (9.2%), the Philippines at 860 (8.2%), Pakistan at 720 (6.9%), Myanmar at 656 (6.3%), Indonesia at 634 (6.0%), Turkey at 563 (5.4%), India at 549 (5.2%), and Bangladesh at 542 (5.2%).

The applicants at the time of their applications were composed of 10,085 (96.1%) legal residents and 408 (3.9%) illegal residents.

Among the applicants, 749 applicants accounting for 7.1% had applied for recognition of refugee status in the past. These applicants comprised of 518 legal residents and 231 illegal residents.

2 Processing of Applications for Recognition of Refugee Status

The total number of applicants whose application for recognition of refugee status was processed in 2018 was 13,502, an increase of 2,129 (18.7%) from 2017. The number of applicants who were recognized as refugees was 38^(*1) while the number of applicants who were denied recognition of refugee status was 10,541. The number of applicants who withdrew their applications and others was 2,923.

Flexible treatment taking into account various circumstances is accorded within the framework of immigration and residence management administration even to those who do not fall under the definition of refugee as stipulated in the Refugee Convention and are not recognized as refugees, for example, those who will find it difficult to return to their home country due to the circumstances of their home country or those for whom there are special circumstances necessitating permission to stay in Japan to be granted, and 40 foreign nationals were permitted to stay in 2018 (Reference 68).

Reference 68 Changes in the number of foreign nationals protected as refugees, etc.

(People)

| Division | | Year | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | | 1978~2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| Refugee Status | Recognized as a treaty refugee | 622 | 11 | 27 | 28 | 20 | 42 |
| | Refugees for resettlement | 11,382 | 23 | 19 | 18 | 29 | 22 |
| Others | | 2,257 | 110 | 79 | 97 | 45 | 40 |
| Total | | 14,261 | 144 | 125 | 143 | 94 | 104 |

- (*1) The number of persons recognized as treaty 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 (2010~2014) and Malaysia (2015~) (their legal protection was based on the approval of the Cabinet on December 16, 2008, and January 24, 2015). 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" in and after 2010 indicate the people who fall under category (2). The number includes those who were recognized as treaty refugees after resettling in Japan.
- (*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 Act.

3 Implementation of the System for Permission for Provisional Stay

The number of foreign nationals who were granted permission for provisional stay was 38 in 2018, an increase of 3 (8.6%) from 2017.

The number of those who underwent an examination as to whether or not they should be granted permission for provisional stay was 977. 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

(*1) As for the number of applicants who were recognized as refugees as a result of the request for an administrative review, see Section 2, Subsection 2.

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

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): 665 persons.

- (ii) There had been reasonable grounds to believe that the foreign national will flee: 301 persons.
- (iii) Applicants had already received a deportation order: 378 persons.

Section 2

Request for an Administrative Review (Appeal)

1 Number of Request for an Administrative Review

The number of persons who made a request for an administrative review^(*) of a disposition denying recognition of refugee status in 2018 was 9,021, and this was an increase of 491 (5.8%) compared with 2017 ([Reference 69](#)).

2 Processing of the Appeal

The number of the appeals processed in 2018 was 8,171, an increase of 3,780 (86.1%) compared with 2017. The breakdown included 4 persons (1 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be with reasonable grounds (one who was recognized as a refugee), 6,013 persons (3,084 in the previous year) whose appeals were found to be without any reasonable grounds, and 2,154 persons (1,306 in the previous year) who withdrew their appeals ([Reference 69](#)).

Reference 69 Changes in the number of appeals, and determinations of the Minister of Justice

(People)

| Division | | Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Not recognized as a refugee | | | 2,906 | 3,411 | 7,492 | 9,736 | 10,541 |
| Appeal | | | 2,533 | 3,120 | 5,197 | 8,530 | 9,021 |
| Processing | With reason | | 5 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| | Without reason | | 1,171 | 1,763 | 2,112 | 3,084 | 6,013 |
| | Withdrawn, etc. | | 344 | 504 | 822 | 1,306 | 2,154 |

Section 3

Application and Processing of Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

In 2018, 55 foreign nationals applied for landing permission for temporary refuge (hereinafter referred to as “temporary refuge landing permission”) in Japan, which was a decline of 43

(*) Appeals against dispositions that did not recognize the applicant as a refugee were changed from the “filing of an objection” to a “request for administrative review” pursuant to the Amended Immigration Control Act which came into effect on April 1, 2016.

compared to 2017. The breakdown for the processing of the applications was two cases given permission, 49 cases denied permission and four cases withdrawn, etc.

