

Part II

Major Policies Related to Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration

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Chapter 1

Amendment Act of the Immigration Control Act to Resolve the issues of Deportation Evasion and Long-Term Detention Issues

1 Course of passing the Act

At the 211th session of the Diet on June 9, 2023, the Amendment Act 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 (Act No. 56 of 2023; hereinafter referred to as the “Amendment Act”) was passed, and promulgated on June 16, 2023.

The issues of deportation evasion and long-term detention arising from the current Immigration Control Act has been an urgent issue in immigration control and residency management administration that must be resolved immediately. Thus, the Special Subcommittee on Detention and Deportation, a private roundtable established by the Minister of Justice and set up under the 7th Immigration Policy Discussions Panel, discussed and considered the deportation procedures under the current Act in October 2019.

The results of the discussion and consideration were compiled in a report titled “Proposals to Solve the Issues of Deportation Evasion and Long-Term Detention” and submitted to the Minister of Justice on July 14, 2020. Based on it, the Amendment Bill for 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 was submitted to the 204th Diet on February 19, 2021. Prior to the start of the deliberations at the Diet, a detainee passed away at the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau in March 2021. The bill was not passed and was discarded due to the dissolution of the House of Representatives in October 2021.

After that, taking into account the matters pointed out during the deliberations at the Diet, necessary modifications were made to make the system more operable, and the modified Bill for the 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 was decided by the Cabinet and submitted to the 211th Diet on March 7, 2023. Some provisions were then amended through consultation between the ruling and opposition parties in the House of Representatives, and the Amendment Act was passed and promulgated as mentioned above.

The Amendment Act resolves issues comprehensively, and prepares the foundation to realize a society of harmonious coexistence where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals trust and respect each other. The amendment of the provisions on deportation procedures is the first time since 1951 in which the Act was enacted as the Immigration Control Order.

2 Issues in the Current Act

Under the current Immigration Control Act, even if a deportation order is issued to a foreign national whose deportation is administratively determined, deportation can be unlimitably suspended by applying for recognition of refugee status regardless of the reason or number of times of application. Therefore, there are foreign nationals who abuse these procedures as a way of avoiding deportation, and it is difficult to promptly and securely deport such evaders who refuse to depart from Japan.

The current Act also provides that a foreign national in the deportation procedure may be detained “until the time deportation becomes possible”. Such deportation evasion issue becomes the main cause of various detention-related issues, such as long-term detention.

Furthermore, the system to protect individuals who need protection such as displaced person from conflict is inadequate. Under the current Act, vulnerable people who do not fall under the requirement of refugee defined by the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (hereinafter referred to as the “Refugee Convention”) are protected at the discretion of the Minister of Justice. Therefore, the establishment of a system to protect individuals who need protection is also the issue to be resolved under the current Immigration Control Act.

3 Outline of the Amendment Act

(1) Basic Concepts

The amendment Act makes it possible to resolve aforementioned issues comprehensively, by combining of multiple measures, under the concepts of (i) securely protecting individuals who need protection; (ii) enabling prompt and appropriate deportation those who are not allowed to stay in Japan; and (iii) preventing unnecessary detention, and providing proper treatment in the case of detention. These solutions lead to respect the human rights of foreign nationals and realize appropriate immigration control management.

(2) Securing the Protection of individuals Who Need Protection

To securely protect individuals who need protection, a system for recognizing eligibility for complementary protection and optimization of the system for granting special permission to stay in Japan are provided in the Amendment Act.

- a. In the system to for recognizing eligibility for complementary protection, people who are not refugees under the Refugee Convention but meet all requirements other than being at risk of persecution for one of the five reasons under the Refugee Convention, such as displaced person from conflict, are granted with complementary protection. The foreign national who is granted with complementary protection may be permitted the stable status of residence of “Long-Term Resident,” and provide with support which is enshrined in the Amendment Act.
- b. To optimize the system for granting special permission to stay in Japan, the Amendment Act stipulates application procedures and elements to be considered, and separates the procedures for granting a special permission to stay in Japan from those recognizing refugees.

It is believed that the making of these provisions will contribute not only to more accurate determination for granting special permission to stay in Japan, but also to the optimization of

refugee recognition procedures, through reduction in the number of applications for refugee recognition for the purpose of obtaining special permission to stay in Japan.

(3) Resolution of the Deportation Evasion Issue

To resolve the deportation evasion issue, the Amendment Act stipulates exceptional provisions on the effect of suspension on deportation, removal order with penalties, and measures for encouraging voluntary return.

- a. Under the current Act, since deportation is suspended by an application for recognition of refugee regardless of the reason or number of times of application, foreign nationals can avoid deportation once they apply for refugee recognition, even if they have been denied refugee status multiple times, were previously convicted for serious crimes, or are terrorists. Therefore, it is stipulated that of the people who are applying for refugee or other recognition for the third time or more (excluding those who have submitted “materials with reasonable grounds” on which they should be recognized as refugees or the like upon filing their applications), those who have been sentenced to imprisonment for definite term of not less than three years or are terrorists shall be lifted the suspensive effect on deportation.
- b. The removal order with penalties is established to encourage the compliance of deportation indirectly. This order is only issued following two types of foreign nationals whose deportations is practically difficult under the current Act such as; those whose countries which do not receive their nationals who refuse to be deported; or those who have the risk to prevent to deportation with force or violence in commercial aircraft because they have prevented it in the past

As there are some countries taking a long time to issue a passport in the case the foreign nationals do not apply passport by him/herself, the government of Japan do not enable such country's citizen to be deported promptly and smoothly. Consequently, the order to file the application for passport issue etc. with penalty is established.

- c. In addition, to encourage voluntary return, the Amendment Act expands the scope of foreign nationals subject to departure order and make it possible for foreign nationals who are permitted departure at own expense to shorten the period of denial of landing.

Under the current Act, only those who has voluntarily appeared at an immigration services office with the intention of promptly departing from Japan could be subject to departure order. In the Amendment Act, even those who have been investigated into violation of Immigration Act can be subject to departure order as long as they promptly depart from Japan and they meet the requirements. Their period of denial of landing shall be one year, except when they come to Japan again with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor.”

It is also provided that in case a deportation order has been issued if the foreign national obtains permission for voluntary departure, the period of denial of landing may be shortened to one year on the condition that it finds reasonable grounds, taking into comprehensive consideration the person's behavior and conduct, facts on which the person was deported, and other reasons.

(4) Resolution of Issues related to Detention

To resolve various detention-related issues, such as long-term detention, a new Alternative to Detention system, a Sponsorship that enables deportation procedures to be advanced with-

out detention is established. The concept of a provisional release is reviewed and provisions that ensure proper treatment are stipulated in the Amendment Act.

- a. The system under the current Act, which is based on the premise that all those who are subject to deportation are also subject to detention, is changed, and a Sponsorship for deportation procedures to be advanced without detention under the support of a Sponsor is established in the Amendment Act.

Whether a person should be detained or whether a Sponsorship should be taken for the person will be determined by considering any disadvantage that would be caused by the detention, in addition the risk of absconding or other risks, on a case-by-case basis. On the other hand, under the new system, a deposit is to be paid only if it is required to prevent fleeing or other risks. It is also provided that once a person is detained, the necessity of detention shall be reviewed as necessary every three months to avoid unnecessary detention.

As measures to prevent absconding or other risks, a foreign national who is subject to a Sponsorship is imposed notification and a Sponsor is imposed notification and report (a simple report of matters requested by the supervising immigration inspector is allowed only if it is necessary to ensure appearance and compliance with the other terms of a Sponsorship). In addition, penalties for absconding or other actions are established.

- b. On the other hand, a provisional release is clarified to be a temporary release on health or humanitarian grounds, the payment of a deposit is not required, and a penalty for absconding is established. Besides, the Amendment Act stipulates the ISA's obligation to make the reasonable effort to give due consideration health conditions of detainees including hearing a doctor's opinion prior to determination, in case application for provisional release is made due to health conditions.
- c. In addition, to provide appropriate treatment, the relaxation of side-business prohibition of a full-time working doctor, and other provisions which stipulates compulsory medical treatment, requirements for suppression, obligation for medical checkups every three months, are established. The provisions on the rights and obligations of detainees are clearly stipulated in the Amendment Act.

(5) Other Policies

With respect to other matters in the Amendment Act, the method of collecting digital evidence for a violation investigation into violation is extended, and the validity period of the residence card for a foreign national below 16 years of age is amended.

(6) Modification by the House of Representatives

In the course of deliberations at the Diet, the House of Representatives added provisions on the appropriate consideration to the mental and physical conditions of foreign nationals who filed applications for refugee or other recognition while asking them questions; on the collection of information on international affairs and training of refugee investigators for proper refugee or other recognition; and on ensuring proper determinations on a Sponsorship.

Chapter 2 Response to Evacuees from Ukraine

Section 1 Acceptance of Evacuees from Ukraine

In February 2022, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, many Ukrainian citizens were forced to flee to neighboring countries. In these circumstances, the Prime Minister of Japan announced on March 2, 2022 that Japan would accept Ukrainian citizens who had evacuated from Ukraine to third countries.

On March 16, 2022, the “Ukrainian Evacuees Countermeasures Liaison and Coordination Panel” chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary was established in order to provide timely and appropriate assistance to evacuees coming to Japan from Ukraine. In addition, with this panel as the control tower, the Task Force for Supporting Ukrainian Evacuees was established to discuss how support should be operated, such as matching evacuees from Ukraine with recipients in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies, so that evacuees can stay in Japan with peace of mind. To implement this support, the Cabinet decided to use a contingency of approximately 520 million yen on March 25, 2022, and approximately 1.9 billion yen on June 28, 2022, for expenses related to the project to support the acceptance of evacuees from Ukraine.

Furthermore, in order to accurately grasp the local needs in Poland, which had received approximately 2.6 million evacuees from Ukraine at the time and actively provided assistance, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Minister of Justice visited Poland for five days from April 1, 2022, held meetings with dignitaries of the Polish government, and inspected the status of the acceptance of evacuees in Poland, returning to Japan on a government plane with 20 Ukrainian evacuees on board.

Since then, from a humanitarian perspective, the ISA has secured a certain number of seats on commercial flights for evacuees from Ukraine who desperately want to evacuate to Japan but find it difficult to secure means of travel on their own, providing travel support for them to come to Japan.

Section 2 Support for Evacuees from Ukraine

1 Expansion of Consultation Services and Placement of Support Staff for Accepting Evacuees from Ukraine at Immigration Services Agency (ISA) Offices

The Foreign Residents Support Center's “FRESC Help Desk” responded to telephone consultations regarding evacuees from Ukraine in response to the current situation in Ukraine, and on June 1, 2022, the ISA set up the “Ukrainian Evacuees Help Desk” as the exclusive contact point for such consultations and started to receive inquiries including on weekends and holidays. The help desk offers services in Ukrainian, Russian, English, and Japanese.

In addition, the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, District Immigration Services Office, and branch offices have also assigned “Ukrainian Evacuees Reception Support Staff” to respond to consultations from evacuees from Ukraine and local governments.

2 Prompt Changes to the Status of Residence to Receive Administrative Services, etc.

Regarding permission for change in the status of residence application when Ukrainians residing in Japan wishes to stay in Japan due to the situation in Ukraine, or when evacuees from Ukraine who have entered Japan with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” for the purpose of evacuation want to stay in Japan, it is now possible for evacuees from Ukraine to promptly receive residence cards and register as residents by promptly permitting to change their status of residence to “Designated Activities,” then receive administrative services from local governments.

The extension of the period of stay will also be permitted, as long as an application is submitted and it is deemed that the situation in Ukraine has not yet improved.

3 Issuance of Certificates of Evacuees from Ukraine

The ISA has issued certificates to evacuees from Ukraine to facilitate procedures, so that evacuees from Ukraine can present these certificates together with identification documents such as residence cards to receive support from local governments, perform administrative procedures, or open accounts at financial institutions.



Certificates of Evacuees from Ukraine
(in Japanese)

4 Establishment of Ukrainian Evacuees Support Website

On May 9, 2022, the ISA opened the “Ukrainian Evacuees Support Site,” in order for evacuees from Ukraine to receive the goods (clothes, furniture, food, communication equipment, etc.) and services (interpretation, transportation, administrative procedure assistance, mental care, etc.) that Japanese companies and other organizations have offered to support them.

5 Providing Information to Evacuees from Ukraine and local governments

The ISA has repeatedly sent guidebooks translated into Ukrainian to evacuees from Ukraine, provided information about help desks, various administrative procedures, Japanese language education, employment support, and informed local governments of the details of support and information provided to evacuees from Ukraine.

On May 14, 2022, the “Ukrainian Evacuees Information Registration Site” was opened to promptly provide support information from national and local governments.

To persons who have come to Japan from Ukraine because their lives are in danger

出入国在留管理庁 出入国在留管理局
Immigration Services Agency of Japan
Language: English 日本語 日本語 日本語 Personal

Evacuee Contact Information Registration Form

To persons who have come to Japan from Ukraine because their lives are in danger

The ISA sends helpful information to everyone via email. Therefore, please tell us your email address.

Please enter your email address for verification purposes.
An application link will be sent to the entered email address, so please access the link to finish providing information.
* Please separately register any additional email addresses.

* Please use the above form for email address verification.
* The link expires after one hour.
* If you have set up domain-specific reception, please ensure that emails can be received from the following domain: @isa.go.jp

Ukrainian Evacuees Information Registration Site

6 Support for Evacuees without a Guarantor

For evacuees from Ukraine who have no guarantors in Japan, the ISA provided temporary accommodation facilities rented by the national government for temporary residence, and supported their living expenses, medical expenses, etc. Furthermore, Japanese language classes were held, crime prevention seminars were held by the police, and employment support briefings were held by the Labor Bureau.

In addition, based on the individual needs of evacuees, the ISA is matching them with local governments and private organizations that had offered support.

Chapter 3 Smooth and Strict Implementation of Immigration Examination at the Port of Entry

In order to contribute to the realization of a tourism-oriented country, it is important on the one hand to strive to implement smooth landing examinations for the majority of foreign nationals, who come to Japan without causing any problems, but in order to realize a society where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals can live together harmoniously, it is also necessary to implement strict landing examinations and reliably prevent the entry of foreign nationals whose objectives are terrorism, illegal work or other illegal activities. The number of foreign visitors to Japan in 2019 reached approximately 31.88 million, which was a record-high number, but it decreased significantly from 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. As of 2023, the number has been increasing again.

Section 1 Measures to Deal with COVID-19

1 Countermeasures at the Border

Regarding COVID-19 that has spread globally since December 2019, border measures were taken by the government as a whole in order to prevent infected persons from entering Japan and the virus from spreading in Japan.

Based on the multiple Cabinet approvals and announcements by the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters since January 31, 2020, the ISA has denied the landing of foreign nationals who had stayed in the regions where numerous cases of COVID-19 were confirmed (hereinafter referred to as “Region(s) Subject to Denial of Landing”) within 14 days before landing pursuant to Article 5, paragraph (1), item (xiv) of the Immigration Control Act, unless in exceptional circumstances. However, on and after April 8, 2022, based on grounds such as local infection circumstances, the designation of the Regions Subject to Denial of Landing was canceled gradually, and on September 4, 2022, the designation was canceled for all Regions Subject to Denial of Landing.

The ISA has cooperated in quarantine procedures since before the pandemic by encouraging travelers arriving in Japan to go back to the quarantine procedures if such travelers claim that they do not feel well at the immigration examination booth regardless of nationality. In addition to this cooperation, the ISA also enhanced its cooperative relationship with quarantine stations to develop a system in which the Quarantine Information Office, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the ISA double-check whether travelers had visited regions from which entry is denied, and worked in close cooperation with the relevant organizations in order to implement appropriate border measures.

2 Applications for Residence

For foreign nationals who had difficulty returning to their home countries due to the spread of COVID-19, the ISA took special measures such as permitting them to stay. However, in light of the situation of COVID-19 in Japan and overseas, and the increasing number of foreigners departing from Japan, the ISA has reviewed these measures on May 31, 2022. On and after that day, measures for encouraging foreign nationals to return to their home countries have been taken gradually, such as not granting permission for residence due to difficulty in returning to their home countries.

With respect to special measures taken for foreign nationals who could not re-enter Japan within the valid period of their re-entry permission (including special re-entry permission), the end of the time limit for applying those measures was set in association with the relaxation of border control measures on October 11, 2022.

Topics: COVID-19 countermeasures at immigration facilities

On April 17, 2020, the establishment of the Taskforce for COVID-19 Countermeasures in Immigration Facilities (hereinafter, “TF”) under the direction of the MOJ Crisis Management Expert Committee was decided by the Minister of Justice to prepare new guidelines for COVID-19 countermeasures while considering the characteristics of immigration facilities. The TF consists of experts such as physicians and attorneys at law, and is chaired by the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Justice.

On May 1, 2020, the TF formulated a manual for measures against COVID-19 infection at immigration facilities (hereinafter, the “Manual”), and it was decided that the ISA should take unified COVID-19 countermeasures based on the Manual.

Since its formulation, the Manual has been revised five times in total to deal with issues such as outbreaks in immigration facilities and rapid spreads of infection from variant strains, and the staff worked together to prevent the spread of infection.

On May 8, 2023, COVID-19 was downgraded to a Class V Infectious Disease under the Act on Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients Suffering Infectious Diseases. Given that fact, it was decided that the Manual would be discontinued, and the TF was also abolished.

It was decided that countermeasures for infectious diseases in the future would be taken according to the actual situation, while taking into account the circumstances in Regional Immigration Services Bureaus and local infection situations and referring to the Manual for performing duties.



Manual for measures against COVID-19 infection at immigration facilities

Section 2 Efforts to Promote a Tourism-Oriented Country

1 Bio Carts

In order to simplify procedures at landing examination booths and enable foreign visitors to enter Japan more speedily, devices for obtaining personal identification information (fingerprints and a facial photograph) beforehand by utilizing the landing examination waiting time, commonly known as “Bio Carts,” were introduced at Kansai Airport, Takamatsu Airport, and Naha Airport, places where these devices were expected to lead to significant reduction in examination waiting time, in October 2016. Subsequently, the devices were introduced at 20 airports and seaports including Narita Airport, from April 2017 to January 2020, for further promoting smooth examinations.

In the “Tourism Vision Realization Program 2020” (Action Program for Realization of Tourism Vision 2020) (adopted by the Ministerial Council on the Promotion of Japan as a Tourism-Oriented Country of July 2020), Bio Carts are being utilized to reduce examination waiting time, with the aim of reaching waiting time 20 minutes or less, as a measure to keep working toward promotion of inbound travel in adaptation to the circumstances of COVID-19.



Use of Bio Carts

Introduction page for Bio Carts

(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri07_00110.html)

2 Automated Gates

(1) Promotion of Use of the Automated Gates

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



Automated Gates

(2) Trusted Traveler Program

The Trusted Traveler Program (TTP) is the system to issue “Registered User Card” that enable the use of the Automated Gates to those people who intend to carry out activities in the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor,” who meet certain requirements as “trusted travelers” such as businessmen. Operation of this program began on November 1, 2016.

On March 16, 2020, the registration requirements for TTP were relaxed, and the scope of applicants for registrations of this program was extended to tourists who possess sufficient funds and credit and family members of TTP registrants (spouse and unmarried minors).

In addition, based on the Japan-U.S. Bilateral Cooperation on Travel Facilitation, assuming registration with the Global Entry Program (GEP) of the United States, some of the requirements will be waived for US citizens applying for TTP registration.

The number of registration applications has been increasing since the removal of immigration restrictions, in part because the pandemic occurred immediately after the scope of applicants for TTP was extended.



Front of Registered User Card



Back of Registered User Card

3 Facial Recognition Automated Gates

(1) Introduction of Facial Recognition Automated Gates in the Departure and Return Procedures for Japanese Nationals

Due to the demand for further acceleration of immigration examinations in order to promote tourism in Japan, the ISA intends to further expedite the examination procedures, while maintaining strictness of the examination, by streamlining the departure and return for Japanese nationals through the use of facial recognition technology and assigning more immigration inspectors to the examination of foreign nationals.

After the ISA conducted a trial test of examinations utilizing facial recognition technology and necessary reviews, advance operations of the facial recognition automated gates in the return procedures for Japanese nationals commenced at Haneda Airport on October 18, 2017. In addition, from FY 2018 to FY 2020, the facial recognition automated gates were introduced in the landing and departure examination areas of New Chitose Airport, Narita Airport, Chubu Airport, Kansai Airport, Fukuoka Airport and Naha Airport, and are being operated in the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals.



Facial Recognition Automated Gates

Introduction page for facial recognition automated gates

(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri07_00168.html)

(2) Expanded Use of the Automated Gates in the Departure Procedures for Foreign Nationals

The “Tourism Vision Realization Program 2016” (Action Program for Realization of Tourism Vision 2016) (adopted by the Ministerial Council on the Promotion of Japan as a Tourism-Oriented Country of May 2016) outlined a plan to expand the use of the automated gates in the departure procedures for foreign nationals in order to reduce the time required for the departure procedures at airports in Japan. A decision was made to take the facial recognition automated gates utilized in the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals and use them in the departure procedures for foreign nationals who enter Japan for sightseeing and other purposes. On July 24, 2019, this operation commenced in Haneda Airport, followed by the other six airports listed in (1) above.

4 Digitalization of Disembarkation Cards (ED cards)

While foreign nationals entering Japan used to submit disembarkation cards (ED cards) to immigration inspectors at immigration counters, it became possible to submit ED cards electronically at six major airports, including Narita Airport, as of December 20, 2021 from the perspective of improving convenience for foreign nationals. In and after 2022, the number of supported airports is being expanded gradually in line with the resumption of international flights that have been suspended due to COVID-19.

Introduction page for ED cards

(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/guide/translation.html>)

5 Pre-clearance Trial

From January 18 to 31, 2023, a pre-clearance trial was carried out at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport.

“Pre-clearance” is a system for accelerating the immigration procedure for tourists, etc., at the arrival airport by carrying out part of the entry procedures at the departure airport using the waiting time there. In Taiwan, trials were carried out periodically during the period between April 2005 and October 2007. However, they were suspended from November 2007 because people were obliged to provide personal identification information (fingerprints and a facial photograph) in Japan.

After a suspension period of more than 10 years, the trial was carried out through close coordination with many relevant parties, such as related authorities and private companies. It was carried out during the first Lunar New Year after the relaxation of restrictions due to COVID-19 in Taiwan, and the pre-clearance was much appreciated because people could go through immigration procedures while waiting to board flights at the airport in Taiwan without waiting for such procedures after arriving in Japan, and it was used by many tourists.

6 Response to Cruise Ship Passengers

In recent years, there have been a remarkable increase in the number and size of cruise ships calling at ports in Japan, and since requests have been received from the local governments inviting cruise ships for accelerated procedures after the arrival so that passengers can fully enjoy sightseeing within the limited time they have at the port of call, the ISA has been operating the system of granting landing permission to cruise ship tourists that allows foreign passengers on cruise ships designated by the Commissioner of the ISA to undergo simplified procedures. The ISA strives to implement smooth examinations by using inspection equipment and getting support from other inspection staff all over the country. On the other hand, guidance for cruise ship companies has been strengthened, and strict on-board examinations are implemented on cruise ships on the open seas with the consent of the country of registration. In 2017, the number of applications for landing permission by cruise ship tourists was approximately 2.45 million. In 2020, there was a decrease in the number of cruise ships calling in Japan due to the spread of COVID-19, and the number of landing permission for cruise ship tourists in the same year was only about 120,000. International cruise ship operations have been suspended since March of the same year, so no one received a landing permission for cruise ship tourists in 2021 and 2022. International cruise ship operations have resumed in earnest from March 2023.



Example of a cruise ship



Scene of a landing examination on a cruise ship

7 Revision of the Method of Measuring the Time Spent Waiting in Line for an Examination, and Announcement of the Waiting Times for the Examination ^(*)

Considering the fact that the amount of time spent waiting in line for an immigration examination is a matter of great concern for foreign travelers visiting Japan as it affects the time they spend in Japan, a decision was made to revise the method of measurement from January 2017 so as to utilize the electronic data held by the ISA. As a result, it became possible to measure the “rate of achievement of the goal of an immigration examination waiting time of 20 minutes” and the “longest immigration examination waiting time / time of occurrence” for each airport (terminal and examination areas), and this data is now compiled on a monthly basis and published once a month on the ISA website.

(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri07_00117.html)

(*) Although the measurement of immigration waiting time has been on hold since April 2020 due to COVID-19, it was resumed in June 2023 at seven major airports.

Section 3 Strengthened Countermeasures at the Port of Entry

1 Immigration Examinations Utilizing Information

(1) Implementation of Immigration Examinations Utilizing Biometric Information

Since November 2007, foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan have been required to submit their Biometric information (fingerprints and a facial photograph). This enables the ISA to accurately and promptly confirm that the applicant for the verification for landing is the same as the passport holder, and to check the applicant against the watchlists maintained by the ISA. In addition, it has become possible to stringently detect those who have previously been deported and again try to enter Japan illegally using a forged passport or another person's passport by checking their information against the data on fingerprints and facial photographs of those who were deported in the past retained by the ISA.

