

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

The 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum

Tokyo, 12 - 14 December 2022



1. The 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum was held from 12 to 14 December 2022 in Tokyo hosted by Ministry of Justice and Immigration Services Agency and attended by immigration authorities from Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom, and Vietnam. In addition, International Organization for Migration and relevant ministries attended the forum (The Forum was held both in person and online in a hybrid way.).
2. At the beginning, Minister of Justice Saito Ken gave an opening speech, and stated as a purpose and meaning of the Forum, that the Forum was established by Japan since it was beneficial to share best practices and information on challenges each authority was facing, and to work closely together with other countries and regions in order to respond to various challenges each country and region were facing.
3. Following an opening speech, Mr. António Vitorino, Director General of International Organization for Migration gave a keynote speech. In the speech, Director General pointed out that the COVID-19 pandemic had not only brought new challenges but had also exacerbated pre-existing difficulties faced by migrants, and highlighted the great necessity of multilateral collaboration and cooperation. Director General also expressed the expectation that the Forum would strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships to achieve safe, orderly and regular migration, which was IOM's raison d'être and that the Forum would continue to be a key international platform for immigration agencies to gather.

4. The plenary session was chaired by Kikuchi Hiroshi, Commissioner of Immigration Services Agency of Japan. Under agenda item 1 “Challenges of Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration in Recovering from COVID-19 Pandemic,” the participants discussed and made presentations about challenges each immigration authorities faced and measures in the increase of number of people traveling across borders. Under the agenda item 2 “Efforts and Challenges for the Realization of Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals,” the participants discussed and made presentation about measures for foreign residents to live and work safely and securely such as issues on language when we communicate with them.
5. During the breakout sessions held between the plenary session, participants shared challenges and exchanged opinions on the agenda “Issues related to deportation” and “Efforts Being Made for Technology Utilization Contributing to Effective Immigration Control and Residency Management Procedures.”
6. The participants expressed their support to significance and purpose stated by Minister of Justice Saito and valued that Forum played a role as international platform between immigration authorities. The participants acknowledged the need to share challenges and exchange views between immigration authorities continuously including themes discussed in this Forum.
7. The Chair thanked all the participants for their support and contributions to the Forum, and expressed the hope that the Forum would continue to be held on a regular basis, and that the next Forum would be held in Tokyo within the next year. The participants welcomed that.