Reference 70 Changes in the number of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge

(People)

| Year | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Applications | 84 | 171 | 110 | 98 | 55 |
| Permission | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Disapproval | 83 | 166 | 104 | 94 | 49 |
| Withdrawn, etc. | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 4 |

(*) The processing number in 2017 includes the number of application in 2016 which was processed in 2017.

Reference 71 Processing status of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (2018)

(People)

| Nationality | Applications Total | Breakdown of disposal | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | | Permission | Disapproval | Termination/ Withdrawn | Discontinuance |
| Yemen | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Iran | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| India | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Egypt | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Ghana | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Cameroon | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| R.O.Korea | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Saudi Arabia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Sri Lanka | 14 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| China | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Turkey | 7 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Nigeria | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pakistan | 8 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Bangladesh | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| France | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Lesotho | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 55 | 2 | 49 | 4 | 0 |

Article**At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration****(Voice of a refugee inquirer)****(Permanent Resident Inspection Department, Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau: Deki Tomomi)**

As a refugee inquirer, my work requires specialized knowledge and skills to listen to the contents of the claims made by the applicants for refugee recognition in detail and to collect and analyze information about their country of origin.

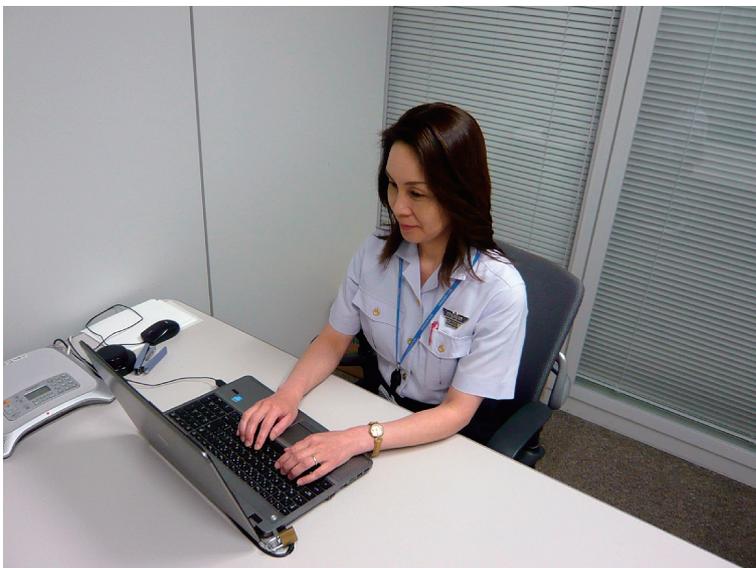
Due to a revision of the operations of the refugee recognition system in recent years, even at the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau (the Osaka Bureau) where I work, there has been a downward trend in the number of applicants for refugee recognition which attempt to abuse or misuse the system for the purpose of working in Japan from Asian countries which had been on the rise, but the Osaka Bureau tends to have a large number of applicants from Africa.

Interviews with the applicants for recognition of refugee status (investigation into the facts) require a specific grasp of the contents of the statements, but the applicant's statements are often complicated by the historical background of their home country, and in particular, when it comes to the African countries, even if applicants are from the same country, the content of their claims will vary greatly if their ethnicity or religion, etc. is different. Therefore, in order to correctly understand the applicant's statements, it is necessary to understand circumstances related to race, religion, culture and politics, etc., taking into account the historical background of the country. In addition, since interviews often involve listening to sensitive content such as the severe experiences of applicants who have fled from their home countries, it is essential to create an environment that makes it as easy as possible for applicants to give their statements, and I feel that this differs from the other immigration procedures such as the landing examinations or deportation procedures.

In order to create the proper environment for such particular refugee recognition procedures, I consider the selection of an appropriate interpreter, and bear in mind to conduct the interview with a calm demeanor while carefully observing the applicant's expressions. In

addition, since it is important to accurately check the facts in news articles and documents when evaluating the content of the applicant's claims, I use the Internet to try and grasp such information and the world situation that changes on a daily basis.

A small group of four people, including myself, is in charge of the work related to refugee recognition procedures at the Osaka Bureau. As well as investigating the facts, I am



also engaged in a wide range of tasks, including manning the application desk and handling inquiries at the counter and I am busy with various tasks every day, but I am always aware that I have the responsibility to conduct accurate investigations promptly in order to be able to quickly protect genuine refugees, and in the future as well, I would like to continue my efforts as a refugee inquirer to improve my specialized knowledge and skills.