In addition, since October 2016, in order to rigorously detect terrorists, etc. at the time of the landing examination, the ISA has been cross-checking the facial photographs provided by foreign nationals at the time of the landing examination against the facial images of terrorists and other suspect persons. The total number of foreign nationals ordered to depart through a departure order and deported through a deportation order based on the utilization of Biometric information was 11,609 from the start of utilization of this information in the immigration examinations by the end of December, 2022.

On the other hand, there have been an increasing number of cases where in order to avoid their past history of deportation being discovered, foreign nationals have attempted to disguise their fingerprints by scarring their fingers or undergoing surgery and have illegally entered Japan using a forged or altered passport obtained through such means. In order to respond more appropriately to cases of disguised fingerprints, the ISA has been striving to uncover these disguised fingerprints by modifying the fingerprint acquisition devices, and in addition to executing the deportation procedures, the ISA has been strictly enforcing criminal dispositions through accusations and notifications to the police and other law enforcement agencies.

In addition, since March 26, 2021, facial images of people who receive departure confirmation when departing Japan have been collated with facial images of people who are subject to departure confirmation deferment, which are held by the ISA.



Immigration examination through the use of Biometric information

(2) Immigration Examinations Utilizing API and PNR

To prevent the entry of people requiring special attention such as terrorists, the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) that automatically compares the information on identification and other matters (Advance Passenger Information (API)) from airline companies, which is provided as electronic data, against the database of people requiring special attention has been introduced since January 2005.

In February 2007, the ISA has made it mandatory for the captains of all vessels and aircraft entering Japan to submit the API. Captains submitting API through the APIS dramatically increased, particularly for aircrafts, due to the convenience of submission and other reasons. As a result, it has become possible to grasp in advance the information related to the arrival of people requiring special attention for immigration control, and to implement more effective and efficient countermeasures at ports of entry. Furthermore, the APIS started operation in July 2020 for API from vessels entering the ports, leading to the realization of stricter immigration examinations.

The Advance Passenger Information System was renamed the “Advance Passenger Inspection System” when it was renewed in June 2021.

In addition, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan has increased significantly, so in order to stringently prevent the entry of people requiring special attention through immigration control at the border, the airline companies have been requested to provide passenger name records (PNR) from January 2015. Furthermore, the ISA has commenced the electronic receipt of PNRs via the Nippon Automated Cargo and Port Consolidated System (NACCS) from January 2016 and has been using them in immigration examinations.

With regard to API and PNR reports, it has been made obligatory to submit electronic reports via NACCS since June 2021, in order to promote efficient analysis and utilization of information by promoting digitization.

2 Reinforcement of Information Collection and Analysis

In recent years, terrorist attacks have occurred all over the world, and the ISA must take even stricter countermeasures at the port of entry in order to reliably prevent terrorists from entering Japan.

Meanwhile, it is necessary to achieve the intricate balance of strict immigration control, including measures to prevent terrorism, and also smooth entry examinations to realize Japan as a tourism-oriented country.

The ISA promotes information sharing with related domestic and overseas organizations, by having a department specializing in information gathering and analysis as the core organization. Specifically, the ISA collects various types of information, such as information on international terrorists, and performs advanced analysis of such information using artificial intelligence (AI) and other tools, together with the information held by the ISA, including API and PNRs. The results are then used by the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus at airports in order to implement smooth and strict countermeasures at the port of entry.

Chapter 4 Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration

Section 1 Promotion of the Acceptance of Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals

1 Outline of Points-Based Preferential Treatment for Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals

Japan introduced preferential immigration control and residency management treatment based on the points-based system for highly-skilled foreign professionals (hereinafter referred to as “points-based system for highly-skilled professionals”) in May 2012, and has since been promoting the acceptance of highly-skilled foreign professionals. The points-based system for highly-skilled professionals aims at foreign nationals who have advanced capabilities and qualities and are expected to contribute to Japan’s economic growth and divides the contents of the activities of the highly-skilled foreign professionals into the three categories of “advanced academic research activities,” “advanced specialized/technical activities” and “advanced business management activities.” According to the characteristic features of each category, points are awarded for each item such as “academic background,” “professional career” and “annual salary,” and if the total number reaches 70 points, such foreign national is recognized as a “highly-skilled foreign professional” and granted the status of residence of “Highly-Skilled Professional.” They also become eligible for preferential immigration control and residency management treatment.

The status of residence of “Highly-Skilled Professional” consists of “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)” and “Highly-Skilled Professional (ii),” and “Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)” is treated more preferentially than “Highly-Skilled Professional (i).” With regard to “Highly-Skilled Professional (ii),” the total number of points needs to be 70 points or more as with “Highly-Skilled Professional (i),” and moreover, foreign nationals are required to reside in Japan for three years or more with the status of residence of “Highly-Skilled Professional (i),” to engage in the activities for the status, to demonstrate good behavior and to be deemed to suit Japan’s interests.

Introduction page for the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals
(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/newimmiact_3_index.html)

(1) Preferential Treatment for “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)”

- A. Grant of period of stay for five years
- B. Permission to engage in activities covering multiple statuses of residence
- C. Permission for the spouse of the highly-skilled foreign professional to work ^{(*)1}
- D. Permission for the parent(s) to accompany the highly-skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions ^{(*)2}
- E. Relaxation of requirements for permanent residence
- F. Permission to employ a domestic worker under certain conditions ^{(*)3}
- G. Preferential processing of entry and residence procedures

(2) Preferential Treatment for “Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)”

- A. An indefinite period of stay is granted.
- B. Engaging in almost all of the statuses of residence based on employment, in conjunction with the activities is permitted.
- C. The preferential treatment of the abovementioned from C to F of (1) is provided.

2 Japan System for Special Highly-Skilled Professional (J-Skip)

The Japan System for Special Highly-Skilled Professional (J-Skip) was introduced in April 2023. The status of residence of “Highly-Skilled Professional” will be granted to foreign nationals separately from the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals if their academic background or professional career and promised annual salary are at or above a certain level. As a “special highly-skilled professional,” they will be treated in a more preferential manner than highly-skilled professionals under the points-based system in terms of finding employment of their spouses, employing domestic workers, etc.

Specifically, requirements for people in the category of “advanced academic research activities” or “advanced specialized/technical activities” are “master’s degree or above and promised annual salary of 20 million yen or more” or “experience in the relevant business for 10 years or more and promised annual salary of 20 million yen or more,” while those for people in the category of “advanced business management activities” are “experience in business management or operation for five years or more and annual salary of 40 million yen or more.”

Introduction page for the Japan System for Special Highly-Skilled Professional

(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri01_00009.html)

(*)1 In cases of activities coming under the statuses of residence of “Instructor,” “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services,” etc. it is possible to work with the status of residence of a spouse of a highly-skilled foreign professional even without meeting certain criteria relating to academic background or professional career.

(*)2 In cases where there is a child under seven years old or where the highly-skilled foreign professionals or his spouse is pregnant or other reasons.

(*)3 In cases where there is a child under 13 years old or where spouse is unable to engage in the day-to-day household chores owing to an illness or other reasons.

3 Japan System for Future Creation Individual Visa (J-Find)

The Japan System for Future Creation Individual Visa (J-Find) was introduced in April 2023. When foreign nationals who have graduated or completed a program from outstanding overseas universities, etc. start job hunting or prepare to start a business in Japan, the status of residence of “Designated Activities” (Future Creation Individual Visa) will be granted and they will be allowed to stay for up to two years. They can also be accompanied by their spouses and children during that period.

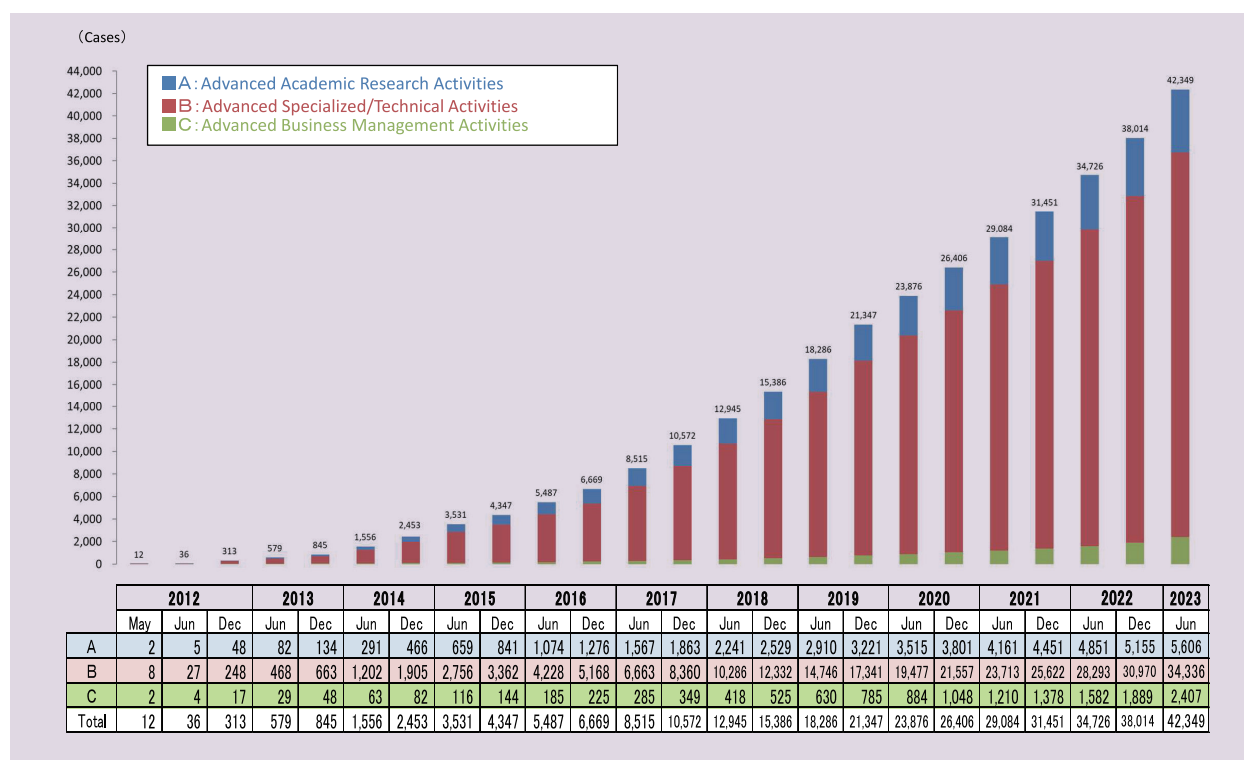
The specific requirements include graduating from a university or graduate school ranked in the top 100 in two or more of the major three world university rankings^(*) within five years, and possession 200,000 yen for living expenses at the beginning of stay.

Introduction page for the Japan System for Future Creation Individual Visa
(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/status/designatedactivities51.html>)

4 Situation of Acceptance

As of the end of June 2023, 42,349 foreign nationals have been recognized as highly-skilled foreign nationals through the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals (Reference 81).

Reference 81 Changes in the number of cases of recognition (cumulative) through the points-based system for highly-skilled professionals (as of the end of June 2023)



(*) (i) The QS World University Rankings published by Quacquarelli Symonds; (ii) the Times Higher Education World University Rankings published by The Times; and (iii) the Academic Ranking of World Universities published by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy

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

1 Entrepreneurs

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

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

Foreign nationals engaging in activities to start a business utilizing the project can apply to extend their period of stay for up to one year in order to continue their activities after six months have elapsed since their landing even if they use a co-working space, shared office, or a similar facility as their business office, because the facility will be considered their business office if certain requirements are met.

In December 2022, guidelines for a change of the status of residence and an extension of the period of stay pertaining to the Project for Facilitation of Acceptance of Foreign Entrepreneurs in National Strategic Special Zones were revised, and it was decided that foreign nationals who wish to continue engaging in the activities to start a business after utilizing the Project to Promote Foreign National Entrepreneurial Activities (refer to 4. of Sections 3 in Chapter 4) will be allowed to do so for a maximum of six months by utilizing this project.

As of October 2023, operations for the project have commenced in the Tokyo Area National Strategic Special Zone (project implementation area: all of Tokyo metropolitan area, all of Kanagawa prefecture and all of Narita city), the Fukuoka City-Kitakyushu City National Strategic Special Zone (all of Fukuoka city and all of Kitakyushu city), the Niigata City National Strategic Special Zone (all of Niigata city), the Hiroshima Prefecture-Imabari City National Strategic Special Zone (all of Hiroshima prefecture and all of Imabari city), the Sendai City National Strategic Special Zone (all of Sendai city), the Aichi Prefecture National Strategic Special Zone (all of Aichi prefecture), the Kansai Area National Strategic Special Zone (all of Kyoto prefecture and all of Hyogo prefecture), the Tsukuba City National Strategic Special Zone (all of Tsukuba city), the Osaka Prefecture-Osaka City National Strategic Special Zone (all of Osaka city) and the Kaga City-Chino City-Kibichuo Town National Strategic Special Zone (all of Kaga city).

2 Foreign Beauticians

The Japanese government is seeking to promote Cool Japan, including strengthening industrial competitiveness and brand improvement by exporting Japanese beauty products, as well as to respond to inbound demand by promoting the overseas activities of human resources who have practical experience in beauty in Japan. To that end, The National Strategic Special Zone Foreign Beautician Training Project was established as a special measure to train foreign workers with Japanese beautician licenses, according to the National Strategic Special Zone Foreign Beautician Training Project Implementation Guidelines (decided on July 30, 2021).

This project is a special measure where the Council on National Strategic Special Zones establishes the project as a special zone plan, and the special zone plan is approved by the Prime Minister. Based on training plans certified by local governments of project implementation areas, foreign beauticians who have graduated from a Japanese beautician training facility and have obtained a beautician license and meet certain requirements are able to engage in specified beautician activities that require practical knowledge and skills related to beauty under the direction and supervision of a training institution with which an employment contract has been concluded. As of October 2023, operations for the project have commenced in the Tokyo Area National Strategic Special Zone (project implementation area: all of the Tokyo metropolitan area).

Section 3 Other Measures

1 Further Acceptance of Fourth-Generation Foreign Nationals of Japanese Descent

With regard to the fourth-generation foreign nationals of Japanese descent, only unmarried minors who are children supported by the third-generation foreign national of Japanese descent residing in Japan with the status of residence of “Long-Term Resident” were used to be permitted to enter and reside in Japan, but a program was established and became effective from July 2018 for the purpose of promoting understanding of and interest in Japan through the acceptance of young fourth-generation foreign nationals of Japanese descent and activities to have them learn about Japanese culture, and thereby, to develop human resources acting as a bridge to strengthen the connections between Japan and Japanese societies abroad.

Under this program, basically the same entry requirements as for the working holiday program are required, but as a unique requirement of this program, a certain level of Japanese language proficiency is required at the time of entry into Japan and at the time of extending the period of stay, as well as the guarantee of a “Supporters Accepting Fourth-Generation Foreign Nationals of Japanese Descent” to provide support pertaining to the entry and residence of the fourth-generation foreign national of Japanese descent being required. Fourth-generation Japanese who are accepted under this program are able to engage in activities to understand Japanese culture, including the Japanese language, for a total of a maximum of five years, and to engage in activities to receive remuneration within the necessary limit to supplement necessary funds in order to engage in the activities (except for activities to engage in amusement-business work).

With regard to this program, in order to further promote acceptance of fourth-generation foreign nationals of Japanese descent, some Japanese language requirements imposed at the time of entry to Japan and during residence were relaxed in March 2021.

2 Online Residence Procedures

The “Future Investment Strategy 2018” decided by the Cabinet in June 2018 set out that in order to facilitate and expedite the status of residence procedures, online applications for the status of residence would commence from FY 2018, which would allow organizations of affiliation that properly employ foreign nationals and submit notifications on the situation of employment of foreign nationals to carry out the procedures on behalf of the foreign national.

In response to this, starting in July 2019, staff of organizations of affiliation that meet certain requirements, as well as attorneys and administrative scriveners hired by affiliated institutions, can make applications to extend period of stay, and simultaneously make applications for re-entry permits and applications for permission to engage in activity other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted, based on requests from applicants. In March 2020, measures were taken such as expanding procedures and statuses of residence that are eligible for online applications, in order to further improve convenience.

In April 2020, we made it possible for foreign nationals affiliated with small and medium sized enterprises (Category 3 organizations) for some work statuses of residence, and in July 2020, we made it possible for foreign students enrolled in vocational schools and Japanese language schools to apply online as well.

Furthermore, in March 2022, revisions were made to enable online applications by foreign nationals themselves and others using the electronic certificate and personal authentication function of the Individual Number Card (My Number Card), and to add the status of residence in the Appended Table II of the Immigration Control Act, such as “Spouse or Child of Japanese National,” to the scope of online application.

Introduction page for online residence procedures

(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/guide/onlineshinsei.html>)

3 Online Notifications Regarding Specified Skilled Workers

Notifications regarding the status of residence “Specified Skilled Worker,” which was newly established in April 2019, are submitted by the Organization of Affiliation of the Specified Skilled Worker and registered support organization (hereinafter, “Organization of Affiliation of the Specified Skilled Worker, etc.”) to the Commissioner of the ISA. They include quarterly notifications about the implementation status for Specified Skilled Worker and activities of Specified Skilled Worker Revision of the (regular notifications), as well as notifications made each time there is a change related to the employment contracts or support plans of Specified Skilled Workers (irregular notifications). In the Digital Government Execution Plan (Cabinet decision made on December 25, 2020), it was decided that online notifications would be made possible by the end of March 2021.

In response to this, the ISA has made it possible for the staff of Specified Skilled Workers affiliated organizations that have registered in advance as users of the ISA’s Electronic Notification System to submit all notifications related to the specified skilled worker system

online, and the system began accepting notifications in April 2021.

Web portal of the Immigration Services Agency e-Notification System
(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/i-ens_index.html)

4 Promotion of the Acceptance of Foreign Entrepreneurs

Foreign entrepreneurs who receive support for entrepreneurship from local governments, etc. in accordance with the “Public Notice Relating to the Project to Promote Foreign National Entrepreneurial Activities” as a public notice of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry are allowed to enter and reside in Japan with the status of residence of “Designated Activities” for a period not exceeding one year in terms of the immigration control and residency management procedures.

Foreign students who have been engaged in entrepreneurial activities since they were enrolled in Japanese universities that are enthusiastic about accepting outstanding foreign students, and who wish to continue their entrepreneurial activities even after graduation are allowed to stay with the status of residence of “Designated Activities” for up to two years. Foreign nationals who have stayed in Japan after graduating from a Japanese university and who have used the Project to Promote Foreign National Entrepreneurial Activities or the Project for Facilitation of Acceptance of Foreign Entrepreneurs in National Strategic Special Zones, but failed to start a business within the allotted period are also allowed to do the same after using the applicable project under certain requirements, and to stay for up to two years, including the period of residence based on the project.

5 Promotion of the Appropriate Acceptance of Foreign Students

(1) Employment Support for Foreign Students

According to the “Japan Revitalization Strategy 2016” approved by the Cabinet in June 2016, the aim is to increase the share of foreign students who find employment in Japan from the current 30% to 50%, and in addition, to expand the range of fields in which foreign students are able to find employment has been decided in the “Comprehensive Measures” decided at the relevant ministerial meeting in December 2018.

Therefore, in order to promote the settlement of excellent foreign human resources and expand opportunities for employment in Japan for the foreign students who are expected to contribute to revitalize the Japanese economy and society, the public notice on the status of residence of “Designated Activities” was amended, promulgated and enforced on May 30, 2019. Accordingly, foreign students who have graduated from a Japanese university or completed a graduate school are permitted to work in a wide range when they engage in the work that anticipated to make use of the knowledge and applied skills that they acquired at a Japanese university or graduate school, and Japanese language skills under certain conditions such as requiring a high level of Japanese language skill such as the Japanese Language Proficiency Test N1 level, being a full-time employee, and receiving remuneration equivalent to or more than that a Japanese national would receive for the same work. As of the end of 2022, the number of foreign nationals who were granted a status of residence by this system was 798. In order to promote further utilization, we are announcing this system on the ISA website and consultation counters.

(2) Optimization of the Japanese-Language Institutes

Since Japanese-language institutes that accept foreign students need to be optimized as educational institutions which steadily provide an appropriate learning settings. Related to this point, the guideline on the public notice for the Japanese-language institutes were partially amended in 2019, introducing stricter criteria such as for the attendance rate of all residents of Student status or for the proportion of them staying illegally beyond their authorized period of stay pursuant to the deletion procedures from the public notice, as well as making it obligatory to report the results of periodic self-inspections on the guideline and pertaining to Japanese language proficiency such as the results of the valid proficiency tests. We are properly following the guidelines, and are continuing to optimize Japanese-language institutes, improve the quality of them, and carefully manage the residence of foreign students.

(3) Enactment of the Act on the Accrediting of Japanese-Language Institutes to Ensure Appropriate and Reliable Implementation of Japanese-Language Education

The number of foreign nationals residing in Japan is expected to continue increasing, so it is essential to develop an environment in which foreign nationals living in Japan can acquire the ability to understand and use the necessary Japanese.

Given such background, the Act on the Accrediting of Japanese-Language Institutes to Ensure Appropriate and Reliable Implementation of Japanese-Language Education (Act No. 41 of 2023) was promulgated on June 2, 2023, and is scheduled to come into force in April 2024. The purpose of this Act is to create a system for the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to give accreditation to Japanese-language institutes that meet certain requirements, and make arrangements concerning the qualifications of teachers providing Japanese language education at those accredited institutes. This will help ensure the appropriate and reliable implementation of Japanese language education, and contribute to the development of an environment in which foreign nationals residing in Japan can live in harmony with its people in their public and private lives.

Japanese-language institutes will be required to obtain accreditation under this Act in order to accept foreign students with the status of residence of “Student.” Furthermore, from the perspective of residency management of students, the Act stipulates that the ISA shall be consulted on the accreditation criteria for Japanese-language institutes, and collaborate and cooperate with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to appropriately and reliably implement Japanese language education.

Chapter 5 Technical Intern Training Program and System of Specified Skilled Worker

Section 1 New Initiatives for Implementing Proper Technical Intern Training and Protecting Technical Intern Trainees

1 Measures to Reduce Cases of Disappearance of Technical Intern Trainees

Initiatives for reducing the cases of disappearance of technical intern trainees were implemented in line with the measures for improvement compiled by the “Project Team on Operation of the Technical Intern Training Program” in March 2019. In addition, measures to further enhance improvement measures were compiled in order to reduce the cases of disappearance of technical intern trainees in November 2019.

The main initiatives and measures implemented by the ISA are as stated below.

- Suspension of acceptance of new technical intern trainees by sending organizations, supervising organizations, and implementing organizations which have caused disappearances, in consideration of factors such as the degree of responsibility.

On the basis of disappearance rates and investigation results, measures such as the following will be taken: issuance of orders for suspension of projects involving the acceptance of new technical intern trainees, revocation of license of supervising organizations, revocation of accreditation of training plans, and withholding of accreditation of plans pertaining to the acceptance of new technical intern trainees.

- Criminal charging and disclosure of companies that hired technical intern trainees who disappeared.

Through the uncovering of illegal foreign workers, etc., companies that hired technical intern trainees who disappeared will be subject to criminal charges, and the factual content of the charges will be disclosed.

- Provision of information to supervising organizations and the like.

On December 24, 2019, a notice regarding the tightening of measures was sent directly to supervising organizations and supervising-organization-type implementing organizations, along with a request to inform technical intern trainees of the consulting counter. In addition, information was provided to technical intern trainees regarding the consulting counter at the Organization for Technical Intern Training.

- Ensuring payments by wire transfer to bank accounts held by technical intern trainees

In April 2020, ministerial ordinances were amended to introduce measures that require remuneration payments to be made to technical intern trainees by wire transfer to their bank accounts.

- Promoting the support system for technical intern trainees

In March 2021, with the purpose of contributing to proper implementation of technical intern training such as preventing trainee disappearances and protecting the safety of technical intern trainees, the ISA has created public relations videos giving an outline of the

system and places to seek consultation for technical intern trainees, in ten languages including Japanese, and published these on the ISA website.

2 Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)

Memorandums of Cooperation with the governments of the sending countries have been entered into with 14 countries (Viet Nam, Cambodia, India, the Philippines, Laos, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Bhutan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Thailand and Indonesia) at the end of 2022 with the aim of securing proper sending organizations. In addition, the MOJ, based on the agreements, has been striving to give out thorough information on the purpose of the Technical Intern Training Program and to foster understanding, and has made requests for the securing of proper sending organizations by holding opinion exchanges with the government of the sending countries and has also been attending seminars on explanations on the program in the partner country together with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs(MOFA) and the Organization for Technical Intern Training.

As part of the reason for their disappearance, it had been pointed out that sending organizations, etc., had been unjustly collecting money as expenses from technical intern trainees, so fact-finding surveys targeting approximately 2,000 technical intern trainees were conducted from December 2021 to April 2022 by taking opportunities such as on-site inspections by the Organization for Technical Intern Training and Regional Immigration Services Bureaus. As a result, it was discovered that many technical intern trainees had paid a large sum of money to their sending or intermediary organizations in their home countries and consequently, had significant debts.

