



2025

Immigration Control and Residency Management

Immigration Services Agency of Japan



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Introduction

Publication of the 2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management

In a global situation that changes from day to day, the Ministry of Justice's (MOJ) Immigration Services Agency (ISA) is promoting sound international exchange with Japan and helping to maintain the law and order of Japanese society. To this end, we need to apply both state-of-the-art technology and the human eye to ensure compatibility between smooth entry examinations and strict immigration control at an advanced level. In addition, we are also responsible for protecting the safety and interests of the public through the deportation of foreign nationals, who threaten Japan's safety and security, in accordance with the laws and regulations. Furthermore, the ISA has a major role to play in developing refugee recognition procedures and swiftly and reliably protecting those who seek asylum. In addition, since the MOJ is now in charge of planning, drafting and general coordination relating to improving the environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals (Cabinet decision of July 24, 2018), along with efforts aimed at promoting the smooth and proper acceptance of foreign human resources, the Ministry is also responsible for promoting the development of an environment aimed at realizing a harmonious society of coexistence with foreign nationals.

First published in 1959 under the title Immigration Control, the name of this document was changed to Immigration Control and Residency Management in 2019 and has now reached its 31st edition.

The 2025 edition provides an overview of the ISA's work and a review of FY 2024, including recent developments and measures in immigration control and residency management administration, including meetings of the Immigration and Residency Management Policy Discussions Panel, gatherings of the Advisory Panel of Experts on Basic Policy and Field-Specific Operational Policies for the Specified Skilled Worker System and the Employment for Skill Development Program, and the Zero illegal foreign residents plan for the safety and security of people in Japan. It also covers some measures implemented in 2025. Finally, we hope that through this 2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management immigration control and residency management administration will prove to be beneficial and easy to understand.



December 2025

Hideharu Maruyama

Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan

Points of the 2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management

Organization of the 2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management

- The 2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management consists of three parts: Immigration Control in Recent Years (Part I), Major Policies Related to Immigration Control Administration (Part II), and Data Section.
- Part I describes the immigration control and residency management operations in recent years based on the statistics over the five-year period from 2020 to 2024.
- Part II describes the major immigration control and residency management policies (implemented during FY 2024 as well as some of the measures for FY 2025).
- Data Section describes a summary of the operations, etc. of the Immigration Services Agency (ISA).

Part I

Immigration Control and Residency Management in Recent Years

• Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan

In 2024, the number of foreign nationals entering Japan (including those who re-entered Japan) was 36,779,964, an increase of 10,949,154 (42.4%) compared to the previous year, and the number of foreign nationals who newly entered Japan, excluding those who re-entered, was 34,015,766, an increase of 10,264,073 (43.2%) compared to the previous year.

• Number of Foreign Residents

- The number of foreign residents combining the number of mid to long-term residents with the number of special permanent residents was 3,768,977 as of the end of 2024.
- In addition, the percentage of foreign residents to the total population of Japan was 3.04%, an increase of 0.3 points compared to the number at the end of the previous year.

• Technical Intern Training Program and Specified Skilled Worker System

- As of the end of 2024 the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of "Technical Intern Training (i)" was 142,301, a decrease of 28,964 (16.9%) compared to the end of the previous year.
- As of the end of 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of "Technical Intern Training (ii)" was 284,772, an increase of 119,243 (72.0%) compared to the end of the previous year.
- As of the end of 2024 the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of "Technical Intern Training (iii)" was 29,522, a decrease of 38,240 (56.4%) compared to the end of the previous year.
- As of the end of 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents with the status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i)" was 283,634, an increase of 75,209 (36.1%) compared to the end of the previous year.
- As of the end of 2024, the number of mid to long-term residents with the "Specified Skilled

Worker (ii)” status of residence was 832, an increase of 795 (2,148.6%) compared to the end of the previous year. The number has shown the largest increase since the status was newly established on April 1, 2019.

● Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay

As of January 1, 2025, the number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay was 74,863, a decrease of 4,250 (5.4%) compared to 79,113 as of January 1 of the previous year.

● Status of Refugee Recognition Operations

- In 2024, the number of applicants for refugee status in Japan was 12,373, a decrease of 1,450 (about 10.5%) compared to 2023.
- In 2024, the number of applicants whose application for refugee status was processed was 8,377, an increase of 193 (about 2.4%) compared to 2023. Of these applicants, 176 were recognized as refugees, 5,117 were not recognized as refugees (including 45 who were not recognized as refugees but recognized as eligible for persons under complementary protection), and 3,084 withdrew their applications or took other action.

Part II

Major Policies Related to Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration

● Immigration and Residency Management Policy Discussions Panel

The Immigration and Residency Management Policy Discussions Panel is a private consultation group of the Minister of Justice established to hear the views of a wide range of experts from various fields regarding future approaches to immigration control and residency management administration. The body takes the place of the previous Immigration Policy Discussions Panel, which convened a total of seven times since its first meeting in November 1990. The members of the new Immigration and Residency Management Policy Discussions Panel discuss a variety of issues in immigration and residency management policy from far-reaching perspectives to provide a reference point for the development of future measures in connection with immigration and residency management and the formulation of the Second Basic Plan for Immigration Control and Residency Management.

● Integrated KIOSKs

In order to improve convenience for passengers and further improve the efficiency of measures taken at the port of entry, we have launched a new initiative that transcends ministry boundaries. Together with Japan Customs at the Ministry of Finance, we have been introducing Integrated KIOSKs. These make it possible to simultaneously deliver the information necessary to both landing and customs procedures. We began to put these Integrated KIOSKs into operation sequentially starting in April 2025 at Haneda Airport (Terminal 2 and Terminal 3), Narita Airport (Terminal 3), and Kansai Airport (Terminal 1 and Terminal 2).