Chapter 7

Measures Against Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Foreign Victims of Domestic Violence

Section 1

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, human trafficking 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 the entire government has 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. In May 2019, the “Conference for the Promotion of Measures against Trafficking in Persons” comprising the competent ministers in charge of measures against human trafficking held its fifth meeting, and the relevant government ministries and agencies led by the Conference are currently promoting government-wide efforts against the trafficking of persons.

In addition, based on the “Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking in Persons 2014”, the Immigration Services Agency 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 Services Agency 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 of 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 (at that time) implemented procedures for protection as victims of trafficking in persons (including support to return to their home country) was 9 in 2018 (20 persons in the previous year). According to

the statistics by nationality/region, 5 victims came from the Philippines (10 in the previous year), 4 victims came from Thailand (8 in the previous year).

The number of victims who had a status of residence out of the total of 9 victims was 4 persons (10 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 5 persons (10 persons 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 ([Reference 72](#)).

The number of victims has declined significantly since 2005, when the Immigration Services Agency first started collecting statistics and offered protection to 115 victims, and the number has been fluctuating in recent years with around 20 victims at most. This is thought to be because the entire government has been working together on measures under the Action Plan 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 landing criteria pertaining to the status of residence of “Entertainer” made in the same year and following years and the implementation of strict landing examinations have had a certain level of effect ([Reference 73](#)).

Reference 72 Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2018)

(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 | 1(1) | 5 |
| Thailand | 0 | 4(4) | 4 |
| Total | 4 | 5(5) | 9 |

- (*1) The breakdown by status of residence of foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence was “Spouse or Child of Japanese National”, 2 persons; and “Entertainer”, 2 persons.
 (*2) The type of violation of the foreign nationals granted special permission to stay was “illegal overstaying”, 5 persons.
 (*3) The breakdown by the status of residence, before overstaying the authorized period of stay were “Temporary Visitor”, 4 persons and “Entertainer”, 1 person.

Reference 73 Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons

(People)

| Breakdown | Year | 2005 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|--|------|------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Total | | 115 | 9 | 26 | 21 | 20 | 9 |
| Foreign nationals previously in possession of a status of residence | | 68 | 5 | 15 | 11 | 10 | 4 |
| Violators of the Immigration Control Act (Special permission to stay in Japan) | | 47 (47) | 4 (4) | 11 (11) | 10 (10) | 10 (10) | 5 (5) |

3 Foreign Nationals Deported for Committing Trafficking in Persons^(*1)

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 (at that time) as perpetrators of human trafficking in 2018 (1 persons in the previous year). Their nationality was the Philippines and Brazil.

Section 2 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 Services Agency 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 of 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 Services Agency 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 Services Agency 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”^(*2) was formulated by the relevant ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Justice, based on this law. In light of this basic policy, the Immigration Services Agency 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, the Immigration Services Agency, taking into full consideration the fact that the victim has been placed in a harsh situation both physically and mentally, deals appropriately according to the

(*1) By 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).

(*2) 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.

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 Services Agency 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 2018 was 108 (Reference 74, 75).

The Immigration Services Agency took into account the individual situations of the victims and permitted in most of the cases extension of the period of stay or granted special permission to stay.

Reference 74 Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2018) (People)

| Nationality/Region | Division | Residence Procedures | Deportation Procedures | Consultations | Others | Total |
|--------------------------|----------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------|-------|
| Philippines | | 43 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 55 |
| China | | 10 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 18 |
| Brazil | | 7 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 12 |
| Thailand | | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Bangladesh | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| United States of America | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Indonesia | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ukraine | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cameroon | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Colombia | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Syria | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Senegal | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Turkey | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Nepal | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Pakistan | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Viet Nam | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Malaysia | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Romania | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Russia | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | | 81 | 4 | 22 | 1 | 108 |

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

Reference 75 Changes in the number of victims of domestic violence cases recognized by regional immigration bureau (People)

| Regional Immigration Bureaus Year | Sapporo | Sendai | Tokyo | Nagoya | Osaka | Hiroshima | Takamatsu | Fukuoka | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| 2016 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 20 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 64 |
| 2017 | 0 | 1 | 42 | 22 | 11 | 8 | 0 | 10 | 94 |
| 2018 | 0 | 4 | 54 | 25 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 108 |