For improper cases found through these surveys, investigations into implementing or supervising organizations were conducted and administrative dispositions or other penalties were considered depending on the case. Action is also taken towards the government of the sending country, such as sending a notification to that government under the above Memorandum of Cooperation.



Scene of opinion exchange based on MOC

3 Other Initiatives

With respect to pregnancy, childbirth, and other relevant issues, it had been pointed out that some technical intern trainees were improperly treated by supervising or other organizations, so fact-finding surveys targeting 650 technical intern trainees were conducted from August 2022 to November 2022 by taking opportunities of on-site inspections by the Organization for Technical Intern Training. As a result, a certain number of technical intern trainees answered that they had been improperly treated, and it was revealed that technical intern trainees were not fully aware of systems related to pregnancy and childbirth and various support measures.

Together with the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and the Organization for Technical Intern Training, the ISA had worked to familiarize technical intern trainees with systems and other matters related to pregnancy and childbirth, and warned them about the prohibition on disadvantageous treatment repeatedly in the past. However, based on those survey results, the ISA issued another message in December 2022 and decided to request supervising organizations, etc., to give explanations to technical intern trainees, during regular audits. The ISA continues to implement initiatives to ensure proper treatment related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Section 2 Situation of Operation of The “Specified Skilled Worker” System

1 Operation Policy of the Specified Skilled Worker System

(1) The Government’s Basic Policy

Based on the “Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2018” (Cabinet decision of June 15, 2018), Basic Policy for the operation of the System of Specified Skilled Worker Status of Residence (hereinafter referred to as “the government’s basic policy”) was established pursuant to Article 2-3, paragraph (1) of the Amended Immigration Control Act, which entered into force on April 1, 2019 in order to ensure proper operation of the system pertaining to the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker.”

As well as matters relating to the significance of the system pertaining to the status of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker,” the government’s basic policy stipulates the basic matters relating to the industrial fields where labor shortages need to be supplemented by foreign nationals since it is difficult to secure human resources (hereinafter referred to as “specified industrial field”), the basic matters relating to human resources required in a specified industrial field, the basic matters relating to coordination of the clerical affairs of the relevant administrative agencies concerning operation of the system pertaining to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker, and other important matters related to operation of the system related to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker ([Reference 82](#)).

Reference 82 Outline of the Basic Policy on Operation of the System of Specified Skilled Worker (Status of Residence)

Basic Policy on Operation of the System of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” Established to Ensure Proper Operation of the System of the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker” (Article 2-3 of the newly amended Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act)

1. Matters concerning the significance of the system

To build a framework for the acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals, who possess certain expertise and skills in industrial fields where it is difficult to secure workforces even after efforts to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources have been made so as to respond to the serious shortage in labor of small and medium-sized enterprises and other businesses.

2. Matters concerning the industrial fields where labor shortage needs to be supplemented by foreign workers

- Fields where specified skilled workers will be accepted
Industrial fields where foreign workers are needed to supplement the labor shortage, which is still difficult to secure human resources even after efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources (hereinafter referred to as “specified industrial fields”).
- Consideration to regions facing labor shortage
Efforts to take necessary measures will be made so as not to have an excessive concentration of specified skilled workers in metropolitan areas or other particular areas
- Expected number of acceptance
The number of specified skilled workers to be accepted over the next five years will be stated in the operation policy of each field

4. Basic matters concerning adjustment of the administrative affairs of the relevant administrative organizations

- Measures taken in Japan: Malicious intermediary organizations (brokers), etc. will be eliminated completely through enhancing collaboration between the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and other related organizations.
- Measures taken outside Japan: In order to prevent the intervention by malicious intermediary organizations such as those that collect deposits, intergovernmental documents such as bilateral arrangements will be made as well as necessary measures will be taken.
- Responses to changes in the situation of labor shortages
The head of the administrative organizations which are in charge of the specified industrial fields will continuously monitor the situation of labor shortage in the fields. When a change was observed in the situation, the relevant administrative organizations of the system and those which are in charge of the specified industrial fields will discuss future policies of acceptance. If necessary, revision of operation policy of each specified industrial field, suspension of the issuance of certificate of eligibility or deletion of fields from the ministerial ordinance stipulating the specified industrial fields will be discussed at the relevant ministerial meetings.
- The expected number of foreign workers to be accepted over the next five years will be considered as the upper limit of acceptance under this system, unless there is a major change in the economic situation.
- Responses in the event of public security problems
The relevant administrative organizations of the system and those which are in charge of the specified industrial fields will make efforts to cooperate by sharing and monitoring the related information, and to take necessary measures so as to ensure such problems as foreign workers got missing and other public security problems will not occur through the acceptance of specified skilled workers.

5. Important matters concerning operation of the system

- Supports for “Specified Skilled Worker (i)”
Orientation of daily life, support to learn daily Japanese language, consultations and complaints handling for foreign workers, promotion of exchanges between foreign workers and Japanese are included in the supports.
- When foreign workers use Hello Work(public employment agency) to change their jobs, it will make efforts to understand the work conditions foreign workers desire, their skill level, and Japanese language proficiency level, and provide proper services for employment counseling and job placement.
- Employment type: Full-time and, in principle, direct hire. Under special circumstances, specified skilled workers may, as an exception, be dispatched by staffing services agencies, but this will be clearly stated in the operation policy of each field.
- Review of the Basic Policy: The system will be reviewed 2 years after enforcement of the amended Act, and modified if necessary.

Introduction page for the system of specified skilled worker

(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/policies/ssw/nyuukokukanri01_00127.html)

(2) Field-Specific Operation Policy

The field-specific operation policy is a policy on the operation of the system related to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker in a specified industrial field. In accordance with the government's basic policy, it is specified by the Minister of Justice together with the head of the administrative agency with jurisdiction over the field, the National Public Safety Commission, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare in order to ensure proper operation of the system pertaining to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker in the specified industrial fields.

In response to the enactment and promulgation of the Amended Act, the government's basic policy and the field-specific operation policies for each of the 14 specified industrial fields^(*) were approved on December 25, 2018 by the Ministerial Council on Acceptance and Inclusion of Foreign Human Resources.

The field-specific operation policies stipulated the matters related to the situation of the shortage of human resources in the specified industrial fields as well as matters relating to the criteria for the human resources required in the specified industrial fields and other important matters related to operation of the system pertaining to the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker (**Reference 83**).

(*) In the partial revision of the government's basic policy (Cabinet decision of April 26, 2022), the fields of Machine parts and tooling industry, Industrial machinery industry, and Electric, electronics and information industry were integrated to form "Machine parts and tooling / Industrial machinery / Electric, electronics and information industries." From May 25, 2022, there will be 12 fields.

Reference 83 Field-Specific Operation Policy (12 fields)

	Field	Labor shortage	Human resource criteria		Other important matters	
		Prospective no. of foreign nationals to be accepted (maximum no. over 5 years)	Skills test	Japanese language exam	Type of work	Employment form
M H L W	Nursing care	50,900	Nursing care skills evaluation test	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher (In addition to the above) Nursing care Japanese language evaluation test	As well as physical care (such as bathing, meals, assistance for excretion, etc., adjusted to the mental and physical state of the user), supplemental support services (recreation, assistance with functional exercise, etc.) (Note) Home visit services are excluded [1 test category]	Direct
	Building cleaning management	20,000	Building cleaning field specified skills (i) evaluation test	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	Interior building cleaning [1 test category]	Direct
M E T I	Machine parts & tooling / Industrial Machinery / Electric, electronics and information industries	49,750	Manufacturing field specified skills (i) evaluation test	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machining and metal processing • Electric and electronic equipment assembly • Metal surface treatment [3 test categories]	Direct
M L I T	Construction industry	34,000	Construction field specified skills (i) evaluation test, etc.	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil engineering • Building • Infrastructure facilities & equipment [3 test categories]	Direct
	Shipbuilding & ship machinery industry	11,000	Shipbuilding/ship machinery field specified skills (i) evaluation test, etc.	Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (provisional) etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welding - Painting - Iron Work - Finishing - Machining - Electrical equipment [6 test categories]	Direct
	Automobile repair & maintenance	6,500	Automobile repair and maintenance field specified skills evaluation test, etc.	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	Automobile daily maintenance, Regular maintenance, Certified maintenance, The work in incidentally in certified maintenance [1 test category]	Direct
	Aviation industry	1,300	Aviation field specified skills evaluation test (airport ground handling or aircraft maintenance)	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport ground handling (handling of an aircraft on the ground, handling of baggage / cargo, etc.) • Aircraft maintenance (maintenance work, etc. for an aircraft, equipment, etc.) [2 test categories]	Direct
	Accommodation industry	11,200	Accommodation industry skills proficiency test	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	Providing accommodation services such as working at the front desk, planning / public relations, hospitality and restaurant services [1 test category]	Direct
M A F F	Agriculture	36,500	Agriculture skills proficiency test (cultivation agriculture or livestock agriculture)	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation agriculture (cultivation management, harvesting and shipping / sorting of agricultural products, etc.) • Livestock agriculture (management of rising, harvesting and shipping / sorting of livestock products, etc.) [2 test categories]	Direct Dispatch
	Fishery & aquaculture	6,300	Fishing industry skills proficiency test (fishery or aquaculture industry)	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery (Production and repair of fishing gear, aquatic animals and plant exploration, operation of fishing gear and fishing machinery, aquatic animal and plant harvesting, treatment and storage of Fishery products, securing of safety and health, etc.) • Aquaculture industry (Production, repair and management of aquacultural materials, cultivation and management of aquatic animal and plant farming, harvesting and processing, securing of safety and health, etc.) [2 test categories]	Direct Dispatch
	Manufacture of food and beverages	87,200	Food and beverage manufacturing industry skills proficiency test	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	General food and beverage manufacturing (manufacture and processing of food and beverages (excluding alcoholic beverages), health and safety) [1 test category]	Direct
	Food service industry	30,500	Restaurant industry skills proficiency test	Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese or Japanese Language Proficiency Test N4 or higher	General restaurant work (food preparation, customer service, restaurant management) [1 test category]	Direct

(3) Memorandum of Cooperation

In accordance with the government's basic policy, Memorandums of Cooperation, such as for the construction of an information sharing framework, are entered into between the Japanese government and the governments of sending countries for Specified Skilled Workers, in order to eliminate malicious intermediary organizations (brokers), such as those collecting deposits from foreign nationals who wish to work in Japan or their families.

(4) Status of Memorandum of Cooperation

As of the end of July 2023, Memorandums of Cooperation have been entered into with 16 countries; the Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Laos, and Kyrgyz.

In accordance with these Memorandums of Cooperation, we share information and exchange opinions with the respective governments as necessary, and strive to address any issues that are considered to require action in order to achieve the appropriate operation of the Specified Skilled Worker system.

2 Efforts for the Smooth Operation of the Specified Skilled Worker System

(1) Revision of the Government's Basic Policy

Based on the actual situation after operating the system for three years, some changes were made to the government's basic policy (Cabinet decision of April 26, 2022), which integrated the three manufacturing fields (Machine parts and tooling industry, Industrial machinery industry, and Electric, electronics and information industry) into Machine parts and tooling / Industrial machinery / Electric, electronics and information industries. The new integrated field started operation from May 25, 2022, following the revision of relevant ministerial ordinances by the MOJ and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

(2) Revision of the Field-Specific Operation Policy

Based on the government's basic policy, it was decided that the expected number of foreign nationals to be accepted in each specified industrial field would be the upper limit for the number of Specified Skilled Workers (i) by the end of March 2024, unless there were major changes in the economic situation. However, in 2022, it's likely that the pandemic affected the acceptance of Specified Skilled Workers in all specified industrial fields, so the expected numbers in all fields were reviewed and revised in line with such consideration (Cabinet decision of August 30, 2022).

The business categories of the Machine parts and tooling / Industrial machinery / Electric, electronics and information industries, and Construction industry, which had been further divided into 19 subcategories in the past, were organized in each field while ensuring the safety of Specified Skilled Workers by providing various training programs and so on, and other required revisions were made in line with demands and needs arising in the course of operating the Specified Skilled Worker system (Cabinet decision of August 30, 2022).

In addition, with respect to the Specified Skilled Worker (ii) requiring professional skills, only two fields (Construction industry, and Shipbuilding and ship machinery industry) had been covered by that status in the past. However, due to various reasons, including a labor

shortage in each field, the scope of the status was expanded to 11 specified industrial fields ^(*) (Cabinet decision of June 9, 2023).

(3) Revision of the Field-Specific Operation Manual

Under the government's basic policy, foreign nationals who have completed technical intern training (ii) are exempt from taking Specified Skilled Worker exams and regarded as having attained the required skill and other levels. The applicable work and operation types of technical intern training (ii) are clarified in the Operation Manual for each field. For work and operation types that require technical intern training (ii) after the start of the Specified Skilled Worker system, measures of exemption from the exams were not taken because there were no applicable provisions. Therefore, provisions were developed to allow foreign nationals who have completed technical intern training for the job categories of "Accommodation (Hospitality/Sanitary Management)," "Non-heated fishery processed foodstuff manufacturing work (Operations: Half cooked product manufacturing and raw food product manufacturing)," and "Fishing boat fisheries (Operation: Stick-held-dipnet fishery)" to shift to their respective related fields without taking exams (revised on August 30, 2022).

(4) Specified Skilled Worker System Promotion Projects

For the purpose of promoting the utilization of the Specified Skilled Worker system, we have held job matching events for foreign nationals who want to work with the status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker" and companies that want to hire such foreign nationals since FY 2020. We have also held information seminars overseas since FY 2021 to promote the system to foreign nationals living overseas or provide them with explanations of Japanese companies. Matching events and information seminars overseas were also held in FY 2022.

Starting in September 2020, we opened the "Support Website for the Specified Skilled Worker" to transmit information to business operators and foreign nationals, including an outline of the Specified Skilled Worker system and exam information in each field. In addition to plain Japanese, this site provides information in 12 foreign languages (English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Philipino, Thai, Indonesian, Burmese, Nepali, Mongolian, Khmer, Sinhala, and Urdu).

Support website for the Specified Skilled Worker Program (<https://www.ssw.go.jp/>)

(*) The Nursing care field is not covered by the Specified Skilled Worker (ii) because there is a status of residence of "Nursing Care" for professional and technical fields currently.

Section 3

Review of the Ideal Form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System

1 Background

With respect to the Technical Intern Training Program (hereinafter referred to as “TITP”) and the Specified Skilled Worker System (hereinafter referred to as “SSWS”), it is approaching the time for reviewing required by the Article 2 of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees (Act No. 89 of 2016) and Article 18, paragraph (2) of the Supplementary Provisions of the Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice (Act No. 102 of 2018).

During the period between February 2022 and July 2022, the former Minister of Justice Mr. Furukawa held the “Minister of Justice study sessions concerning the Specified Skilled Worker System and Technical Intern Training Program” for 11 times to listen to a wide range of opinions from experts from various fields and grasp the issues. At a press conference after the cabinet meeting on July 29, 2022, he announced matters such as tasks and issues learned through the study sessions, and basic concepts for consideration in the future, as his impressions.

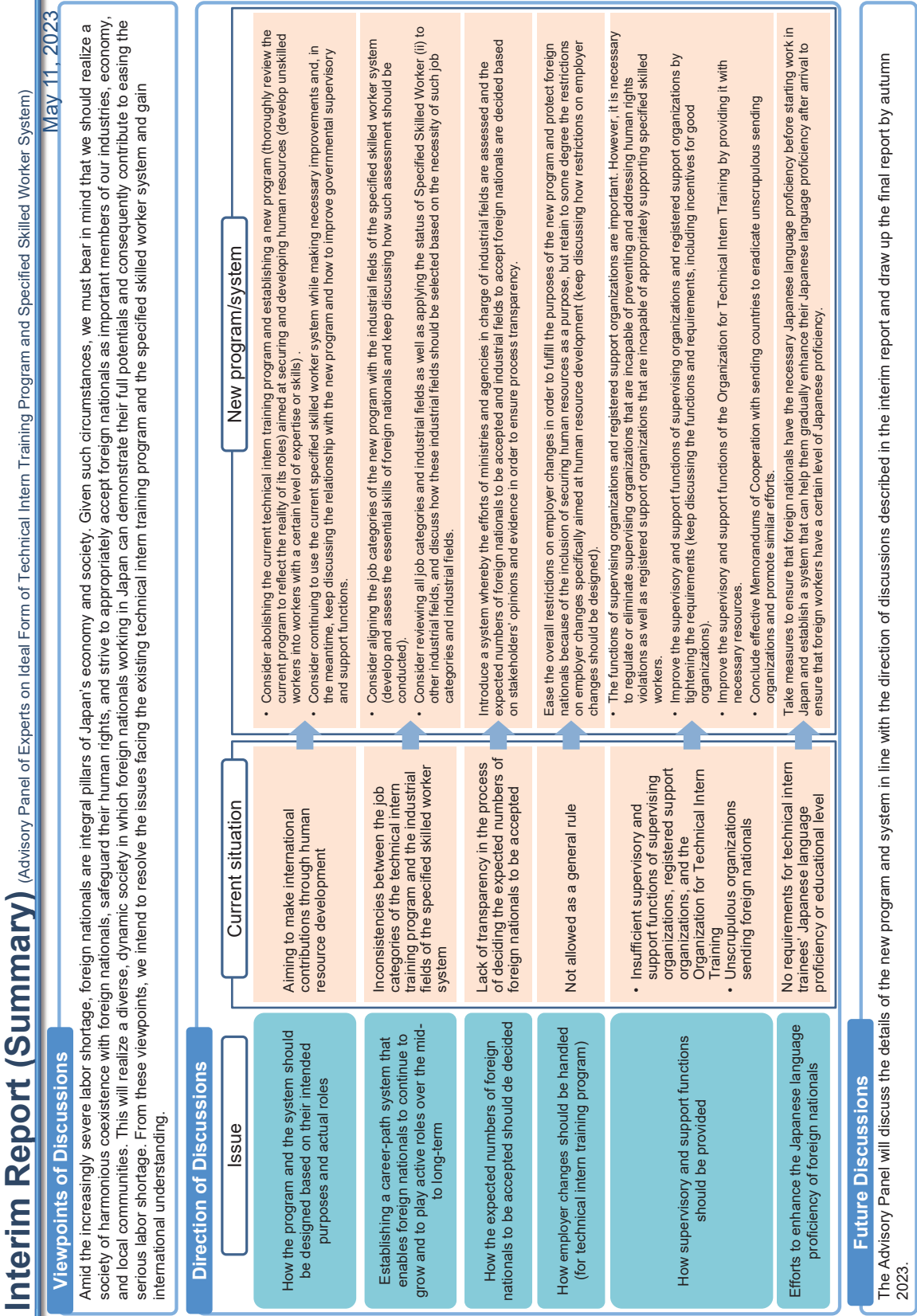
On November 22, 2022, the Advisory Panel of Experts on the Ideal Form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System (hereinafter referred to as the “Advisory Panel of Experts”) was established under the Ministerial Council on Acceptance and Inclusion of Foreign Human Resources (hereinafter referred to as “Ministerial Council”). The purpose of the panel is to review the implementation of the TITP and SSWS, identify issues, and discuss the ways to properly accept foreign human resources, and state opinions for the Ministerial Council. Since December 2022, discussions have been held at meetings of the Advisory Panel of Experts. On May 11, 2023, an interim report summarizing the discussions up to the seventh meetings of the Advisory Panel of Experts was submitted to the former Minister of Justice, Mr. Saito ([Reference 84](#)).

Based on this interim report, the direction in which the government should deliberate was indicated in the “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (revised in FY 2023) and the “Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform” (Cabinet decision of June 16, 2023).

Based on the final report and others summarized by the Advisory Panel of Experts, the government as a whole will comprehensively review the relevant matters to embody the program and system in the future.

Reference 84

Interim report (outline) (Advisory Panel of Experts on the Ideal Form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System)



2 Outline

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare should consider the following matters in cooperation with other ministries and agencies relevant to the program and system as well as those with jurisdiction over relevant fields, based on the interim report of the Advisory Panel of Experts. It should also make efforts to establish the program and system in the future based on the final report and others summarized by the Advisory Panel of Experts.

(1) Premises

When considering the ideal form of the TITP and SSWS, the government need to stand the perspective in the following direction: aiming to realize a society of harmonious coexistence where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals respect each other and live safely and comfortably, reviewing TITP and SSWS to be an easy-to-understanding ways so that foreign nationals can advance their careers while working in Japan, and making Japan attractive country for workplace.

(2) How to design systems that reflect desirable purposes and actual needs

We should conduct discussions in the direction of refurbishing the current TITP and establishing a new program aimed at securing and developing human resources. Also, we should conduct examinations from the direction of continuing to use the current system while reviewing the system and making necessary improvements and achieving a balance with the new program aimed at securing and developing human resources, in order to respond to the severe labor shortage.

(3) Establishing a career-path that enables foreign nationals to continue to grow and to play active roles over the mid- to long-term (including ideal work types applicable to the program and system)

From the perspective of realizing an easy-to-grasp new program and SSWS through which foreign nationals can work and play active roles in Japan while advancing their careers, we should consider aligning the job categories of the new program with the industrial fields of SSWS so that the foreign nationals can smoothly move on from the new program to SSWS.

(4) How to decide the numbers of foreign nationals that can be expected to be accepted (including the current handling in the SSWS)

In the new system and the SSWS, we will consider a course that increases transparency and predictability, such as a mechanism that makes decisions based on the opinions of various stakeholders, such as labor and management organizations, and on evidence, with regard to, for example, confirmation of the status of initiatives to improve productivity and secure human resources in Japan, the setting of the expected number of admissions, and the setting of industrial fields.

(5) How employer changes should be handled

With regard to the new program, we should conduct examinations in the following direction: while retaining to some degree the restrictions on employer changes specifically aimed at human resource development, we should enhance the rights of foreign nationals as work-

ers because of the inclusion of securing human resources as a purpose of the program, and should ease the overall restrictions on employer changes in order to fulfill the purport of the new program and protect the target foreign nationals. As for how restrictions on employer changes should be designed, we will discuss the details from a comprehensive viewpoint such as the time required for human resource development at the accepting companies, etc., the costs borne by the accepting companies, etc. at the time when foreign nationals come to Japan and during the human resource development.

(6) How supervisory and support functions should be provided

We should conduct discussions in the direction of tightening the requirements so that we can ensure that only good organizations by strictly regulating or eliminating supervising organizations which are incapable of preventing and addressing human rights violations and improper working conditions at accepting companies, etc., and support organizations which are incapable of providing overall support for foreign nationals in order to ensure that only good organizations. These requirements should be applied to the screening for new organizations. Moreover, we should conduct examinations in the direction of providing incentives to good organizations.

We should conduct examinations in the direction of continuing to use the Organization for Technical Intern Training by providing it with necessary resources according to its role.

Toward preventing collection of excessive fees, eradicating unscrupulous sending organizations, and ensuring appropriate operation of sending organizations, we should conduct examinations in the direction of strengthening international efforts for proper acceptance of foreign human resources, such as preparing an effective Memorandums of Cooperation (MOC) with the other country, also under the new program.

(7) Efforts to enhance the Japanese language proficiency of foreign nationals

We should discuss not only measures to ensure that foreign nationals have the necessary Japanese language proficiency before starting work in Japan, but also establishing a system that can help them gradually enhance their Japanese language proficiency.

Chapter 6

Efforts for Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

Section 1

Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

1 Background

As described in Section 2-1 below, at the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Ministerial Conference”) held on December 25, 2018, “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Comprehensive Measures”) was decided. Since then, the Comprehensive Measures has been revised and enhanced every year, and are established in Japan as a direction for the realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, but are limited to dealing with short-term issues. It was necessary to promote measures to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals more than ever, considering the impact of the spread of the new coronavirus infection, so as not to isolate foreign nationals who are legally residing in Japan, but accept them as members of society.

Therefore, on January 29, 2021, with the purpose of not only responding to the short-term issue of revising the Comprehensive Measures, but investigating the ideal state of a society of harmonious coexistence and medium- to long-term challenges that should be addressed in order to realize the society, as well as reporting opinions to the Ministerial Conference, “Advisory Panel of Experts for the Realization of Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” was decided to be convened and the opinion compiled by the Advisory Panel was submitted to the Minister of Justice, co-chair of the Ministerial Conference, on November 29 of the same year.

On June 14, 2022, based on the opinion, the Ministerial Conference decided the “Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Roadmap”), which shows the visions of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals for Japan and the medium- to long-term issues that should be addressed to realize these visions. The government decided to work together to further promote establishing an environment aimed to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals ([Reference 85](#)).

Most recently, the Ministerial Conference held on June 9, 2023 added new measures and updated the work schedule based on the opinions of experts and the like.

2 Outline

The Roadmap indicates the four key points and specific measures for the four key points as medium- to long-term issues to be addressed to realize three visions of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, as well as a work schedule for each measure.

The planning period of this Roadmap is for five years until FY 2026, and in order to ensure the steady implementation of measures, the implementation status of the Roadmap is to be assessed annually to confirm its progress and review the measures as needed, while listening to the opinions of experts. For the decision of the Roadmap (FY 2023 partly changed), the “Hearing Concerning the Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” was held to hear the opinions of experts.

[Visions on the society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals we aim for and medium- to long-term issues that should be addressed to realize these visions]

[Three Visions]

- (i) A society where foreign nationals are included as members of Japanese society of the future, and where all people can live safely and comfortably
- (ii) A diverse and vibrant society where all people, including foreign nationals, from various backgrounds can participate and demonstrate their abilities to their fullest
- (iii) A society where all people, including foreign nationals, respect each other's individual dignity and human rights and can live without discrimination or prejudice

[Four Key Points]

- (i) Initiatives such as Japanese language education for smooth communication and participation in society
- (ii) Disseminating information to foreign nationals / strengthening consultation systems for foreign nationals
- (iii) Support for each life stage and life cycle
- (iv) Initiatives to establish the foundation of a society of harmonious coexistence

Reference 85 Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (FY 2023 partly changed) (Outline)

In June 2022, we formulated a Roadmap that shows Japan's visions for a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, as well as the medium- to long-term issues to be addressed and the specific measures to be taken to achieve these visions. This time, to ensure the steady implementation of these measures, we conducted a review by seeking advice from experts on the progress of the measures, and updated the measures as needed.

1 Ideal Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (Three visions)

Safe and Comfortable Society

A society where foreign nationals are included as members of Japanese society of the future, and where all people can live safely and comfortably.

Diverse and Vibrant Society

A diverse and vibrant society where all people, including foreign nationals, from various backgrounds can participate and demonstrate their abilities to their fullest.

Society that Respects Individual Dignity and Human Rights

A society where all people, including foreign nationals, respect each other's individual dignity and human rights and can live without discrimination or prejudice.

2 Medium- to Long-term Issues to be Addressed (Four Key Points)

1 Initiatives such as Japanese language education for smooth communication and participation in society

2 Disseminating information to foreign nationals / strengthening consultation systems for foreign nationals

3 Support for each life stage and life cycle

4 Initiatives to establish the foundation of a society of harmonious coexistence

3 Major Initiatives Related to the Key Points

1 Initiatives such as Japanese language education for smooth communication and participation in society

- Steadfastly promote initiatives to the creation of a comprehensive system for enhancement of Japanese language education provided by prefectures and other entities and provide support for Japanese language educational programs run jointly by municipalities and prefectures [MEXT] (1)
- Development of educational models by discipline in accordance with the curriculum and proficiency criteria specified in the Framework of Reference for the Japanese Language Education [MEXT] (3)
- Establishment of an environment for learning knowledge about Japanese social systems and other knowledge (open to those who are planning to come to Japan in the future) by creating and utilizing daily life orientation videos (provide basic information necessary for living in Japan, basic Japanese language education), etc. [MOJ] (6)
- Development and provision of ICT lesson materials for Japanese language for different daily occasions, etc. [MEXT] (8)
- Promote the environment of Japanese language education abroad for foreign nationals to learn smooth communication in Japanese before coming to Japan [MOFA] (9)
- Establishment of certification system for Japanese language institutions and Japanese language teacher qualification system [MEXT] (11)

2 Disseminating information to foreign nationals / strengthening consultation systems for foreign nationals

- Formulation and publication of posting guidelines for the "Guidebook on Living and Working" and "A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals" [MOJ] (17)
- Consideration of the prompt acquisition of information through the Mynaportal, etc., and the customized or push-type dissemination of information [MOJ] <18>
- Promoting the establishment of one-stop consulting counters by reviewing the subsidies for preparations for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals [MOJ] (20)
- Initiatives for multilingual translation/interpreting technologies focused on developing practical simultaneous interpreting technologies and expanding the priority languages to include 21 languages [MIC] <23>
- Joint consultation sessions by relevant organizations providing support to foreign nationals in local communities [MOJ] (27)
- Conducting training programs to promote plain Japanese, etc. [MOJ] [MEXT] (31) (32)

3 Support for each life stage and life cycle

- Launch community-based programs that provide opportunities for parents and their children to meet up and consult about their concerns and problems in parenting. [CFA] <33>
- Promote integrated management and identification of the school enrollment status of foreign children by collaborating the Basic Resident Registration system and the school-age children registration system [MEXT] (36)
- Promote efforts to set special admission quotas for foreign students for public high school entrance examinations and make necessary adjustments for foreign examinees [MEXT] (47)
- Introduce Japanese language tutoring system to the high school curriculum [MEXT] (49)
- Dispatch expert consultants and interpreters to the career service sections for foreign nationals at public employment security offices to provide suitable career consultation services, and familiarize and educate staff on how to handle the employment of foreign nationals. [MHLW] <57>
- Implement effective collaboration between and necessary updates to initiatives to encourage international students to seek career opportunities in Japanese companies and other organizations, and conduct efforts to further increase the rate of employment in Japan. [MEXT] <59>
- Provide job training for foreign residents based on their Japanese proficiency levels [MHLW] (61)
- Continue and enhance of publicizing and public relations concerning the pension system [MHLW] (63)
- Grasp of actual condition by "Basic Survey on Foreign Residents," etc. [MOJ] (66)

4 Initiatives to establish the foundation of a society of harmonious coexistence

- Establishment of "Month for Raising Public Awareness of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals" (tentative name), and implement of various events to raise public awareness, etc. [MOJ] (67) (68)
- Further promote and enhance education based on cross-cultural understanding and multicultural coexistence through school programs [MEXT] (71)
- Creation and publication of new statistical tables to analyze the living situations of foreign residents by nationality, status of residence, industry, etc., by utilizing the statistics on foreign residents in Japan, etc. [MOJ] (74)
- Conduct statistical surveys for the management of labor conditions and other labor aspects of foreign nationals and keep track of labor transition, etc. [MHLW] (75)
- Trial project to support the efforts of private support groups to provide outreach support to foreign residents [MOJ] (80)
- Consideration of efforts towards construction of a centralized information management system required for residency management at the Immigration Services Agency [MOJ] (82)
- Integrate Individual Number Cards ("My Number Card") and residence cards to improve convenience [MOJ] (85)
- Consideration of training support staff for foreign nationals and a certification system for highly specialized support staff, etc. [MOJ] (86)

Note: Items with initiative numbers in red are new initiatives that accompany the FY2023 partly changed.

4 Promotional Framework

- ◆ The planning period is until FY2026.
- ◆ Track the progress through annual assessment while interviewing experts and update the measures as needed.
- ◆ Clearly indicate initiatives, in the Comprehensive Measures, which are to be implemented within the applicable fiscal year

5 FY2023 Updates

Major points indicated by experts

- The initiatives executed each year are represented by a single line on a work schedule, so we cannot comprehend the actual situation.
- Using output or outcome indicators (for the KPIs) makes it easier to comprehend the policy impact.
- It is important to comprehend the change in the KPIs figures over time, so we want the comparison with the figures before the Roadmap was created to be shown.
- We understand that it is difficult to set the KPIs for new initiatives, but more than just setting the KPIs, it is necessary to make them definite going forward.
- The points indicated aside from those listed above were concerning individual initiatives.

Major updates

Work schedule updates 70 items

KPIs updates 28 items

New / initiative content updates 13 items

Introduction page for the Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/policies/coexistence/04_00033.html)

Section 2

Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals

1 Background

The “Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2018” (approved in the Cabinet on June 15, 2018) stipulated the establishment of a new status of residence in order to expand the acceptance of foreign human resources with a certain degree of expertise and skills, and at the same time, the MOJ came to serve as the command center with general coordination functions in order to develop the environment for acceptance of foreign nationals, and strengthen cooperation with the related ministries and agencies and local governments, etc..

Based on this, it was decided at the Cabinet meeting held on July 24, 2018 that the MOJ would be authorized to carry out the general coordination functions to develop the environment for acceptance of foreign nationals, and moreover, the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (hereinafter referred to as “Ministerial Conference”) was established in order to conduct a government-wide comprehensive study with regard to the acceptance of new foreign nationals and preparation of the environment for the realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals with the close collaboration of the relevant administrative agencies.

At the 3rd Ministerial Conference held on December 25, 2018, the Comprehensive Measures were decided, and since then it has been revised five times.

Most recently, on June 9, 2023, along with the decision of the Roadmap (FY 2023 partly changed), we revised the Comprehensive Measures (FY 2023 revised) based on the Roadmap (FY 2023 partly changed), with the perspective of further enhancing the environment for accepting foreign nationals.

2 Outline

The Comprehensive Measures indicate the direction to be aimed for in relation to the acceptance and harmonious coexistence of foreign nationals, in order to achieve the purpose of contributing to the realization of a society where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals are able to live safely and comfortably together through the proper acceptance of foreign nationals and to realize a society of harmonious coexistence.

The Comprehensive Measures (FY 2023 revised) includes a total of 217 measures (**Reference 86**).

In the FY 2023 revised, the Comprehensive Measures indicate the measures that should be implemented in FY 2023 in the Roadmap and the measures that are not included in the Roadmap itself because they are not necessarily measures that should be implemented over the medium- to long-term, but should be addressed by the government to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

The government will continue to make across-the-board efforts to realize a society of harmonious coexistence by working together to continue to annually assess the situation of implementation of the Roadmap and periodically following up on the Comprehensive Measures.

Reference 86

Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals (FY 2023 revised)(Outline)

June 9, FY2023
Ministerial Conference on Acceptance
and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals

- As of the end of 2022, the number of foreign nationals residing in Japan was 3.08 million. The number of foreign workers as of the end of October 2022 was 1.82 million. (a record high)
- **Formulated from the point of view of further enhancing the environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals and based on the Roadmap review (2017 policies).**
- The government will make across-the-board efforts to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals by working together to continue to steadily implement relevant measures and periodically following up on the Comprehensive Measures.

Initiatives such as Japanese language education for smooth communication and participation in society

- Establishment of an environment that enables foreign nationals to acquire the Japanese language skills necessary for daily life
- Creation of a comprehensive system for enhancement of Japanese language education promoted by prefectural governments, etc., Japanese language education support jointly provided by local governments, and improvement of the level of Japanese language education in local communities utilizing the "Framework of Reference for the Japanese Language Education" <Policy 1>
- Development of educational models by discipline in accordance with the curriculum and proficiency criteria specified in the "Framework of Reference for the Japanese Language Education" <Policy 3>
- Development and provision of ICT lesson materials for Japanese language for different daily occasions, etc. <Policy 4>
- Development and provision of an environment for learning knowledge about Japanese social systems, etc., by creating and utilizing daily life orientation videos, etc. <Policy 7>
- Supporting foreign nationals smoothly settle into Japanese society by spreading information about local financial measures for regional life orientation <Policy 8>
- Consideration of the necessity of further improvement of the Japanese language education environment and related matters <Policy 14>
- Improvement of the quality of Japanese language education, etc.
- Establishment of certification system for Japanese language education institutions and Japanese language teacher qualification system <Policy 5 (reposted)>

Disseminating information to foreign nationals/Strengthening consultation systems for foreign nationals

- Enhancement of information dissemination from the perspective of foreign nationals
- Seek opinions to contribute to the planning, drafting and implementing of harmonious coexistence measures through * Hearings with the relevant parties* and "Opinion box," etc. <Policy 20>
- Consideration of the publication of guidelines for the "Guidebook on Living and Working" and "A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals" <Policy 23>
- Consideration of the prompt acquisition of information through the Mynaportal, etc., and the customized or push-type dissemination of information <Policy 24>
- Strengthening the consultation system to help foreign nationals with their problems
- Consideration of measures that facilitate the establishment of one-stop consulting counters by the local governments, for example enhancing the subsidies for preparation for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals <Policy 35>
- Efforts to improve the effectiveness of the acceptance of foreign nationals to Japanese society by FRESC, etc., and the establishment of a system for the acceptance of foreign nationals in local communities, and so on <Policy 36>
- Implementing joint consultation sessions by relevant organizations providing support to foreign nationals in local communities, and expanding the priority languages to 21 languages <Policy 37>
- Consideration of the development and improvement of counseling services that reflect the actual situation of the consulting counters and implementation of development and improvement actions based on the results of the consideration <Policy 44>
- Further promotion the use of plain Japanese in information dissemination and consultation services
- Summarizing points to consider when speaking in plain Japanese, etc. and supporting local governments in their initiatives <Policy 48>
- Consideration of the use of a translation tool, etc. for plain Japanese <Policy 49>

Support for each life stage and life cycle

- Support, etc. for foreign nationals, especially those in infancy and school ages
- Lunch of community-based programs that provide opportunities for parents and their children to meet up and consult about their concerns and problems encountered in parenting <Policy 52>
- Promotion of integrated management and identification of the school enrollment status of foreign children by collaborating between the Basic Resident Registration system and the school-age children registration system <Policy 55>
- Revision of national information dissemination and consultation support concerning health and hygiene in schools for foreign students to ensure health and hygiene in such schools <Policy 57>
- Support, etc. for foreign nationals, especially those in the early stage of adolescence and adulthood
- Collect, publicize and disseminate examples of special education curricula designed and implemented for Japanese language guidance. <Policy 60>
- Support, etc. for foreign nationals, especially those in adolescence and adulthood
- ① Support for employment for international students, etc.
- Providing employment support to international students through the Employment Service Center for Foreigners, etc. <Policy 68>
- Promotion of employment and successful work life of international students through the formation of regional consortiums for supporting highly skilled foreign professionals <Policy 88>
- ② Support at work
- Dissemination and promotion of utilization of bi-directional educational video training materials and guidebooks in workplaces for Japanese employees and foreign national employees <Policy 89>
- Providing career counseling through expert consultants and interpreters at employment service counters for foreign nationals at Hello Work <Policy 91>
- Providing vocational training for settled foreign residents with special considerations to their Japanese proficiency levels and promoting assignment of vocational training counter for settled foreign residents <Policy 94>
- ③ Ensuring an appropriate work environment, etc.
- Implementation on a trial basis, of lessons related to the employment and labor officer to be appointed on the basis of the guidelines for foreign employee
- Promotion and education activities on systems that can be used by technical intern trainees who are pregnant or have given birth to a child <Policy 107>
- Support, etc. for foreign nationals, especially those in old age
- Promotion and education activities on systems that can be used by technical intern trainees who are pregnant or have given birth to a child <Policy 107>
- Continued publishing and public relations concerning the pension system and consideration of enhancement of it <Policy 108>
- Support common to all life stages
- Grasp of actual situation by "Basic Survey on Foreign Residents", etc. <Policy 21 (reposted)>

*1. Underlined indicate policies that are not related to the "Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals (FY2023 Partly Changed)". *2Policy Numbers in red indicate new policies.

Smooth and appropriate acceptance of foreign nationals

- Employment support, etc. for specified skilled workers and other measures
- Provision of information through field-specific councils, etc. and improvement of the working environment for foreign human resources <Policy 126>
- Smooth implementation of skill exams and Japanese language tests for Specified Skilled Workers, and dissemination and smooth utilization of the Specified Skilled Worker System, etc.
- Addition of fields to the Specified Skilled Worker System and addition of fields covered by the Specified Skilled Worker (II), in parallel with review of the ideal form of Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System <Policy 137>
- Train personnel before they come to Japan, for example, by supporting dispatch organizations using ODA and local educational institutions and similar organizations <Policy 139>
- Elimination of malicious intermediary organizations, etc.
- Reinforcement partnerships with relevant organizations in developing countries through ODA programs, support of foreign workers, etc. <Policy 151>
- Expansion of the Japanese language education base abroad
- Promotion of the utilization of the "Fourth Generation Japanese Acceptance System" through support of teacher dispatch provided by JICA, etc. <Policy 152>

Initiatives to establish the foundation of a society of harmonious coexistence

- Raising awareness to realize a society of harmonious coexistence
- Establishment of "Month for Raising Public Awareness of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals" (tentative name), and implementation of various events to raise public awareness, etc. <Policy 153>
- Implementation of surveys and research for the establishment of a network to identify the actual conditions of schoolchildren in scattered local communities <Policy 95 (reposted)>
- Improvement of government statistics to investigate on the actual living conditions of foreign nationals, etc.
- Creation and publication of new statistics to analyze the living situations of foreign residents utilizing the statistics on foreign residents in Japan, etc. <Policy 159>
- Implementation of statistical surveys to identify the actual conditions of the employment management of working conditions, etc., of foreign workers and of labor migration, etc. <Policy 160>
- Enhancement of information collections and strengthening of cooperation, etc. among relevant organizations for the development of infrastructure for realizing a society of harmonious coexistence
- Promotion of support for foreign nationals and improvement of the environment for acceptance of them through development of highly professional Accepting Environmental Coordinators <Policy 162>
- Enhancement and strengthening of information dissemination, etc. through implementation of trial project to support the efforts of private support groups to provide outreach support to foreign nationals <Policy 163>
- Consideration of enhancement of cooperation between related organizations in the consultation offices and the counseling function of the Immigration Information Center <Policy 164>
- Consideration of efforts towards construction of a centralized information management system required for residency management at the Immigration Agency <Policy 165>
- Consideration of expansion of procedures to be made online and of construction of a system that enables users to use their own information on Mynaportal <Policy 166>
- Consideration of improvement of the environment for acquisition of Individual Number Cards ("My Number Card") and efforts towards the integration of Individual Number Cards and residence cards <Policy 167>
- Consideration of provision of support to foreign nationals with life problems, such as development of specialist supporters <Policy 6 (reposted)>
- Collection of data according to the plans and data of coexistence measures related to foreign nationals should be incurred, and the collection of data, etc. to be mounted <Policy 168>
- Adequate qualification management for insured persons who have changed to a residence qualification under which they are not covered by National Health Insurance <Policy 173>
- Creating a system where foreign nationals also play an active role in a society of harmonious coexistence
- Provision of support to international students aiming to qualify as certified care workers, including allocation of scholarships <Policy 181>
- Implementing support for leading local government initiatives through Digital Garden City Nation grants <Policy 183>
- Implementation of reviews of the "Fourth Generation Japanese Acceptance System" <Policy 184>
- Promotion of volunteer community revitalization activities for the settlement of foreign nationals in the local community through collaboration with the local government, etc. <Policy 187>
- Construction of the residency management system as a foundation for a society of harmonious coexistence
- ① Strengthening the foundation of residency management
- Consideration of revisions concerning the permanent resident status, such as revision of the requirements for acquisition of the status and responses to further optimizing the operations of the refugee recognition system through clarifying normative elements on the eligibility for refugee status, etc. <Policy 189>
- Support on foreign nationals for the application for Individual Number Cards to promote the possession of Individual Number Cards among foreign nationals <Policy 191>
- ② Accurate management of international student enrollment
- Stricter examinations of residence status, such as not permitting the acceptance of international students, for institutes like universities, that do not appropriately manage international student enrollment <Policy 195>
- ③ Further optimization of the Technical Intern Training Program
- Establishment of a system that integrates the counseling and instruction functions in the Technical Intern Training Program and consideration of online system of application and other procedures <Policy 98 (reposted)>
- Consideration of measures to prevent disappearance of technical intern trainees, including acceptance of new technical intern trainees from sending organizations with a large number of missing technical intern trainees, and promoting joint efforts with related organizations to prevent technical intern trainees from turning away, such as publication of a leaflet on prevention of missing technical intern trainees <Policy 205>
- ④ Strengthening of measures against illegal foreign residents
- Strengthening of the system to reduce the number of deportation evidences based on the enactment of the Immigration Law Amendment Bill, etc. <Policy 214>

Section 3 Major Efforts in Which the ISA is Involved

1 Support for the Establishment and Operation of a One-stop Consulting Counters Through Subsidies for Preparations for an Environment for the Acceptance of Foreign Nationals

Financial assistance through the “subsidies for preparations for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals” (referred to below as “subsidies”) is provided for the measures for establishment and operation of the one-stop consulting counters through which the local governments provide information and advices so that when a foreign national has some questions or concerns about various matters related to life such as the residence procedures, employment, medical care, welfare, childbirth, child care or child education, he or she will be able to receive appropriate information or will be able to quickly reach a place that offers advices and consultations. The subsidies were granted to 228 local governments in FY 2022, and to 238 local governments in FY 2023 as of April 3, 2023.

Extraordinary measures have been taken to grant a subsidy for necessary expenses beyond the subsidy limit when a one-stop consulting counter performs special operations for the purpose of providing information and consultation service to evacuees from Ukraine during the period from April 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

Introduction page for subsidies for preparations for an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals

(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri02_00039.html)



2 Cooperation with local governments, etc. through Accepting Environmental Coordinators

In April 2019, “Accepting Environmental Coordinators” were assigned to the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, and officers of the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (excluding the Airport District Immigration Services Offices and some branch offices) are sent to some one-stop consulting counters based on a request from the local government, while information and trainings are provided to the officers of the local governments engaging in consultation services.

It will lead to the promotion of multicultural coexistence policies in each region that collaboration and cooperation with local governments, enhancing and strengthening information gathering in regional areas and so on by improving the system for Accepting Environmental Coordinators. In addition, useful information, such as good practices obtained through efforts by Accepting Environmental Coordinators is given to the local governments.



Efforts made by Accepting Environmental Coordinators (view of lecture)



Efforts made by Accepting Environmental Coordinators (view of counselor dispatch)

3 Support at the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC)

Following the decision in “the Basic Policy on Operations for the Development of an Environment for Acceptance of Foreign Nationals (Cabinet decision of July 24, 2018)” to strengthen cooperation between the relevant ministries and agencies, cooperate with local governments, and develop an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals in an effective and efficient manner, the Foreign Residents Support Center was opened on July 2020. FRESC has one floor with representatives from four ministries and agencies, as well as eight other organizations involved in residence support for foreign nationals (Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau; Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau, Human Rights Department; Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu), etc.).

At FRESC, the organizations collaborate to provide consultation on extending and changing status of residence, as well as legal troubles. They also answer inquiries from one-stop consulting counters established by local governments. They support holding training sessions and giving information to local government staff. In addition, the Tokyo Employment Service Center for Foreigners (Hello Work) and Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) hold informational seminars for foreign students and small to medium enterprises, in order to promote the employment of highly-skilled foreign professionals.

Based on the cases of collaboration at FRESC, measures such as participation by relevant organizations in a joint consultation meeting are also taken in regions other than Tokyo.

By establishing a hub for supporting foreign residents, the development of an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals will be promoted in a much more comprehensive and effective manner.



Scene of consultation at the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC)

Introduction page for FRESC

(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/fresc/fresc01.html>)



Introduction video for FRESC

(<https://youtu.be/6BvwblqbvM8>)

4 Support at the Immigration Information Center

The ISA has set up Immigration Information Centers at each Regional Immigration Services Bureau and District Immigration Services Offices (except Airport District Immigration Services Offices, including consultation counters of Regional Immigration Services Bureau and District Immigration Services Offices, which are implemented as general consultation services for foreign residents, hereinafter referred to as “Centers”), as consultation counters that mainly provide guidance on immigration procedures related to status of residence.

In recent years, with the impact of COVID-19, there is a growing need to deal with the problems faced by foreign residents in their daily lives. Therefore, in addition to conventional guidance on immigration procedures, the Centers will also provide consultations on general life issues, and serve as a gateway to support for staying in Japan.



Scene of the Immigration Information Center

Introduction page for the Immigration Information Center

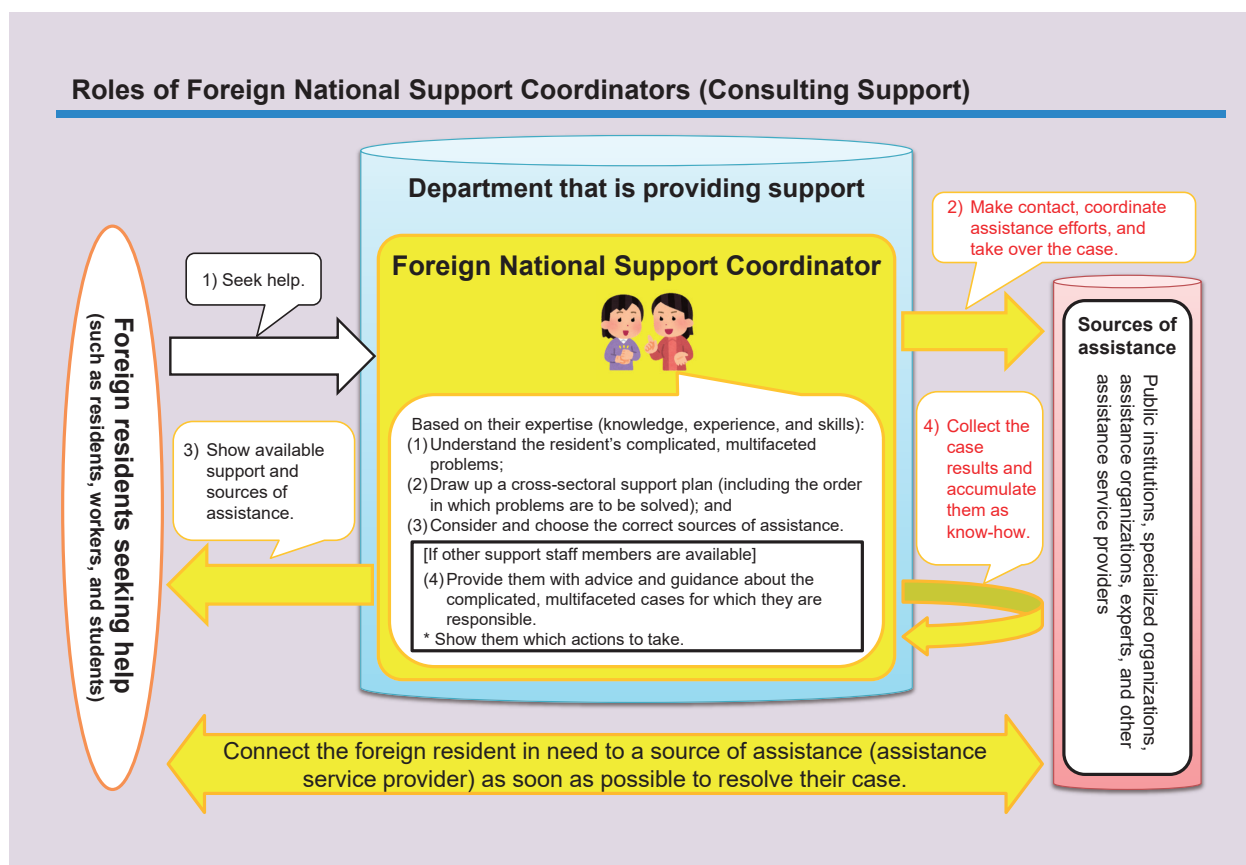
(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/consultation/center/index.html>)

5 Committee on the Roles of Professionals Who Coordinate Comprehensive Support

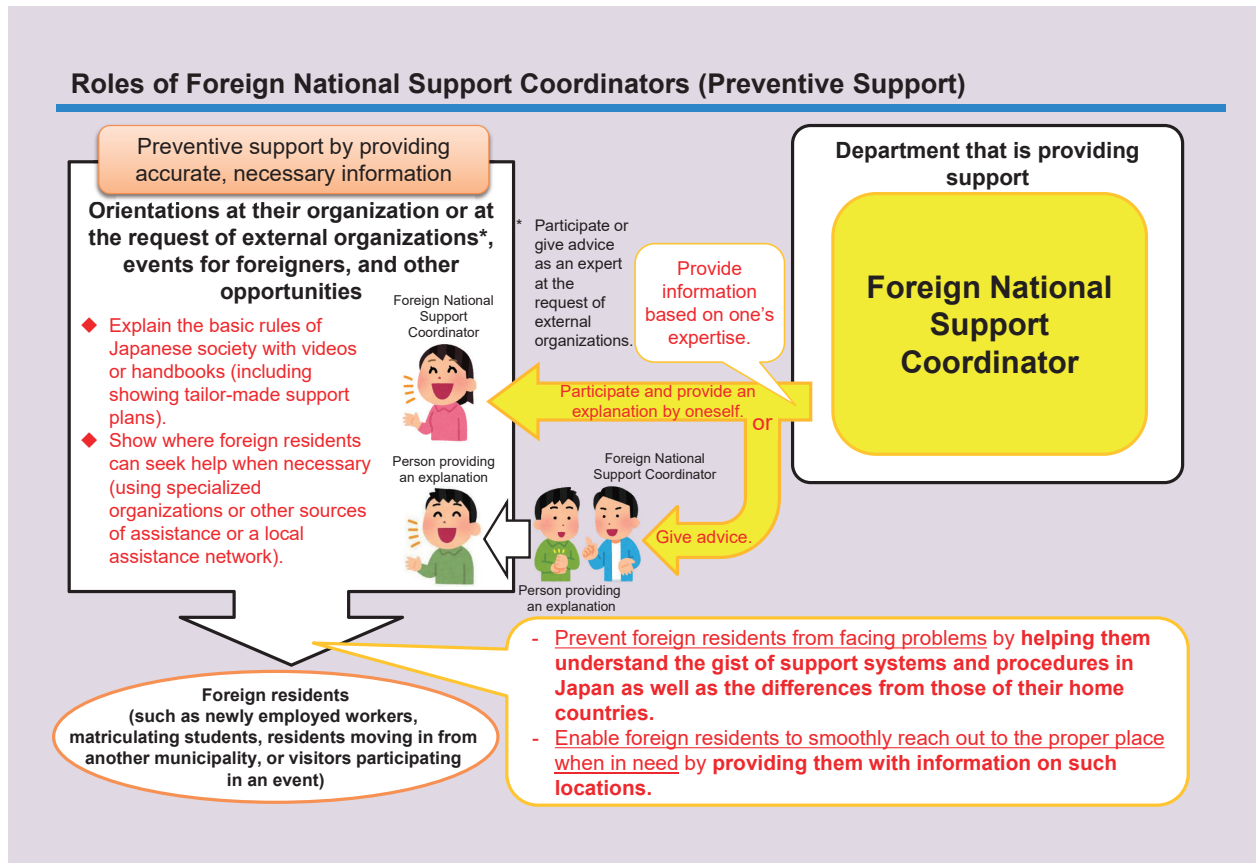
The Committee on the Roles of Professionals Who Coordinate Comprehensive Support held meetings from October 2022 to consider matters such as the roles, skills, and training, and other matters related to professionals who coordinate the provision of comprehensive support for foreign nationals who have problems in their daily life in accordance with the Roadmap (hereinafter referred to as “Foreign National Support Coordinator,” please note, however, that this English translation is provisional translation and is subject to change upon closer examination). Five meetings were held in total and the results of the consideration based on discussions by the Advisory Panel of Experts were summarized in a report on March 24, 2023.

Based on the report, The government plans to consider matters such as the training details for Foreign National Support Coordinators, promotion of assignment of those who have completed training, and a certification system for highly-skilled support professional in FY 2023, and implement training from FY 2024 ([Reference 87, 88](#)).

Reference 87 Roles of Foreign National Support Coordinators (Consulting Support)



Reference 88 Roles of Foreign National Support Coordinators (Preventive Support)



6 Providing Information through “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals”

For the purpose of providing useful information to foreign residents and their supporters, a webpage titled “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” on the ISA’s website provides information in multiple languages on the lifestyle support provided by each ministry or agency to foreign nationals and other matters, as well as matters to note to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection by classifying the information into categories.

A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals
(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/index.html>)



7 Providing information to foreign residents through the “Guidebook on Living and Working,” etc.

The ISA, with cooperation from a wide range of sections of the government, has compiled a “Guidebook on Living and Working” that covers basic information (residency procedures, labor-related laws and regulations, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) necessary for foreign residents to lead their lives and take up employment in Japan safely and securely, and has published this guidebook in 16 languages ^(*) on “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” website.



Guidebook on Living and Working



Guidebook on Living and Working
(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/guidebook_all.html)

(*) Japanese (Including Plain Japanese), English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepali, Thai, Indonesian, Burmese (Myanmar language), Khmer (Cambodian), Filipino, Mongolian, Turkish and Ukrainian.

8 Use of Plain Japanese for Foreign Residents Support

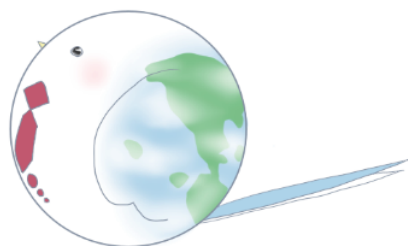
In order to promote the use of plain Japanese by the national government, local governments, and other entities, an expert committee on the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support” was convened in February 2020, and the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support” were created in August 2020.

In addition, based on the results of the report by the “Review Meeting for the Promotion of Information Provision through the Use of Plain Japanese” held in FY 2021, we created the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support: Key Points of the Spoken Language” and the “Guidelines for Plain Japanese Training: Supplement to the Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support,” which were drafted by the “Meeting for the Promotion of the Use of Spoken plain Japanese” held in FY 2022. We are promoting the dissemination and use of plain Japanese by informing local governments and relevant ministries and agencies and providing training for local government officials.

These guidelines are available on “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” on the ISA’s website.



Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support



やさしい日本語のイメージキャラクター「ことりん」です。



Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support
(https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/plainjapanese_guideline.html#midashi02)

Topics: Efforts for promoting the use of My Number Card by foreign residents

Foreign residents in Japan who have a certificate of residence can apply for the Individual Number Card (My Number Card). The My Number Card is a safe and secure “passport” in the digital society and can be used as an identity verification document or to obtain various certificates at convenience stores. In addition, a foreign national who has a My Number Card can apply for residence online after March 2022. In the future, the health insurance card will be incorporated into the My Number Card. My Number Card will become more convenient for foreign residents in Japan in the future, so the ISA implements various measures as follows to promote the use of My Number Card by foreign residents:

1. Provision of guidance in multiple languages on A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals or Regional Immigration Services Bureaus

A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals on the ISA’s website has a special page for My Number Card, providing guidance in multiple languages (16 languages) on how to apply for and use My Number Card and other matters. In addition, Regional Immigration Services Bureau provides information on the above special page and other matters to foreign residents who visit a Regional Immigration Services Bureau for various applications concerning residence.

2. Measures implemented in cooperation with local governments

An on-site My Number Card application support counter was established at each Regional Immigration Services Bureau in cooperation with neighboring municipalities in order to receive My Number Card applications from, and provide consulting service to, foreign residents who visited the bureau.

In October 2022, an on-site application support counter was established in cooperation with Beppu-shi, Oita to provide consulting service on residence and My Number Card outside the bureaus to foreign students of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University and other foreign residents. This resulted in the submission of My Number Card applications from about 100 foreign students and residents in two days.

The ISA will continue to promote the use of My Number Card by foreign residents and consider the use of My Number Card that makes the lives of foreign residents more convenient.



Scene of an on-site My Number Card application counter

Topics: Plain Japanese

Do you know “plain Japanese”?

Plain Japanese means easy-to-understand Japanese that avoids using difficult words in consideration of the other person. It does not neglect the beauty and richness of Japanese language, but aims to help communication with many people, including foreign nationals, elderly people, and people with disabilities, by using Japanese in a manner that is easy to understand for them.

The number of foreign nationals living in Japan is increasing almost every year, and it reached about 3,070,000 people at the end of 2022, increasing about threefold in 30 years. In addition, the foreign nationals who are living in Japan come from diverse countries, and nine languages are used as official languages in the top 10 countries and regions of origin.

In this situation, it is important to ensure that they correctly understand laws and rules, residency and social insurance procedures, information on disasters and evacuation, and other notices of the national and local governments so that they can live safely and securely in Japan. However, there is a limit to the transmission of all information in multiple languages. For this reason, plain Japanese is expected to be useful.

According to the “Basic Survey on Foreign Residents” conducted by the ISA in FY 2021, more than 80% of foreign nationals answered that their Japanese proficiency (speaking and listening) was at least “I can speak at a conversational level.” This indicates that plain Japanese is highly likely to be easy to understand for foreign residents in Japan.

In consideration of these circumstances, for the purpose of promoting the use of plain Japanese and creating a society of harmonious coexistence, the ISA and the Agency for Cultural Affairs created (i) the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support,” which focuses on written language and describes how to write a document using plain Japanese, in August 2020; (ii) the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support: Key Points of the Spoken Language,” which focuses on spoken language and summarizes effective ways of speaking with plain Japanese, in October 2022; and (iii) the “Guidelines for Plain Japanese Training: Supplement to the Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Residents Support,” which is to be used to plan and implement plain Japanese training provided by local governments and other entities to administrative officers and local residents.

It is not difficult to use plain Japanese. We would be glad if you use these guidelines to use plain Japanese in your daily life.

Topics: Let people know about FRESC at a local event! —We love Yotsuya Festival—

We want more people to know about FRESC!

This is the fourth year since the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) opened. FRESC opened in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, so it was frustrating that we could not hold any face-to-face PR event. However, we could finally do so in 2022.

Among the PR events we participated in, this time I would like to introduce “We love Yotsuya Festival,” which is a community-based event. It has been held in autumn every year for more than 20 years mainly by the association of shops in Yotsuya. Although the event was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, it was finally resumed in autumn 2022. It was held for two days on October 8 and 9 at CO・MO・RE Yotsuya. FRESC is a tenant of CO・MO・RE Yotsuya, so we participated in the event. The Residency Support Division of the ISA and the Residency Support Department of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau worked together to implement various publicity plans for FRESC and immigration work in cooperation with the Japan Legal Support Center.

Specifically, we exhibited at the open space in front of the CO・MO・RE Yotsuya building and the main conference room of the building and organized many activities, including immigration examination experience, photo sessions simulating the minister’s press conference at the opening of FRESC, coloring of the immigration mascot character, FRESC tours guided by the President of FRESC, and seminars held by FRESC staff. As a result, more than 500 people of various age visited our exhibition. It was a great opportunity to inform people of some immigration work and FRESC, which they usually have little opportunity to learn about.

FRESC’s public relations and dissemination of information has been an issue since the opening of FRESC. We have been providing lectures and training for this, but in the future, we would like to actively improve public relations with local residents through such events, which are important PR activities that are different from previous activities.



Scene of the indoor exhibition at the We love Yotsuya Festival (at the main conference room of the COMORE Yotsuya building 14F)



Scene of the outdoor exhibition at the We love Yotsuya Festival (in the exhibition booth at the “Demukae no Hiroba (Welcome Open Space)” in front of the COMORE Yotsuya building)

Topics: Training for local government staff on measures for foreign nationals

The ISA provides training not only for its staff but also for local government staff who are engaged in multicultural coexistence initiatives (training for local government staff on measures for foreign nationals). The characteristics of this training are to provide its training online to local government staff.

The use of tools to hold a seminar or meeting online has rapidly increased these several years, facilitating remote meetings. The use of such tools provides the following advantages for the training.

The first advantage is that it allows many people to participate in the training. In FY 2022, more than 300 people applied for the training from each local government, from Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south. Those who would like to participate in the training can attend the lectures at home or at their desk in the workplace without spending time and money on traveling, so the number of participants is increasing every year.

The second advantage is that it allows an external lecturer to give a lecture remotely. In the FY 2022 training, lectures were given not only by ISA's staff but also by multiple people related to local governments. There were no geographical restrictions, so we could learn about the measures for foreign nationals that were implemented in various regions with different characteristics, making the training very interesting.

We will continue to plan and prepare good and accessible training, by utilizing the characteristics of online training. We hope to see you in the next training session.

Chapter 7 Measures against Illegal and Imposter Foreign Residents, etc.

Section 1 Implementation of Measures against Illegal Foreign Residents

1 Efforts to Reduce the Number of Illegal Foreign Residents

As a result of the measures taken so far, the number of illegal foreign residents had seen a steady decline, but due to the rapid increase in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan through the various measures taken by the government to make Japan a tourism-oriented country, it has been increasing again in recent years. The number of new foreign nationals entering Japan has decreased significantly since 2020 due to COVID-19, but it is expected to increase in the future, and the number of people overstaying illegally may also increase. For this reason, efforts will be made to maintain a corresponding structure to crack down on these illegal foreign residents, and to strengthen the following measures and further reduce the number of illegal foreign residents.

2 Strengthened Detection

The ISA has established the “Special Detection Officer Units” that are to engage full-time in detecting offenders in violation of the Immigration Act and locate the unit in large city areas where there are many illegal foreign residents, by which the Regional Immigration Services Bureau has reinforced the ability to detect illegal foreign residents, has strengthened cooperation with the local police authorities and has promoted joint detection.

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

3 Preparation of an Environment Facilitating Voluntary Appearance

The ISA has introduced the departure order system (see Section 5, Subsection 5 of Data Section) as a measure to encourage illegal foreign residents in various parts of the country to voluntarily appear at the immigration office, and also took other measures, including a revision of the “Guidelines on Special Permission to Stay in Japan”^(*) and publication of such

(*) In order to ensure further improvement of the transparency and equity of the special permission to stay, the ISA formulated and published the “Guidelines on Special Permission to Stay in Japan.” The guideline articulates what elements are considered positive elements and what are considered negative elements in determining whether special permission to stay should be granted or not and presents what points are considered in determining whether special permission to stay should be granted or not. (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyuukokukanri01_00008.html)

cases, as well as public relations activities to encourage voluntary appearance at an immigration office.

3,881 foreign nationals were issued with a departure order based on this system in 2022.

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

The ISA is also taking measures to further publicize the departure order system and the revised “Guideline on Special Permission to Stay in Japan” by conducting active public relations activities, improving the environment for voluntary appearances and aiming to encourage illegal foreign residents to voluntarily appear at the immigration office ^(*).

Section 2 Implementation of Measures against Imposter Foreign Residents

1 Countermeasures against Imposter Foreign Residents, etc.

“Imposter foreign residents” are foreign nationals residing in Japan having illegally received entry or landing permission as though they came under one of the statuses of residence having disguised their identity or activities such as by using forged or altered documents or false documents under the cover of a fake marriage, fake studies or fake employment, etc., or they may not necessarily have concealed the purpose of their activities from the onset but are currently engaged in illegal work which is far removed from their actual status of residence, and therefore, taking measures against imposter foreign residents is also an important task in terms of immigration control and residency management administration along with measures against illegal residents. Imposter foreign residents appear on the surface to be legal residents, which makes it difficult to accurately ascertain their situation, but their increase in number is a cause for concern since they substantively orchestrate illegal entry and residence in Japan.

Since the existence of imposter foreign residents abusing the system of status of residence is related to the foundation of immigration control and residency management in Japan, it cannot be overlooked. Therefore, the ISA has been working to respond strictly to clarify the realities of such cases through detailed investigations and has been enforcing deportation procedures against people who are subject to deportation and enforcing the procedures for revoking the status of residence of people who are subject to such revocation.

In addition, in recent years, there has been a significant number of cases where foreign nationals use forged or altered residence cards or abuse the refugee recognition system. Since these methods are becoming more malicious and sophisticated, the ISA closely collaborate

(*) Examples of public relations activities:

- (i) We hold the “Month to Promote Appropriate Employment of Foreign Nationals to Realize a Harmonious Society” and conduct publicity related to preventing illegal employment.
- (ii) A page for “Procedures for Voluntary Appearance at the Immigration Office” was created on the websites of the MOJ and the ISA in order to give clear explanations of the benefits of a voluntary appearance at the immigration office and the procedures after the appearance both to those wishing to return to their home country and to those wishing to continue staying in Japan. (https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/publications/materials/nyukan_nyukan87.html)

with the police and other related organizations, and in malicious cases, the ISA proactively seeks criminal punishment and deal strictly with such persons, and also strives to work on measures to uncover the situation of these cases.

2 Crackdown on Imposter Foreign Residents, etc.

(1) Reinforcement of the Collection and Analysis of Information

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

For this reason, the ISA accurately grasps the residence status and work status of foreign nationals by conducting advanced analysis of various kinds of information such as a wide range of information provided by the public, information provided by the organizations to which foreign nationals belong, information on the employment status of foreign nationals provided by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare and information shared from the relevant organizations. Regional Immigration Services Bureaus utilize the analysis results to effectively uncover and crack down on imposter foreign residents and deal strictly with such persons.

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

When as a result of an investigation, a foreign national who resides in Japan with a status of residence which has restrictions on the contents of the activities is discovered engaging solely in a work activity which is not permitted with his/her status of residence previously granted, deportation procedures will be executed against such a foreign national as a violator engaging in an unauthorized activity.

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

3 Strict Handling of Brokers Involved in Aiding Illegal Residence and Imposter Residence

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

4 Countermeasures against the Forging of Residence Cards, etc.

Under the new residency management system launched in July 2012, mid to long-term residents are issued with residence cards, and special permanent residents are issued with special permanent resident certificates. Since these serve as certificates, and it is necessary to protect their social credibility, various forgery prevention measures are provided on the faces of them. However, forgery techniques have become more elaborate and the cases have occurred where forged residence cards were created by illegally taking advantage of inquiries on expiration information in recent year; therefore it is urgent to enhance countermeasures against forgery.

An IC chip data reading application providing a function for reading the content of the IC chip such as residence cards by smartphone or the like and confirming that the information has not been forged or altered was introduced and is distributed free of charge on the ISA website from December 2020.

Introduction page for the residence card reading application
(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/policies/policies/rcc-support.html>)
Introduction video for the residence card reading application
(<https://youtu.be/nF3Ati19QIY>)

Section 3 Efforts for Further Appropriate Treatment

1 Efforts for Further Appropriate Treatment of Detainees

In September 2010, the ISA agreed with the Japan Federation of Bar Associations to hold continuous discussions with the Federation in order to realize more desirable measures for various problems related to detention. Regarding the detainees of immigration detention facilities, bar associations are providing regular telephone consultations and legal consultations through business trips.

In addition, while considering the actual circumstances at each detention facility, we are striving to enhance the daily lives of detainees, such as ensuring sufficient time in open space and for outdoor exercise and bathing within a scope that does not hinder security. We also install translation equipment at all agency offices with detention facilities and use translators and translation equipment in order to correctly understand the health and other conditions of detainees. Furthermore, we have prepared an emergency response manual for emergency cases and are continuing to make efforts to treat detainees with greater consideration for their human rights.

We continue working to further optimize the treatment of detainees, such as by strengthening the medical system, based on the improvement measures described in the “Investigation Report on the Death of a Detainee at the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau” published in August 2021 and recommendations made in the “Advisory Panel on Enhancing the Medical System at ISA Detention Facilities” presented in February 2022. We will also follow up on overall improvement measures.

2 Activities and Duties of the Immigration Detention Facilities Visiting Committee

The Immigration Detention Facilities Visiting Committee was established for the purpose of securing transparency in security treatment and of improving the management of the immigration detention facilities. There are two committees; one is in the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, and the other is in the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau. Each committee takes charge of immigration detention centers and departure waiting facilities in 24 locations (as at the end of March 2023) spread across Japan according to its districts. Each committee inspects the facilities, meets with and interviews detainees, checks the opinions and proposals posted by detainees in the proposal boxes, and holds meetings. Based on the result of these activities, the committee expresses opinions to the Director of the Immigration Detention Facility or the Director of the Regional Immigration Services Bureau (hereinafter referred to collectively as “Directors”).

Over the course of a year from April 2022 to March 2023, a total of 17 inspections and 35 interviews took place in the facilities throughout Japan, and 65 opinions were given to the Directors. On receiving the opinions from the committee, the Directors promptly review them and endeavor to take measures where possible.

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

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

3 Medical Treatment of Detainees

The ISA is working to strengthen the medical system, such as strengthening the internal medical care system and establishing and strengthening a cooperation system with external medical institutions as recommended in a report titled “Recommendations for Enhancing the Medical System at Immigration Detention Facilities,” which was prepared by the advisory panel consisting of external experts.

A wide variety of health care providers (such as full-time and part-time doctors and nurses, pharmacists, medical radiology technicians, clinical psychologists, and immigration control officers qualified as assistant nurses) are engaged in the health management and medical care of detainees. In addition, we perform health examination for new detainees in principle and arrange a translator when providing medical care, to make sure that we correctly understand the health conditions of detainees and can take the necessary measures.

Section 4**Promotion of the Deportation of Deportees****1 Implementation of Safe and Reliable Deportation of Deportation Evaders**

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

People attempt to evade deportation because they intend to continue working or living in Japan. However, they have been issued with a deportation order through legal proceedings on the grounds that they were engaged in a crime or illegal employment in Japan or failed to comply with the rules of Japan, so it is necessary to promptly deport them from Japan.

The ISA tries to convince these deportation evaders to return to their country of their own volition, but if they still attempt to evade deportation, they will ultimately be deported on a regular flight accompanied by escort officers based on the provisions of law.

Some deportation evaders shout loudly and behave violently when boarding a plane, cause troubles on a plane such as urinating or spitting, or attempt to destroy equipment on a plane, while expecting that they will be refused to be on board thereby.

Troubles occur not only on a plane. Some deportees despair when they receive news of their deportation and assault escort officers or harm themselves.

Such an act of obstructing deportation is one of the factors why the number of deportation evaders is increasing, so escort officers need to restrain deportees as needed in order to prevent such acts, avoid any injury to both deportees and escort officers, and escort detainees safely and securely to the destination. For this purpose, as professionals, escort officers discipline themselves daily and train repeatedly by assuming the worst that can happen. For example, they sometimes use a training facility equipped with the same seats and equipment as a real airplane for more practical training.

2 Implementation of Mass Deportation Using Chartered Flights

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

However, deportation using a regular flight can cause a disturbance, for example, deportees might start shouting in the cabin, and there are cases where the deportation cannot be implemented owing to the decision of the captain to deny boarding, or alternatively, even if detainees are able to board the aircraft, there remained the fact that this imposes a heavy burden on private airlines, as it causes anxiety for other passengers.

For this reason, since 2013, the ISA has been implementing the mass deportation using chartered flights, which allows for safe and reliable deportation without boarding being refused by the captain of the aircraft, and by the end of FY 2022, a total of 339 foreign nationals were deported over a total of eight flights (five destinations).

3

Promotion of the Use of IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programs

On the other hand, there are some foreign nationals, being issued deportation orders, evade deportation despite wanting to return to their home country because of fears about life after return.

Of these persons, with regard to foreign nationals who are deemed to require humanitarian considerations, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programs have been implemented since FY 2013 with the cooperation of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Japan office. This AVRR program aims to dispel the anxiety that deportees feel about returning home and to encourage their voluntary return with dignity by providing reintegration support after returning, such as job placement and medical support (Reference 89).

So far, a number of families and individuals have returned home such as Asia, Africa and South America through this program and are receiving living, employment and enrollment support after returning home from the respective local IOM office.

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

Reference 89

Changes in the number of people who return home under the AVRR program of the IOM

(Person)

Fiscal year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of people returning home	15	19	32	15	24

Chapter 8**Promotion of Appropriate and Prompt Refugee Protection****Section 1 Efforts to Appropriately Protect Refugees**

Japan has properly recognized applicants who should be recognized as refugees, and even when they cannot be recognized as refugees, they have been allowed to stay in Japan as long as they need protection based on humanitarian consideration with the situation in their home country. With respect to Japan's refugee recognition system, we need to respond to the rapid increase in the number of applicants for refugee recognition and the wide range of complaints received in recent years. In addition, it has been pointed out that it is unclear how the eligibility for refugee status is determined in Japan's refugee recognition system, and there is a need to improve the transparency of the system.

For this reason, the ISA conducts the necessary reviews and initiatives for appropriate and timely operation as stated below.

Section 2 Revision of the Refugee Recognition System**1 Revision of the Operation of the Refugee Recognition System****(1) Outline**

With regard to the refugee recognition system, the time required for the examination of the cases is becoming more prolonged, and problems have been occurring which hinder the provision of prompt protection of refugees owing to the proliferation of applicants for recognition of refugee status in recent years and applications abusing or misusing the system for the purpose of employment in Japan, etc. Moreover, challenges have also arisen concerning the clarification of the decisions on whether or not an applicant is a refugee.

Therefore, based on the purport of the recommendations in the reports submitted in December 2014 by the "6th Immigration Policy Discussions Panel," which is the private advisory council of the Minister of Justice, and the "Expert Committee on the Refugee Recognition System," a study was conducted on reviewing the operation of the refugee recognition system, which was published in the form of the "Summary of the Revision of the Operation of the Refugee Recognition System" on September 15, 2015.

(2) Proper Operation of the System

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

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

In a press release regarding the number of applicants recognized as refugees, etc. the ISA also publish cases in which they were recognized as refugees, cases in which they were not, and cases in which residence permissions were granted due to humanitarian considerations since 2016, clearly indicating the points of judgement in each case.

In addition, in March 2017, it has been started to allow having interviews with a doctor, a counselor, or a lawyer, etc. for minors unaccompanied by their parents, individuals with severe physical disabilities, individuals with mental disabilities or individuals with serious illnesses.

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

For the purpose of responding to the rapid increase in the number of applicants for refugee recognition and the wide range of complaints received in recent years, the ISA enhances the examination system by taking measures, such as assigning more refugee inquirers and refugee examination counselors.

Furthermore, the ISA actively collects country of origin information, which is necessary for determining refugee status, in cooperation with related organization, such as the MOFA and UNHCR. In particular, the ISA appoints officers who dedicatedly collects the country of origin information at the ISA headquarters, and the collected information is utilized in refugee recognition examinations. Refugee inquirers at regional bureaus also collect the latest country of origin information on a case-by-case basis in cooperation with the COI officers at the headquarters.

- (iii) Appropriate handling of applications abusing or misusing the refugee recognition system

Since September 2015, applications abusing or misusing the refugee recognition system, such as cases claiming a situation that clearly does not come under the 1951 Refugee Convention are pre-sorted before they reach the stage of a full-scale investigation. While ensuring that an opportunity is given to the applicant to make claims sufficiently such as the setting of a hearing into the circumstances by a refugee inquirer, these cases are promptly processed. As measures regarding status of residence, the ISA has started measures not to allow work (hereinafter, “work restrictions”) and measures not to allow residence (hereinafter, “residence restrictions”) for those re-applicants who repeatedly abuse or misuse the application process.

Moreover, with regard to the sorting of applications, from the perspective of case processing optimization, a verification was conducted by an expert panel for verification of the situation of revisions for operation of the refugee recognition system (hereinafter referred to as “expert panel”) composed of outside experts.

2

Revision of the System by Amendment of the Regulation for Enforcement of the Immigration Control Act

In June 2017, due to the enforcement of a ministerial order to amend part of the Regulation for Enforcement of the Immigration Control Act, the authority to recognize refugees, which was previously only permitted to the Minister of Justice, was delegated to the Director of the Regional Immigration Bureau (at that time). In addition, through the establishment of a new refugee recognition application form for repeat applications, efforts are being made

to make efficient decisions regarding the sorting of cases and imposing work or residence restrictions, and to streamline the processing of the cases.

3 Further Revision of the Operations to Optimize the Refugee Recognition System

(1) Background

As described above, since September 2015, the ISA has been imposing work or residence restrictions on applicants who are abusing or misusing the refugee recognition system according to the content of application. These measures had been targeted against repeating applicants who re-submit applications for recognition of refugee status. Although these measures had a certain degree of effect in curbing the re-submission of applications, the number of first-time applicants abusing or misusing the system still increased rapidly, and the number of applicants reached a record high of 19,629 in 2017. This situation was interfering with the provision of prompt protection of refugees.

Therefore, as described in (2), a further revision of the operations of the refugee recognition system (hereinafter referred to as “further revision of the operations”) was carried out, and has been in force since January 2018.

(2) Outline

The contents of the further revision of the operations are as follows.

(i) Setting of a pre-sorting period

Measures have been taken to set a period for pre-sorting the contents of the cases following receipt of a first-time application (period not exceeding two months), and based on the results of pre-sorting the contents, to promptly take measures on the status of residence (permission to stay, residence restrictions, work permission, and work restrictions).

(ii) Further consideration for applicants whose applicability as a refugee is deemed to be high

Applicants whose applicability as a refugee under the Refugee Convention is deemed to be high or applicants who are considered highly likely to need humanitarian consideration due to the situation in their home country, were previously granted the status of residence of “Designated Activities” (six months) permitting work after six months passed from the time of submission of the application for recognition of refugee status. Now these applicants come to be quickly granted the status of residence of “Designated Activities” (six months) permitting work after the sorting of the application, thereby promoting quicker protection.

(iii) Further strict responses to abuse or misuse of applications

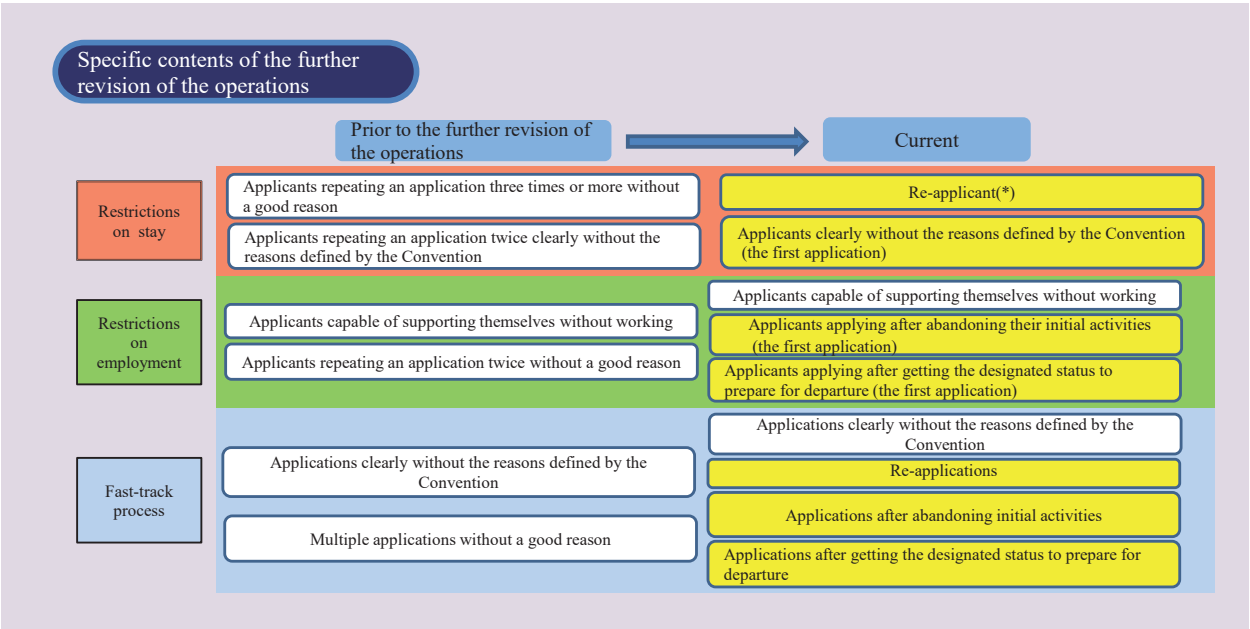
A. First-time applications

(A) Residence restrictions are imposed on applicants claiming circumstances that clearly do not correspond to the requests of the Refugee Convention’s grounds for persecution.

(B) Even in cases where residence restrictions are not imposed, applicants who applied for recognition of refugee status after abandoning to engage in the activities falling under the original status of residence, such as technical intern trainees who have absconded or international students who have left their educational institution, or applicants who filed an application for recognition of refugee status during the departure preparing period are under work restrictions. In addition, the period of

- stay in this case has been charged from six months to three months.
- B. Re-submission of applications
- In principle, residence restrictions are imposed.
- However, even regarding repeating applicants, the ones whose applicability as a refugee under the Refugee Convention is deemed to be high, or who are considered highly likely to need humanitarian consideration due to the situation in their home country are given the protection in the abovementioned (ii).
- C. Fast-track process
- Cases of applicants for recognition of refugee status who come under the above-mentioned A and B will be promptly examined, and processed as quickly as possible (Reference 90)

Reference 90 Summary of further revision of the operations of the refugee recognition system



(*) The following applicants are excluded: the ones whose applicability as a refugee under the Refugee Convention is deemed to be high, or who are considered likely to require humanitarian consideration due to the situation in their home country, etc.

4 Situation after Revision of the Operations of the Refugee Recognition System

As a result of these efforts, the number of applicants for refugee recognition, which hit a record high of 19,629 in 2017, halved to 10,493 in 2018. Since 2020, the number of new entrants to Japan decreased drastically due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, the number of applicants for refugee recognition declined to 2,413 in 2021 and 3,772 in 2022.

Meanwhile, the number of applicants recognized as refugees has increased (42 in 2018, 44 in 2019, 47 in 2020, 74 in 2021 and 202 in 2022), and there has been a certain degree of effect in meeting the objective in that applications abusing or misusing the system have been curbed and refugees are being offered prompt protection.

However, there are still applications that are abusing or misusing the system as a way of continuing work or the like in Japan. In recent years, there is also a certain number of repeat applicants who are already subject to deportation and yet re-submit applications for the purpose of evading deportation, so this matter will be deliberated from the aspects of

both the legal system and operations while taking into account the effects of previous efforts in order to resolve the roots of the problem.

Section 3 Further Optimization of the Refugee Recognition System Operation

The ISA is working in close cooperation with relevant organizations such as UNHCR (the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) to further optimize operation of the refugee recognition system based on three pillars: (1) clarifying normative elements on the eligibility for refugee status, (2) improving the capability of refugee inquirers, and (3) enriching the content of country of origin information.

For the purpose of accelerating these measures, the ISA exchanged a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the UNHCR in July 2021. Under the MOC, the ISA continues to cooperate with the UNHCR in collecting the country of origin information and implementing training, and also conducts case studies and the like based on actual cases to examine how refugee inquirers should conduct investigations.

1 Clarifying Normative Elements on the Eligibility for Refugee Status

On March 24, 2023, the “Guide to Eligibility Determination for Refugee Status,” was published in which mainly summarizes the points to be considered when determining the eligibility for refugee status. This guide was formulated based on practices in Japan, and in reference to documents issued by the UNHCR, with exchanging opinions with the UNHCR. The formulation and publication of this guide is expected to improve the transparency and reliability of the refugee recognition system. In addition, we also expect to have more appropriate and efficient examinations by having officers engaged in refugee recognition examinations refer to the guide, as well as speedy recognition of refugee status by having applicants file applications for refugee recognition based on the guide.

The guide also clearly states that persecution related to sexual minority or gender may fall under persecution based on “membership of a particular social group” under the Refugee Convention.

It is assumed that the content of the guide will need to be reviewed in consideration of refugee recognition practices, changes in the conditions of foreign countries surrounding refugees, and other matters. The necessity for updating the guide will be considered continuously.

2 Improving the Capability of Refugee Inquirers

We have been providing training to refugee inquirers and other people in cooperation with the UNHCR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, university professors, and other people with expertise in international affairs.

We also share information with refugee inquirers on the matters to note when finding facts in the refugee recognition procedures, follow up on those matters, and promote other measures that contribute to accurate fact-finding.

Furthermore, based on the case studies mentioned above, matters to be considered when interviewing and questioning applicants for refugee recognition are summarized and shared with staff members.

3 Enriching the Content of Country of Origin Information

We collect a wide variety of information on applicants' country of origin and international affairs, including reports of government agencies, news about applicants' country of origin, and information owned by the UNHCR, for the purpose of referring to such information in refugee recognition examinations. We have been actively collecting the latest information by cooperating properly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the UNHCR, and other related organizations. In addition, we will take measures such as actively exchanging country of origin information with foreign authorities that are accepting many refugees to further enhance the country of origin information.

Section 4 Acceptance of Refugees Through Resettlement

1 Resettlement

Resettlement is intended to transfer and resettle refugees, who have been evacuated from their countries of origins and who are temporarily taking shelter in a refugee camp in a neighboring country or another place, to another country which agrees to accept such refugees from the countries where they were originally offered protection. Resettlement is deemed to be one of the permanent solutions of refugee problems, as well as "voluntary repatriation" and "settlement in the first countries of asylum." The UNHCR encourages each country to accept refugees through the resettlement program from the standpoint of having the international community properly share its duties in relation to refugee problems. In order to deal with the various problems relating to refugees in the Asian region, Japan commenced a pilot project to accept resettlement refugees in FY 2010. The acceptance of resettlement refugees were fully implemented from FY 2015 to accept about 30 Myanmarese refugees temporarily staying in Malaysia every year. The ISA is mainly in charge of the selection process for resettlement refugees and conducts interviews.

2 Acceptance in FY 2020 and Thereafter

In October 2018, in order to continue accepting resettlement refugees, a study group consisting of the relevant ministries and agencies and experts was established to consider the necessity of expanding the scope of acceptance and the scope when expanding acceptance ^(*1). Based on the results of the review by the study group, a Cabinet approval on June 28, 2019 ^(*2)

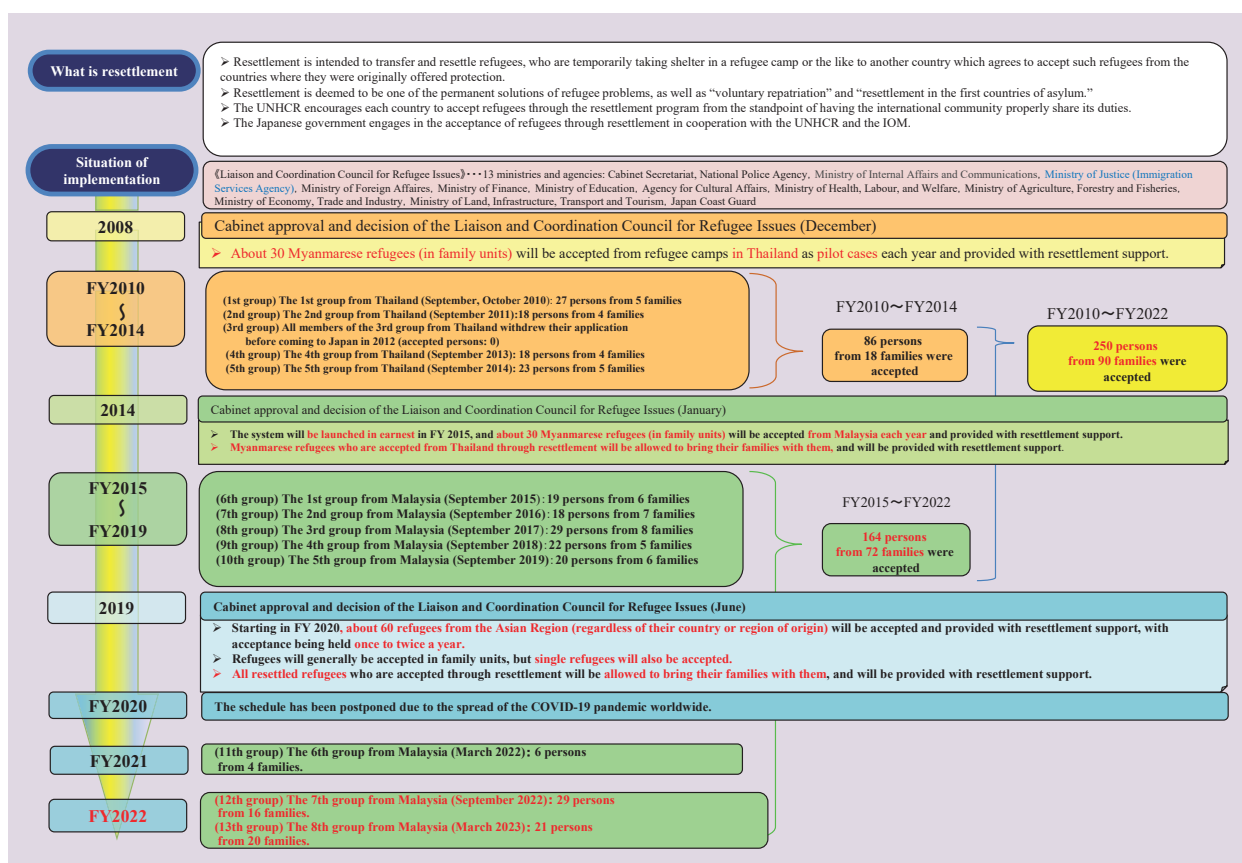
(*1) "Study Group on the Expansion of the Project for the Acceptance of Refugees through Resettlement" decided by the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues on October 22, 2018

(*2) "Partial amendment to 'Implementation of the Acceptance of Refugees through Resettlement'" approved by the Cabinet on June 28, 2019

and a decision of the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues on the same day ^{(*)1} were determined on the following from FY 2020 onwards: the scope of acceptance through resettlement would be expanded to include refugees (regardless of their country or region of origin) temporarily staying in Asia; single refugees would be accepted in addition to refugees in family units; the maximum number of accepted refugees would be increased to about 60 per year (with the number of acceptance opportunity being doubled per year); and refugees accepted through resettlement would be able to bring their relatives with them as family members. In consideration of the government's policy, the ISA will continue to properly fulfill its role and strive to accept these refugees seamlessly, while working together with the relevant ministries and agencies.

In FY 2020, refugees through resettlement were not accepted due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. However, in FY 2021, we accepted 6 refugees (4 people in 2 families and 2 individuals). In the first acceptance in FY 2022, we accepted 29 refugees (17 people in 4 families and 12 individuals). In the second acceptance, we accepted 21 refugees (2 people in 1 family and 19 individuals). Japan has so far accepted 250 refugees from 90 families (including 35 individuals) as resettled refugees (**Reference 91**).

Reference 91 Situation of implementation and cases of acceptance through resettlement



(*)1 In response to the partial amendment of the abovementioned Cabinet approval, partial amendment of the "Specific Measures Relating to the Acceptance of Refugees through Resettlement" which was determined by the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues on January 24, 2014 was also partially amended on June 28, 2019.

Section 5 Promotion of Collaboration with NGOs

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

Therefore, on February 10, 2012, the Immigration Bureau (at that time) concluded a three-party agreement and exchanged a memorandum on cooperation with the Forum for Refugees Japan, which is a network of NGOs and groups supporting refugees and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, agreeing to hold discussions to identify the refugee-related administrative matters that the Immigration Bureau is responsible for and that need improving, including procedures for recognizing refugee status, and to exchange information on the provision of housing, with the assistance of refugee support groups, for refugees awaiting the results of their application for recognition of refugee status.

In accordance with the three-party discussions based on this memorandum, during the period of April 2012 and March 2014, the Immigration Bureau at that time implemented a "pilot project," which the Immigration Bureau requested the Forum for Refugees Japan to secure a residence for foreign nationals claiming asylum at Narita Airport for whom it is difficult to secure a residence, and Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge or Permission for Provisional Stay was granted to foreign nationals who were accepted by the Forum.

Subsequently, following discussions by the three parties, the same measures under this project are currently being taken at Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Chubu Airport and Kansai Airport. Since March 2017, when foreign nationals from these airport branches have been sent to Higashi-Nihon Immigration Center, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau, or Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau, and one of the immigration Services offices to which the person was sent makes a decision on permission for provisional stay or permission for provisional release, the measures apply to such cases as well, and the measures have been applied to 49 foreign nationals (including those eligible for the pilot project and those to whom similar measures were applied before the project's launching) as of 2022.

Section 6 Acceptance Status of Syrian International Students

The Japanese government has started an initiative to accept a maximum of 150 Syrian international students over the course of five years, with technical cooperation from JICA. It is intended to provide educational opportunities to Syrian youth who have been deprived of the opportunity to attend school due to the Syrian crisis and develop human resources who will be responsible for the future rebuilding of Syria, as part of comprehensive support for stabilizing the Middle East Region, a goal stated at the 1st “Meeting of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Promotion Headquarters” held on May 20, 2016. A total of 121 Syrian international students^(*) were accepted from 2017 to 2022.

Reference 92 Acceptance status of Syrian international students

(Person)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Acceptance	28	29	22	16	20	6	121

Section 7 Status of Protection of Myanmar, Afghans, and Syrians in Light of the Condition at Their Home Countries

With respect to the world’s situation about refugees, after the 2015 refugee crisis in Europe when more than one million Syrian and other refugees immigrants entered European countries, many people became refugees and evacuees due to events such as Myanmar’s military coup in 2021, Taliban’s seizure of the capital in Afghanistan, and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The number of refugees and evacuees in the world exceeded 100 million.

Based on this situation, Japan specially responded to Myanmar, Afghans, and Syrians as follows. (For the acceptance of and support for evacuees from Ukraine, see Chapter 2.)

1 Status of Protection of Myanmar

In Myanmar, a military coup occurred on February 1, 2021, and people demonstrated to protest against it all over the country. Citizens were killed and shot by the military or police, and the situation was uncertain. In response to this, on May 28 of the same year, the ISA decided to allow, as an emergency evacuation measure, Myanmar (including foreign nationals who have habitual residence in Myanmar) who wish to stay in Japan because of the unstable situation at their home country to stay under the status of residence of

(*) The number of Syrian international students accepted is the number of (1) Syrian students accepted as international students in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the “Japanese Initiative for the future of Syrian Refugees” (JISR), a human resources development project for Syrian refugees conducted by JICA, and (2) Students who are accepted as government-sponsored international students under the government-sponsored international student system implemented by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology). The government-sponsored international student system does not require applicants to be Syrian refugees. The figures for five years from FY 2017 to FY 2021 show the total number of (1) and (2), and the figure for FY 2022 shows the number of (1).

“Designated Activities.” The number of Myanmar people who stayed in Japan under the status of residence of “Designated Activities” based on this measure, including those who followed refugee recognition procedures, was 9,527 as of the end of December 2022.

The number of Myanmar people who were recognized as refugees as a result of refugee recognition procedures was 32 in 2021 and 26 in 2022. The number of Myanmar people who were not recognized as refugees but were allowed to stay in Japan after taking into account the situation at their home country and other circumstances was 498 in 2021 and 1,682 in 2022.

2 Status of Protection of Afghans

In Afghanistan, Taliban seized Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, on August 15, 2021 and the situation was uncertain. In response to this, the ISA decided to allow Afghans who wish to stay in Japan because of the unstable situation at their home country to stay under the status of residence of “Designated Activities.” The number of Afghans who stayed in Japan under the status of residence of “Designated Activities” based on this measure, including those who followed refugee recognition procedures, was 329 as of the end of December 2022.

The number of Afghans who were recognized as refugees as a result of refugee recognition procedures was 9 in 2021 and 147 in 2022. The number of Afghans who were not recognized as refugees but were allowed to stay in Japan after taking into account the situation at their home country and other circumstances was 2 in 2021 and 10 in 2022.

3 Status of Protection of Syrians

In Syria, anti-governmental demonstration occurred all over the country after the middle of March 2011, and the situation was uncertain. In response to this, the ISA decided to allow Syrians who wish to stay in Japan because of the unstable situation at their home country to stay under the status of residence of “Designated Activities.”

The number of Syrians who stayed in Japan under the status of residence of “Designated Activities” based on this measure, including those who followed refugee recognition procedures, was 216 as of the end of December 2022.

The number of Syrians who were recognized as refugees as a result of refugee recognition procedures was 22 from 2011 to 2022. The number of Syrians who were not recognized as refugees but were allowed to stay in Japan after taking into account the situation at their home country and other circumstances was 81 from 2011 to 2022.

Chapter 9**Responses to International Society and International Situations****Section 1 Treaties and International Conventions****1 Support for Bilateral and Multilateral Frameworks**

In frameworks such as the EPA (Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement), which aims to promote liberalization and facilitation of foreign trade between signatory nations, and to harmonize policies, relax regulations, and cooperate in various economic fields, such as trade in services, the ISA is involved in the field of “movement of natural persons.”

The ISA, in light of the deep relationship to the work under its jurisdiction, actively supports frameworks aimed at exchanging information and opinions and improving cooperative relationships among multiple countries, including the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation), and ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization).

For the purpose of simplifying port procedures, necessary adjustments have been made in order to maintain consistency between Japan’s immigration control and residency management system and the “1965 Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic” (FAL Convention), which includes the adoption of relevant document formats and simplification of procedures, as well as the “Convention on International Civil Aviation” (Chicago Convention), which aims to simplify immigration, customs, quarantine, and facility management procedures at airports.

2 Reports and Examinations in Accordance with Human Rights Treaties

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

Section 2**International Conferences / International Exchange****1 The 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum**

The 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum, organized by the MOJ and the ISA of Japan, was held from December 12 to 14, 2022, with the participation of representatives (senior officials) from immigration authorities of 18 countries and regions (Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, R.O.Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the U.K. and Vietnam). The forum was also attended by the IOM, the embassies of participating countries in Japan, and the related ministries and agencies of Japan (The forum was held in a hybrid format of online and in-person participation.).

The former Minister of Justice, Mr. Saito made opening remarks, followed by a keynote report by Director General for IOM Antonia Vitorino.

In plenary sessions, with regard to “Issues for immigration control and residency management administration during recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic”, presenters explained the issues faced by immigration authorities while the movement of people was recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the measures taken for those issues. With regard to “Efforts and issues to create a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals,” participants presented and exchanged opinions on matters such as measures taken to tackle the language issue when distributing information so as to enable foreign nationals to live and work without anxiety.

In a breakout session held between the plenary sessions, participants shared issues and exchanged opinions on two themes: “Measures for issues related to deportation”, and “Measures to utilize technology that contributes to effective immigration control and residency management administration.”

The participants appreciated that the Tokyo Immigration Forum served as an international platform for immigration authorities and confirmed that it was necessary for immigration authorities to continue to share issues, including the themes discussed at this Forum, and to exchange opinions. The participants also welcomed the fact that the Forum will continue to be held regularly, and that the next Forum will be held in Tokyo in fiscal 2023.



The 2nd Tokyo Immigration Forum

2 Responses to International Conferences

The Migration Experts Sub-Group (MESG) Meeting, one of the sub groups of the G7 Rome-Lyon Group, which is a working experts' group to discuss measures against international terrorism and transnational organized crime, is discussing measures that the G7 members should take cooperatively in the area of illegal immigration and forgery or alteration of documents.

MESG Meeting was held in Germany in October 2022 and online in March 2023, and officials from the ISA participated in the meeting to exchange information and opinions with the counterparts of other countries.

In addition to the international meetings mentioned above, the ISA sends delegates to the Government Delegation on Anti-Human Trafficking Measures to exchange information on recent efforts to counter trafficking in persons, as well as to the Consular Consultation etc. to express Japan's position actively and build cooperative relationships with other countries. The ISA also sends officials to participate in multinational meetings, such as the ASEAN Directors-General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Divisions of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs Plus Three Consultation for the purpose of information sharing and exchanging opinions.

3 International Exchange

The ISA has been striving to strengthen cooperative relations with other countries and regions such as by actively exchanging views with the immigration authorities of other countries at different levels and accepting visits from related organizations.

In FY 2022, the ISA held a meeting of the directors-general of immigration bureaus with the immigration authorities from R.O.Korea. The ISA also participated in an exchange of opinions held by the Japan Taiwan Exchange Association and the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association, mutually sharing information and exchanging opinions on the measures taken.

In addition, relevant parties from other countries such as R.O.Korea, Uzbekistan, and Cambodia visited the ISA and exchanged opinions.

Chapter 10 Public Relations Activities

Section 1 Promotion of Public Relations Activities

Public relations and enlightenment activities both in Japan and abroad play a major role in the smooth implementation of immigration control and residency management administration, and the ISA has been further promoting more active PR activities than ever before. As the main public relations activities, we provide information on a timely and appropriate basis, including the current circumstances concerning immigration control and residency management administration, new systems, and changes of procedures.

In order to explain the current circumstances of immigration control and residency management administration, statistics such as the number of those entering or departing from Japan, the number of foreign residents, the number of foreign nationals overstaying and the number of applications for refugee recognition are released to the media and published on the website of the ISA. In addition, the ISA also disclose information on cases of special permission to stay in Japan, the average processing time for examination of statuses of residence and refugee recognition examinations, the immigration examination waiting time at airports and endeavor to widely spread understanding of the current situation of immigration control and residency management administration.

In addition, we proactively explain the immigration control and residency management systems and procedural guidelines, and raise awareness by distributing posters and leaflets, not only by posting information about various systems on the ISA website. The ISA also performs public relations activities by creating and publishing various PR videos or participating in various events for the purpose of promoting the understanding of the ISA's work.

Furthermore, with the theme of “Month to Promote Proper Employment of Foreign Nationals for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence,” we have been conducting educational activities for the public, companies employing foreign nationals, and related organizations, on points to keep in mind when recruiting foreign nationals and measures to prevent illegal employment since FY 2022, during the same period as the government-wide “Foreign Workers Issues Awareness Month.”



The video clip “The Mission and Role of the ISA”



The video clip “Initiatives to Accept Foreign Nationals and for a Society of Harmonious Coexistence”

The video clip “The Mission and Role of the ISA”

(<https://youtu.be/Ce4yWo1UbOo>)

The video clip “Initiatives to Accept Foreign Nationals and for a Society of Harmonious Coexistence”

(<https://youtu.be/rGv5sAsShsY>)

Section 2 Information Dissemination

1 ISA Website

The ISA website (<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/index.html>) offers Q&A on immigration and residence procedures, as well as addresses, contact information, opening hours, and other information about the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus. It also provides residency support measures and policy information like various meetings, in a centralized manner. The ISA is working to enhance content and improve usability and accessibility so as to enable users to easily obtain the information they need.

Furthermore, in order to enhance information provision to foreign nationals, we opened a new multilingual website in February 2021, supporting 14 languages. In March 2023, we introduced an automatic translation function to the website to increase the number of supported languages to more than 100, so that the website will be useful for foreign nationals as well.

2 ISA Social Media, etc.

(1) ISA X(Formerly Twitter), Facebook

In order to further enhance its public relations activities, the ISA uses its X(Formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts to provide information on new systems and useful information for foreign residents.

In addition, the X(Formerly Twitter) and Facebook accounts of the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus are used to send real-time information on the waiting time to visitors coming to the residence examination desks, and also to give information on various events and campaigns to be held at airports and other places.

(2) ISA Email Distribution Service

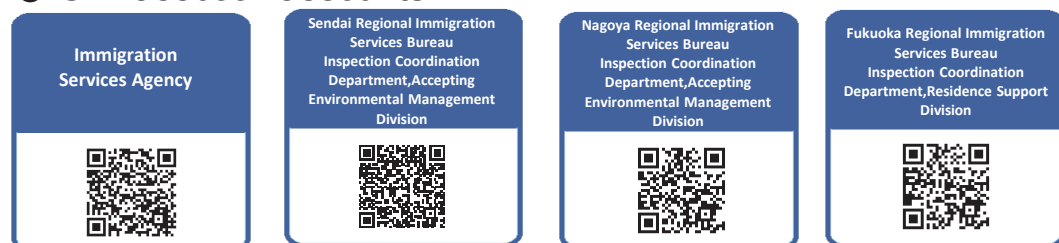
In addition to the website and social media accounts mentioned above, the ISA's email distribution service distributes information on immigration, residence procedures, and residence support, etc. in Japanese, plain Japanese, and English in order to further strengthen dissemination of information.

This email distribution service enables users to select what information they want to receive, and sends information according to the needs of individual users.

O ISA X(Formerly Twitter) accounts



O ISA Facebook accounts



O ISA Email Distribution Service



(20) 出入国在留管理庁 (Immigration Services Agency) (@MOJ_IMMI) さん

← 出入国在留管理庁 (Immigration Services Agency)
1,189 件のツイート

在留申請手続はオンライン申請が便利です。



オンラインによる在留手続のPRキャラクター「らずっぴ」

プロフィールを編集

出入国在留管理庁 (Immigration Services Agency)

@MOJ_IMMI

出入国在留管理庁(Immigration Services Agency)の公式Twitterアカウントです。皆様のお役に立つ情報を発信します。当アカウントへのリプライ等に対して個別の対応はいたしません。運用方針等ははこちらです。→[moj.go.jp/isa/about/pr/...](https://moj.go.jp/isa/about/pr/)

🔗 moj.go.jp/isa/index.html 📅 2015年9月からTwitterを利用しています

23 フォロー中 1.9万 フォロワー

ツイート

返信

メディア

いいね

固定されたツイート

出入国在留管理庁 (Immigration Services ... @MOJ... · 2021年1月5日 ...
入管を名乗る不審な電話にご注意ください
詳細はこちら→moj.go.jp/isa/publicatio...

请注意声称入管的可疑电话

送付/信自 moj.go.jp/isa/publicatio...



出入国在留管理庁 (Immigration Services Agency) ...

6月12日 14:57 · 🌐

【未来創造人材制度がはじまりました！】

日本での就職を目指す方！日本で起業したい方！今年4月から、**#未来創造人材制度** (J-Find) が新たに始まりました。

日本で「就職活動」又は「起業準備活動」を行う場合、優秀な海外大学を卒業した方等であれば、「特定活動」(未来創造人材)の在留資格で、最長2年間の在留が可能となりました。

詳細はこちら→

<https://www.moj.go.jp/.../status/designatedactivities51.html>

高度外国人材の受入れに係る「新たな制度」の創設について

出入国在留管理庁

未来創造人材制度 (J-Find) の概要

対象者：以下の3要件全てを満たす者

- (1) 3つの世界大学ランキング (※1) 中、2つ以上で100位以内にランクインしている大学を卒業又はその大学の大学院の課程を修了して学位又は専門職学位を授与されている
- (2) 卒業から5年以内
- (3) 滞在当初の主計維持費20万円の所持

在留資格「特定活動」(未来創造人材)を付与

活動内容

- ・就職活動
- ・起業準備活動
- ・上記活動を行うために必要な資金を補うための就労

配偶者・子について

扶養する配偶者・子は、在留資格「特定活動」(未来創造人材の配偶者等)が付与され、帯同することが可能。なお、配偶者・子の就労には、資格外活動許可が必要。

(※1) ①QS World University Rankings ②THE World University Rankings ③U.S. News & World Report World University Rankings
(※2) 特定活動(専攻研究活動)、企業活動(起業活動)、専攻研究活動(卒業後起業活動)等の類似制度と併せて累計2年を超えない範囲で活用できる

インサイトと広告を見る

投稿を宣伝

👍 24

💬 2 31 ➦

👍 いいね!

💬 コメントする

➦ シェア

関連度の高い順 ▼



コメントを入力...



ISA's X(Formerly Twitter) and Facebook

Topics: Public relations activities through various events

The ISA participates in various events as its PR activities, exhibiting and providing guidance on the ISA's work in order to widely disseminate information on immigration control and residency management administration. We will actively participate in various events going forward, to perform public relations activities that contribute to the understanding of immigration control and residency management administration.

In 2022, the ISA participated in the following events and performed public relations activities.

1. Global Festa JAPAN

The Global Festa JAPAN is one of the largest international cooperation events in Japan and was held on October 1 and 2 in 2022 at the Tokyo International Forum. The ISA exhibited its measures to support evacuees from Ukraine and foreign residents. Many people, mainly the young generation, who are interested in international cooperation visited our exhibition, read the exhibited documents, and asked various questions. We were able to deepen their understanding of the ISA's work through this event.



Scene of the exhibition in Global Festa JAPAN 1



Scene of the exhibition in Global Festa JAPAN 2

2. Special Equipment Exhibition & Conference for Anti-Terrorism (SEECAT)

In the Special Equipment Exhibition & Conference for Anti-Terrorism (SEECAT) held from October 5 to 7, 2022 at Tokyo Big Sight, the ISA exhibited mainly its countermeasures at the border and anti-terrorism measures. We exhibited a new "Bio Carts" for visitors to experience the acquisition of Biometric information. Visitors showed a great interest in the work by asking questions about the ISA's immigration examination and intelligence function.



Scene of a lecture on countermeasures at the border



Scene of the exhibition in SEECAT

3. Yurinoki Terrace

In “Yurinoki Terrace” hosted by the State Guest House of the Cabinet Office at the State Guest House on November 12, 2022, the ISA exhibited its measures to support evacuees from Ukraine and foreign residents. There was also a corner for children to try on uniforms and we held photo sessions with Toribu (mascot character of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau), with many gathering at the booth.

It was a very popular event and the venue was crowded with local residents, various entities, schools, participants, performers, and so on. A wide range of visitors came to the ISA’s booth and deepened their understanding of immigration control and residency management administration.



Photo session with Toribu in a corner for children to try on uniforms



Scene of the exhibition in Yurinoki Terrace

Chapter 11 Organizations and systems

Owing to significant changes in the circumstances affecting immigration control and residency management administration in recent years, in response to an increase in the quantity and in the complexity of immigration duties, measures have been taken to improve and expand the organization and staff for immigration control.

Immigration control and residency management administration work was carried out by 6,314 officials as of the end of FY 2023 at the ISA and other immigration control and residency management offices. Due to a wide range of challenges in immigration control and residency management administration, further improvement and expansion of the organization and staff are still necessary.

Section 1 Organizations

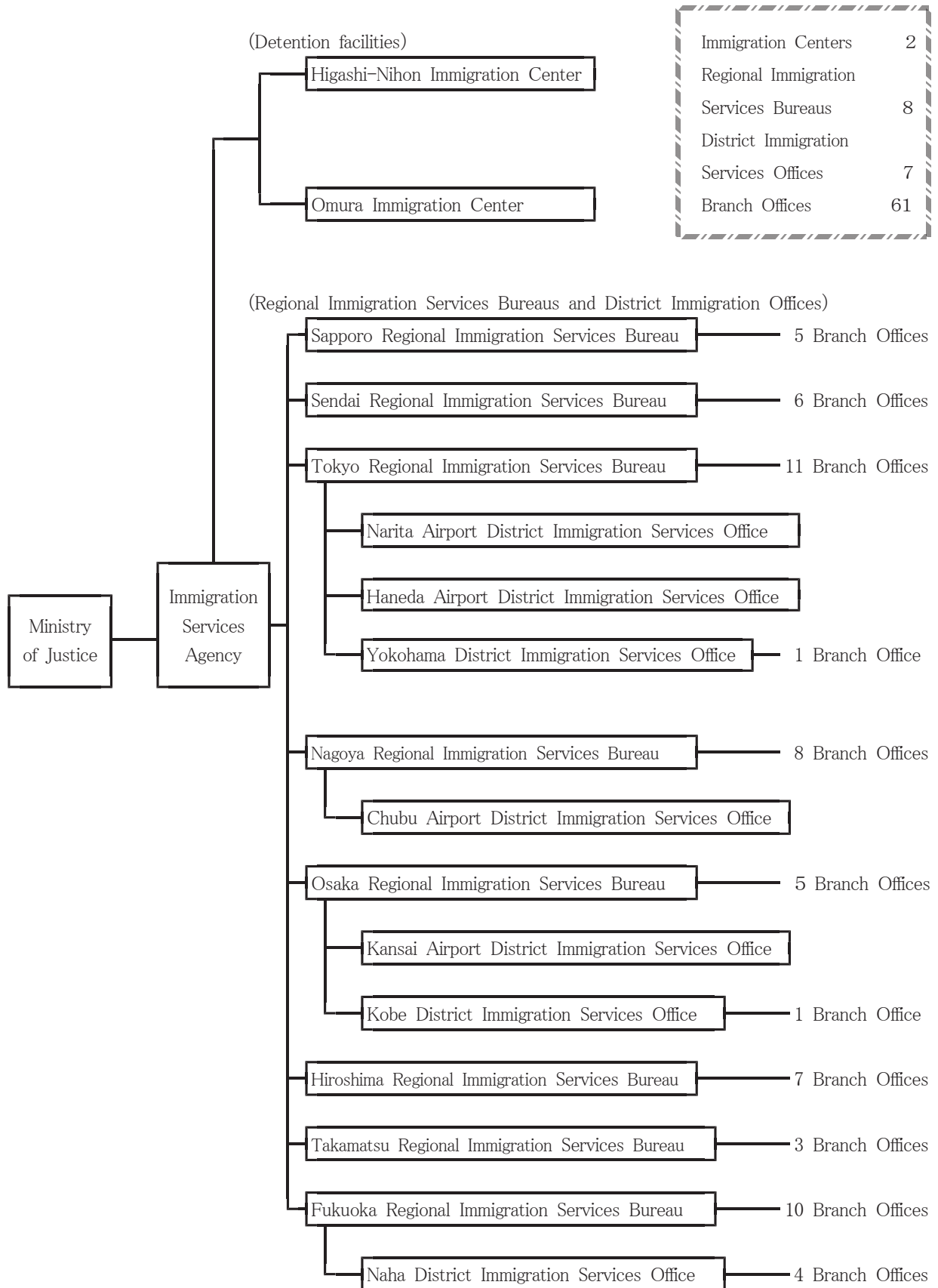
1 Outline of the Immigration Control and Residency Management Offices

As the organization with jurisdiction over immigration control and residency management work, the ISA was established as an external agency of the MOJ, and as regional bureaus established under the ISA, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus have been established for each of the eight regional blocks throughout the country, and below them, District Immigration Services Offices and Branch Offices (including Branch Offices of District Immigration Services Offices). In addition, Immigration Detention Facilities have been established as facilities and other organs of the ISA, and based on the laws and regulations, the ISA engages in various tasks related to immigration and residency management administration such as the immigration examinations, residence examinations, deportation procedures, refugee recognition and general coordination relating to the establishment of an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals.

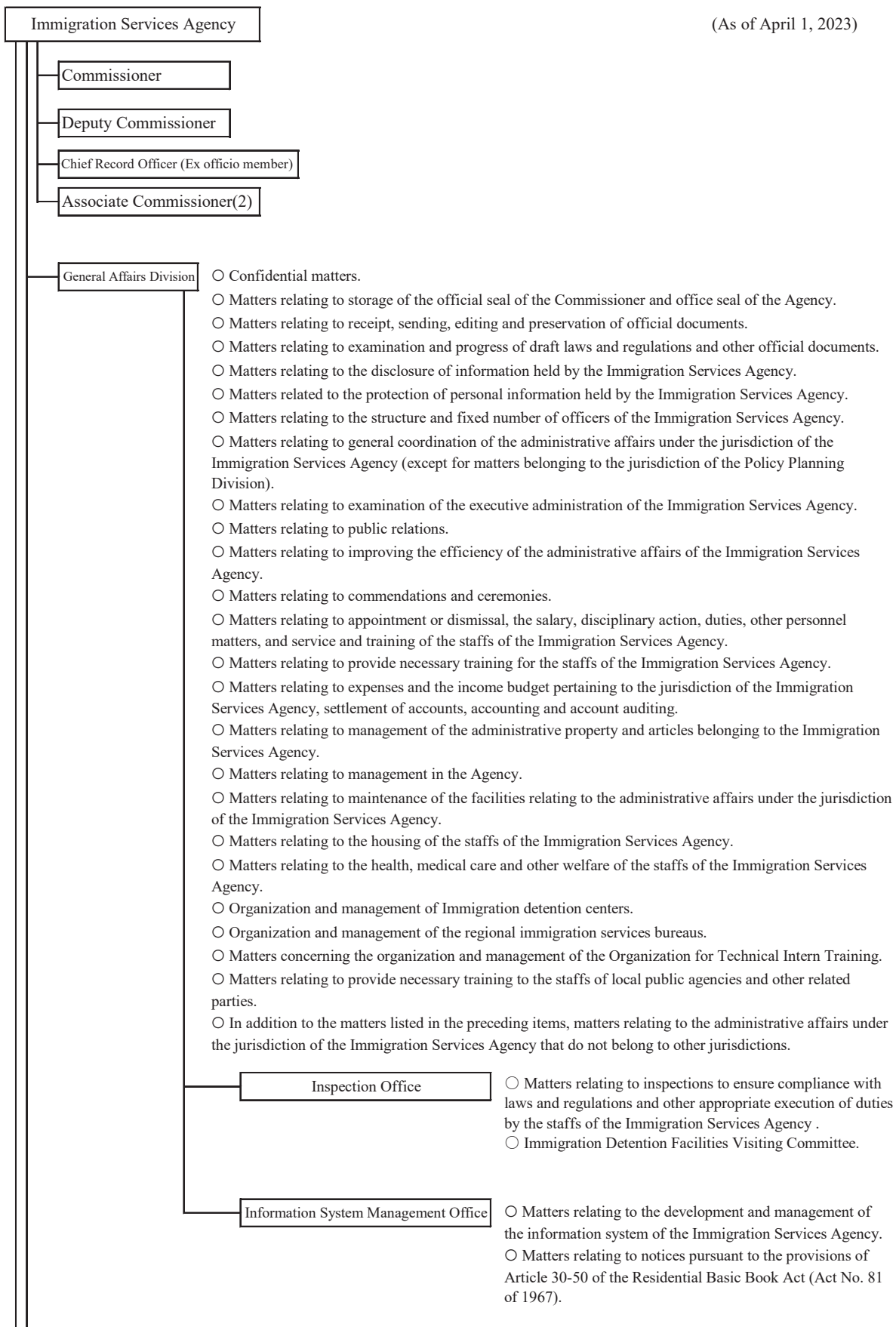
The ISA, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, District Immigration Services Offices, Branch Offices, and Immigration Detention Facilities are collectively referred to as “Immigration Control and Residency Management Offices” (References 93, 94).

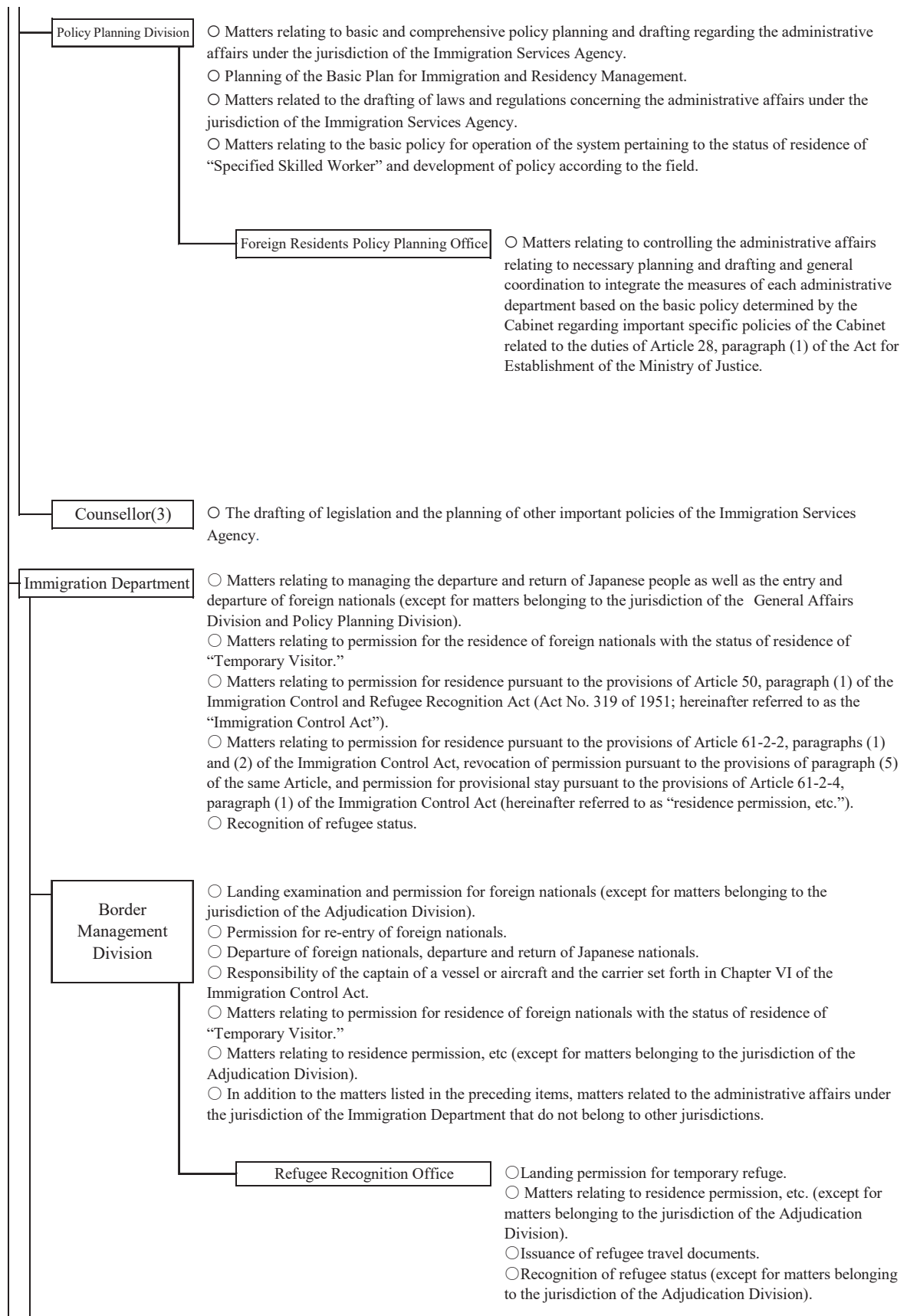
Reference 93 The ISA organizational chart

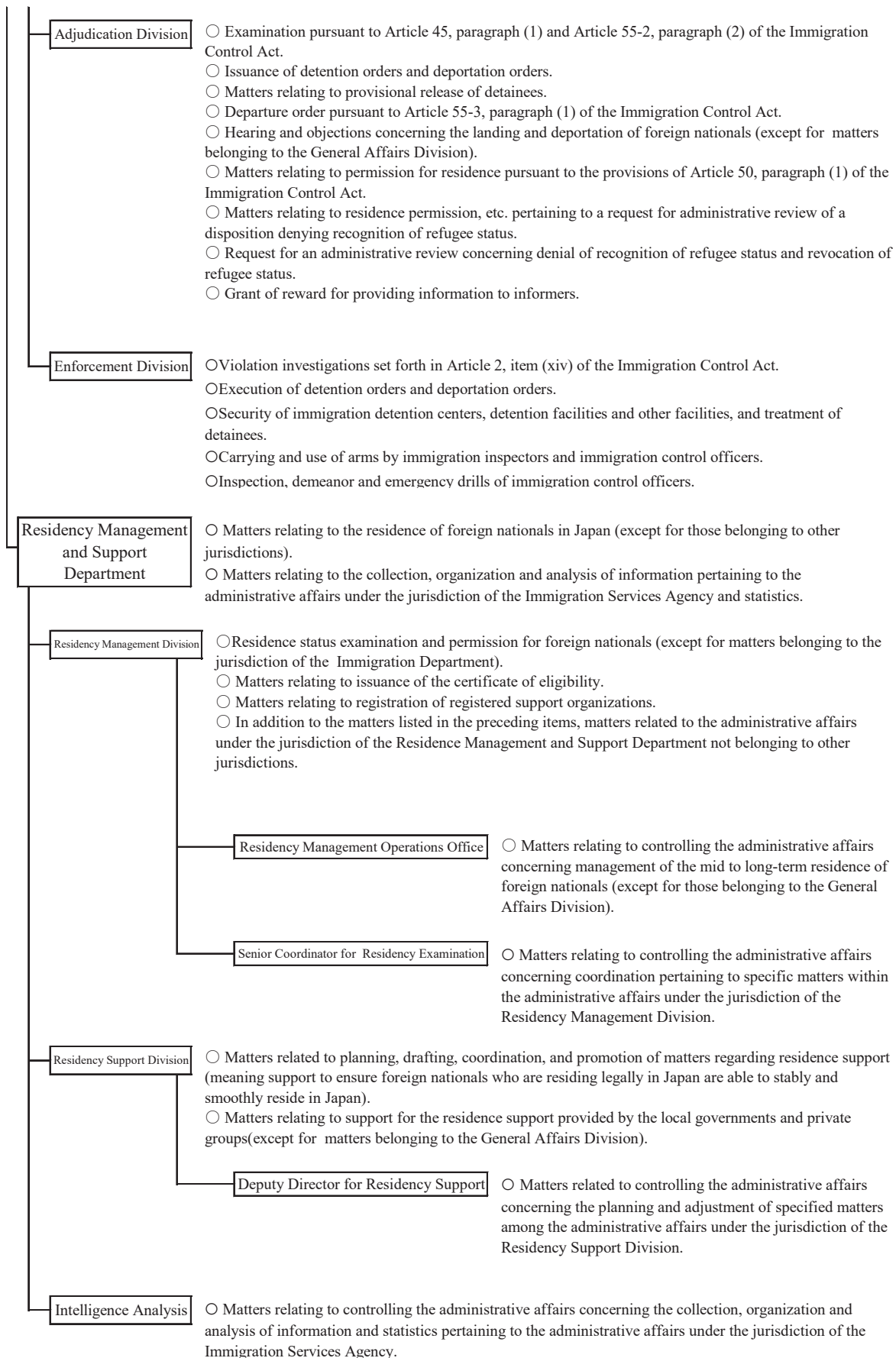
(As of April 1 , 2023)



Reference 94 Responsibilities of the ISA







(*) Other than the positions mentioned above, attorneys (legal specialists) are assigned to the Immigration Services Agency.

2 Review of the Organizational Structure of the Immigration Control and Residency Management Offices

Major organizational expansions in FY 2023 are as follows.

- Assign more Counsellors to the ISA to strengthen the planning and preparation system for realizing a society of harmonious coexistence through the promotion of digital society.
- Establish Deputy Director for Residency Support in the ISA in order to promote the acceptance of, and support for, foreign residents, including evacuees.
- Assign more Deputy Director Inspection to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau in order to strengthen the refugee recognition examination system and promote the provision of support to foreign residents, including evacuees, and the adjustment of environment for accepting them.
- Establish the Inspection Department 2 in the Sendai Regional Immigration Services Bureau in order to strengthen examination, residence support, and the judgment system.
- Reorganize the Residency Management Information Department of the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau and establish the Online Inspection Department and the Residency Investigation Department in order to strengthen the online examination system and the system for completing immigration procedures digitally.
- Establish the Refugee Examination Department 2 in the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau in order to strengthen the refugee recognition examination system.
- Establish the Residency Support Department at the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau and the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau and assign more Supervisor inspectors (coordinators for consultation services) at the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau in order to improve the environment for supporting and accepting foreign nationals, including evacuees.
- Establish the Personnel Division in the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau to strengthen human resources, salary, and the training system.
- Assign more Supervisor control officers to the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, the Nagoya Regional Immigration Services Bureau, the Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau, and the Fukuoka Regional Immigration Services Bureau in order to strengthen the security system.

Further, most Branch Offices of Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (including Branch Offices of District Immigration Services Offices) were located within the area of seaports, based on the historical background that they were originally established for immigration examination of crew members and passengers on oceangoing vessels. Now, as the primary means of international transportation has shifted from oceangoing vessels to airplanes, immigration examinations at airports became the main service, and as foreign nationals residing in Japan for a long time increased, the Ministry has proceeded to reorganize, integrate or scrap Branch Offices at seaports to respond to the foregoing change in administrative needs, and has made efforts to re-allocate Branch Offices by establishing them at local airports where many international flights arrive, prefectural capitals, and other major cities. (**Reference 95**).

As a result, the number of Branch Offices established in the country through reorganization of Regional Immigration Offices into Regional Immigration Bureaus, which was 103 as of April 1, 1981, is 61 as of April 1, 2023. The establishment of at least one Regional Immigration Control and Residency Management Office in each prefecture has been achieved, while Branch Offices have decreased by about 40% from 1981.

Those Branch Offices should not only improve convenience for foreign nationals who come to submit various applications, reports or consultation but also enhance close cooperation with related local organizations, such as the police, in collecting information on illegal and imposter foreign residents. With a view to enhancing cooperation with local governments and related organizations which accept foreign nationals who intend to reside in Japan for a medium to long term, it is necessary to continue rationalizing and streamlining the organizational structure, with the aim of ensuring smooth and proper processing, including immigration examination, residence examination, residence support and collection of information on offenders in violation of the Immigration Control Act, and establishing a more comprehensive framework for branch offices.

Reference 95 Reorganization, abolishment or establishment of Branch Offices of the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (actual result)

(As of April 1, 2023)

Fiscal Year	Division	Abolition		Establishment	
		Name	Location	Name	Location
2000		Amagasaki Port Branch Office Kure Port Branch Office Karatsu Port Branch Office Imari Port Branch Office	Amagasaki City Kure City Karatsu City Imari City	Saga Branch Office	Saga City
2001		Yokosuka Port Branch Office Kagoshima Airport Branch Office Shimizu Port Branch Office Tagonoura Port Branch Office	Yokosuka City Mizobe-cho Aira-gun Shimizu City Fuji City	Shizuoka Branch Office	Shizuoka City
2002		Iwakuni Port Branch Office Yatsushiro Port Branch Office Hitachi Port Branch Office Kashima Port Branch Office	Iwakuni City Yatsushiro City Hitachi City Kamisu-cho Kashima-gun	Kofu Branch Office Gifu Branch Office Otsu Branch Office Mito Branch Office	Kofu City Gifu City Otsu City Mito City
2003		Tokyo Port Branch Office Shibuya Branch Office Muroran Port Branch Office Miyako Port Branch Office Ofunato Port Branch Office Ishinomaki Port Branch Office Sasebo Port Branch Office Naha Port Branch Office	Koto-ku Tokyo Shibuya-ku Tokyo Muroran City Miyako City Ofunato City Ishinomaki City Sasebo City Naha City	Shinjuku Branch Office Morioka Branch Office	Shinjuku-ku Tokyo Morioka City
2004		Aomori Port Branch Office Hachinohe Port Branch Office Yokohama Port Branch Office Nagoya Port Branch Office Nagoya Airport Branch Office Sakai Port Branch Office Kobe Port Branch Office Mizushima Port Branch Office Shibushi Branch Office	Aomori City Hachinohe City Yokohama City Nagoya City Toyoyama-cho Nishika-sugai-gun Sakai City Kobe City Kurashiki City Shibushi-cho Soo-gun	Aomori Branch Office	Aomori City
2005		Naoetsu Port Branch Office	Joetsu City		
2007		Osaka Port Branch Office Tennoji Branch Office	Osaka City Osaka City	Tobu Branch Office	Edogawa-ku Tokyo
2010		Haneda Airport Branch Office	Ota-ku Tokyo		
2014		Otaru Port Branch Office	Otaru City	Asahikawa Branch Office	Asahikawa City
2022		Tobu Branch Office	Edogawa-ku Tokyo	Matsudo Branch Office	Matsudo City

Section 2 Staff

1 ISA Staff

In immigration detention facilities and Regional Immigration Services Bureaus, immigration inspectors and immigration control officers are assigned as staffs who are engaged in immigration control duties. In addition, administrative officers of the MOJ engage in general administrative duties and technical officers of the MOJ, including doctors, are also assigned.

Immigration inspectors are responsible for (1) examinations and hearings in entry (landing) procedures, (2) examination of various applications for residence, investigation of facts, and on-site inspections of institutions to which Specified Skilled Workers, (3) examination and hearings in deportation procedures, issuance of written detention orders and deportation orders, as well as provisional release clerical work, (4) investigations related to refugee recognition, and (5) work related to improving the environment for accepting foreign nationals.

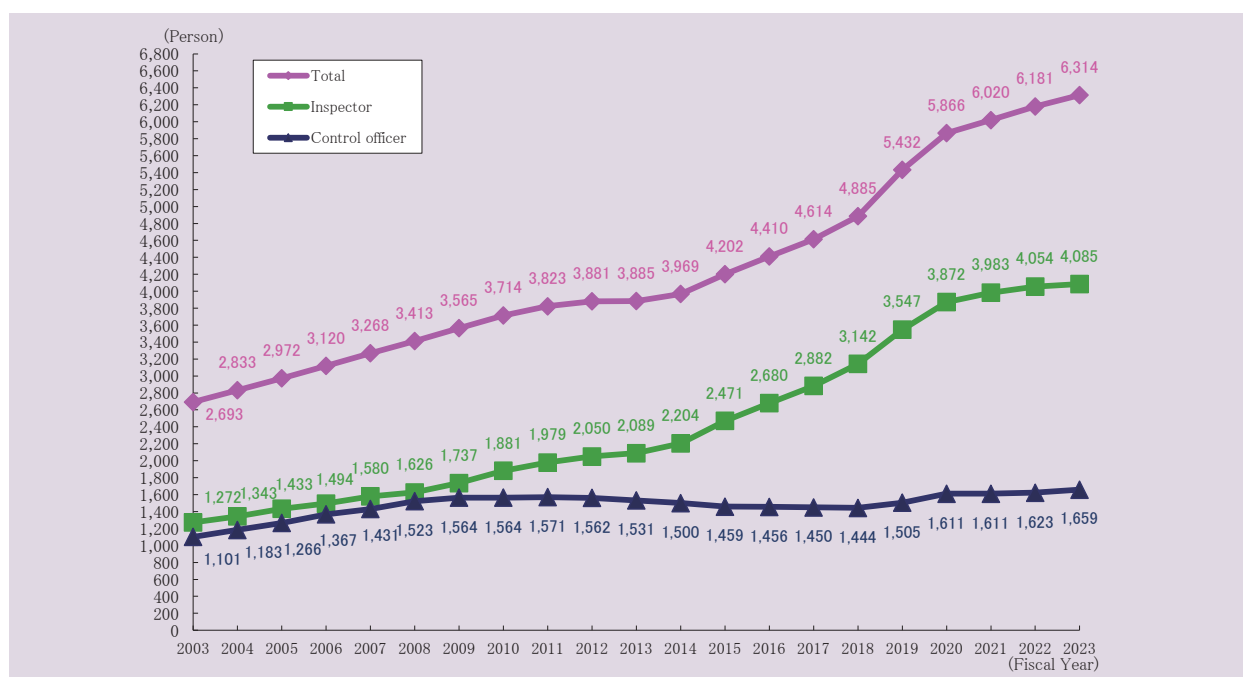
Immigration control officers are responsible for (1) investigating violations related to the unauthorized stay of illegal entrants and illegal overstayers, (2) detaining and escorting suspects by executing written detention orders, as well as guarding detention facilities, (3) deporting people subject to deportation by execution of a deportation order, (4) fact-finding and on-site inspections of organizations to which Specified Skilled Workers belong. The immigration control officers come under the provisions of “police officials” under the National Public Service Act, and moreover, since they often have to engage in dangerous work, they also come under the “public security service officials” of the Act on Remuneration of Officials in Regular Service. Immigration control officers are divided into seven ranks (keibikan, keibicho, keibishicho, keibishi, keibishiho, keishucho, and keishu, in order of descending superiority) in order to clarify the chain of command for group operations for detection.

Since individual immigration inspectors and immigration control officers perform their duties independently as specialists in immigration control and residency management, the specialist system was introduced. These officials are required to have legal knowledge necessary for their duties as well as a balanced point of view from an international perspective and the ability to interact with foreign nationals flexibly while giving consideration to their diverse cultures, custom and religions and their human rights.

2 Staff Increase

The number of ISA-related staff was 6,314 in FY 2023, which was an increase of about 29% (1,429) compared to five years ago in FY 2018 when the number was 4,885. However, during this period, the number of cases handled by the immigration offices has remained at a high level, and the immigration control work has been getting more complex and difficult such as the need to balance smooth yet rigorous entry examinations in order to promote Japan as a tourism-oriented country but to prevent terrorist acts and illegal entry; to implement measures to deal with the forged or altered documents that are becoming increasingly more sophisticated; to strengthen the residence management pertaining to foreign nationals after entry into Japan; to enforce strengthened detection and reliable deportation of illegal foreign residents, some of whom are potential criminals; to implement measures against imposter foreign residents disguised as legal residents; and to implement even more appropriate yet stricter examinations of applications for refugee recognition. Further staff increase is necessary in order to deal appropriately and swiftly with such situations and to meet the public needs for administration ([Reference 96](#)).

Reference 96 Changes in the number of Immigration Control and Residency Management Office personnel



(Person)

Division Fiscal Year	Administrative officials in the Ministry of Justice	Regional Immigration Bureaus					Total
		Administrative officials	Inspectors	Control officers	Others	Sub-Total	
1985	169	155	703	658	55	1,571	1,740
1995	163	165	1,152	869	38	2,224	2,387
2000	157	164	1,196	998	26	2,384	2,541
2003	152	144	1,272	1,101	24	2,541	2,693
2004	142	142	1,343	1,183	23	2,691	2,833
2005	131	122	1,433	1,266	20	2,841	2,972
2006	129	122	1,494	1,367	8	2,991	3,120
2007	128	121	1,580	1,431	8	3,140	3,268
2008	127	129	1,626	1,523	8	3,286	3,413
2009	126	130	1,737	1,564	8	3,439	3,565
2010	126	135	1,881	1,564	8	3,588	3,714
2011	126	139	1,979	1,571	8	3,697	3,823
2012	126	135	2,050	1,562	8	3,755	3,881
2013	126	131	2,089	1,531	8	3,759	3,885
2014	126	131	2,204	1,500	8	3,843	3,969
2015	140	124	2,471	1,459	8	4,062	4,202
2016	140	126	2,680	1,456	8	4,270	4,410
2017	140	134	2,882	1,450	8	4,474	4,614
2018	139	152	3,142	1,444	8	4,746	4,885

* The administrative officers of the Ministry before FY2018 do not include the Deputy Director-General.

Division Fiscal Year	Immigration Services Agency						Total
	Administrative officials in the Immigration Services Agency	Immigration Control and Residency Management Offices					
		Administrative officials	Inspectors	Control officers	Others	Sub-Total	
2019	211	161	3,547	1,505	8	5,221	5,432
2020	211	164	3,872	1,611	8	5,655	5,866
2021	251	164	3,983	1,611	11	5,769	6,020
2022	291	188	4,054	1,623	25	5,890	6,181
2023	348	197	4,085	1,659	25	5,966	6,314

The “Japan Revitalization Strategy (revised in 2015)” decided by the Cabinet in June 2015 set out the goal of quickly preparing for the “era of 20 million” foreign visitors coming to Japan, and its early realization. As a result of promoting the various measures by the government to become a tourist-oriented country, such as relaxation of visa requirements measures, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan rapidly increased to approximately 19.69 million people in 2015. Consequently, the “Tourism Vision to Support the Future of Japan” (decision of the Council for the Development of a Tourism Vision to Support the Future of Japan) outlined the goal of attracting 40 million visitors by 2020, and 60 million visitors by 2030. After that, the Cabinet decided the “Basic Plan for Promoting Tourism-Oriented Country,” which outlined a new goal of increasing the number of foreign tourists visiting Japan, which had significantly decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to more than the level of 2019 by 2025.

The “Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2019,” decided by the Cabinet in June 2019, states that steady efforts shall be made to accept foreign professionals and establish an environment for them. This is for the purpose of properly and smoothly accepting foreign professionals with the new statuses of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii),” as well as realizing a society of harmonious coexistence, where Japanese nationals and foreign nationals can live together safely and with peace of mind.

In such circumstances, we increased the number of staff by a total of 285 in 2022, including 55 staff to enhance and strengthen immigration inspection operations, and 120 staff to enhance and strengthen the residence management and support system for accepting foreign professionals. Approval has been given to increase staff by a total of 269 in 2023, including 27 staff to enhance and strengthen immigration inspection operations, and 156 staff to enhance and strengthen the residence management and support system for accepting foreign professionals. Based on the “Policy on Organization and Staffing of National Government Offices” decided by the Cabinet in July 2014, as a part of the government we have promoted administrative operational reform initiatives in order to rationalize staffing.

3 Training

Training for the ISA staff has been previously provided by the Research and Training Institute (RTI), an agency that conducts research and training for the MOJ. However, since the establishment of the ISA, the scope of operations under its jurisdiction has expanded, making it necessary to add new training courses. The Ministry shifted its training functions from the RTI to the ISA on April 1, 2021, so that the ISA can conduct training adapted to ever-changing societal conditions.

The ISA is working to enhance its training by, for example, adding new training on residency support to the systematic training conducted by the RTI according to each class of staff. In order to improve the expert knowledge of staff, lectures in training have been delivered by not only its own staff, but also outside experts, and the ISA has conducted various types of training in addition to systematic training, such as training for officers engaged in the work of entry and residence examinations, training for officers engaged in refugee recognition work, training for fingerprint forensics, training related to human rights and training related to mental health. Also, because the ISA’s work mainly involves foreign nationals, the ISA is making efforts to improve staff’s language skills needed for work, such as by

outsourcing English and other languages training for staff to professional language schools. In these manners, the ISA is making efforts to train staff who are well versed in practical matters related to immigration control and residency management.

In addition, the ISA conducts training on measures for coexistence with foreign nationals, not only for its own staff, but for local government staff as well.



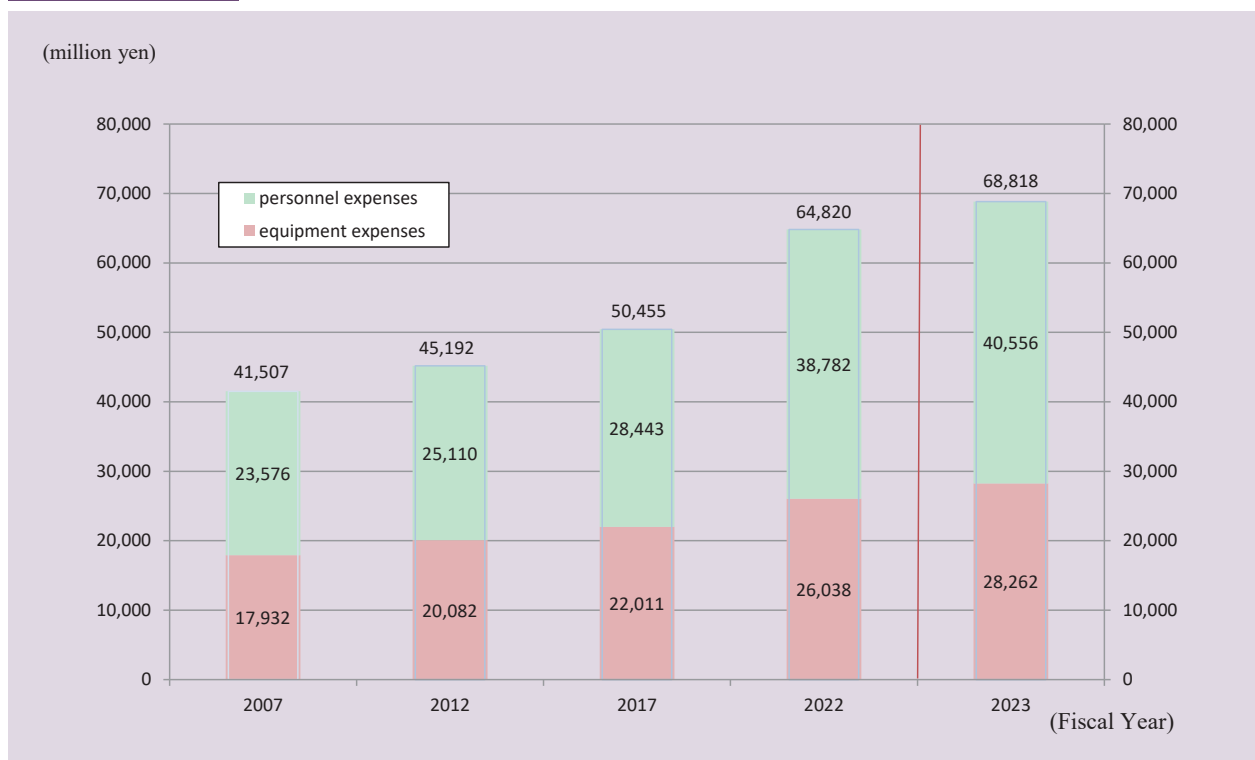
Scene of Training

Chapter 12 Budget, etc.

Section 1 Budget

The changes in the budget for immigration control and residency management administration are as shown in Reference 97, and amid the severe administrative and financial situation of recent years, the necessary funds to implement the various measures being promoted by the ISA were allocated in the FY 2023 budget. The ISA will continue to strive to make effective use of the budget and to reduce administrative costs ([Reference 97](#)).

Reference 97 Changes in the budget



- (*1) The amount of budget is the initial amount of budget.
- (*2) Some figures may not be consistent owing to the fact that the numbers are rounded off to units of 1 million yen.
- (*3) Including international tourism passenger tax business (FY2022: 2,905 million yen, FY2023: 3,648 million yen).
- (*4) Including government information system costs (Digital Agency lump sum FY2022 10,301 million yen, FY2023 10,540 million yen).

Section 2 Facilities

As of March 31, 2023, eight Regional Immigration Services Bureaus are housed in independent office buildings of the MOJ (Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka), joint office buildings of the MOJ (Sendai, Hiroshima, Takamatsu, and Fukuoka), and joint office buildings with other national government authorities (Sapporo) respectively. All of the District Immigration Services Offices and the Branch Offices are housed either in independent office buildings of the MOJ (Yokohama), in general offices of the MOJ, in office buildings jointly with branch offices of port-related national government authorities, in office building jointly with other national government authorities, in airport terminal building, or in other civil or public facilities.

Two immigration detention facilities are maintained as independent offices of the MOJ (Omura and Higashi-Nihon).