● Implementation of Japan Pre-Entry Tuberculosis Screening

In recent years, the number of foreign-born tuberculosis (TB) cases has been increasing in Japan. This screening applies to individuals who hold nationalities from those countries—the Philippines, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar, and China (hereinafter “target countries”)—

that account for the countries of origin for a majority of foreign-born patients diagnosed with tuberculosis during their stay in Japan, and who intend to enter and stay in Japan as mid to long-term residents (excluding those individuals who hold re-entry permits [including special re-entry permits]) or under the provisions of Notifications No.53(Digital Nomad) or No.54(spouse or child of Digital Nomad) “Designated Activities”. These pre-entry screenings that will be implemented for Certificate of Eligibility applications require the submission of a “TB Clearance certificate” issued by a Panel Clinic in the target countries and designated by the government of Japan.

The obligation to submit a TB Clearance Certificate will go into effect gradually, starting with target countries for which coordination efforts are complete. The obligation commenced on June 23, 2025, for the Philippines and Nepal and on September 1, 2025, for Viet Nam.

● Operational Improvements for Technical Intern Training Program Transfers in Unavoidable Circumstances

The government policy on the creation of the Employment for Skill Development Program, as decided by the Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals on February 9, 2024, calls for the expansion and clarification of requirements for Employment for Skill Development Program transfers in unavoidable circumstances. It also calls for implementing operational improvements as promptly as possible for transfers under the existing Technical Intern Training Program in unavoidable circumstances.

In line with this policy, in November 2024, steps were taken to clarify “unavoidable circumstances” in the Employment for Skill Development Program in greater detail and also make the procedures for requesting transfers under the Technical Intern Training Program clearer and more flexible through improvements in the requisite forms and other areas.

Residence status measures were also implemented to allow Technical Intern Training Program participants in the process of a transfer to work up to 28 hours per week in order to support themselves while the transfer procedures are in progress, thereby improving transfer operations in “unavoidable circumstances” in terms of participants’ rights and protections.

● Review of the Fields of Specified Skilled Worker System

In light of the need to urgently make amendments due, for example, to the strong demands regarding measures responding to the labor shortage situation, changes were made to field-specific operation policies for three existing fields: “Nursing care,” “Industrial product manufacturing,” and “Food service industry” (Cabinet decision of March 11, 2025).

● Creation of the Employment for Skill Development Program

Various issues have been highlighted with regard to the Technical Intern Training Program as it stands thus far, such as a disconnect between the program’s objectives and its actual implementation and protecting the rights of foreign nationals. In light of these issues, at the 213th session of the Diet in June 2024, the Amendment Act of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees were passed and promulgated. It dissolved the Technical Intern Training Program and created an Employment for Skill Development Program whose purpose was to train and secure human resources.

The Advisory Panel of Experts on the Basic Policy and Field-Specific Operational Policies for the Specified Skilled Worker System and the Employment for Skill Development Program

(hereinafter the “Panel of Experts”) was established in December 2024. Based on the opinions of the Panel of Experts, the Basic Policy on the Operation of the System for Status of the Residence Status of Specified Skill Workers and the Basic Policy on Implementation of Proper Employment for Skill Development and Protection of Employment for Skill Development Employees Workers were decided by the Cabinet in March 2025.

Preparations are now under way to launch the Employment for Skill Development Program in April 2027.

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

The Ministerial Conference held on June 6, 2025 added new measures and updated the work schedule based on the opinions of experts and the like.

- **Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals**

On June 6, 2025, along with the decision of the Roadmap (FY 2025 partly changed), we revised the Comprehensive Measures (FY 2025 revised) based on the Roadmap (FY 2025 partly changed), with the perspective of further enhancing the environment for accepting foreign nationals.

- **Responses to International Society and International Situations**

- The ISA held working-level meetings with immigration control and residency management authorities of Indonesia and participated in meetings organized by the Japan-Taiwan Exchange Association and the Taiwan-Japan Relations Association to share information and exchange opinions.
- The 4th Tokyo Immigration Forum, organized by the ISA, took place from December 9 to 11, 2024, with the participation of representatives from immigration control and residency management authorities of a record-setting 20 countries and regions. At the meeting, participants outlined new measures that have been introduced in recent years (including amendment of acts and changes in operational practices) to help address immigration and residency management-related issues faced by their countries and regions, offer information on the measures’ impact, exchange opinions on the topics, and engage in question-and-answer sessions. The participants also indicated their approval for holding their next meeting in Tokyo during FY 2025.

- **Zero Illegal Foreign Residents Plan for the Safety and Security of People in Japan**

In response to growing public concern caused by media reports about foreign nationals who do not follow the rules, and due to strong demands for appropriate measures against such individuals, the Minister of Justice instructed the Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Justice to compile countermeasures aimed at promptly removing from Japan foreign nationals who do not follow the rules, including those who repeatedly submit misuse or abuse of applications for refugee recognition.

As a result of the discussions, the process was divided into three stages: “Immigration Control,” “Residency Management and Refugee Examination,” and “Departure and Deportation.” The specific countermeasures for each stage were compiled into the “Zero illegal foreign

residents plan for the safety and security of people in Japan,” announced by the Minister of Justice on May 23, 2025.

The ISA will continue to actively welcome foreign nationals who follow the rules by focusing on implementing the measures outlined in the zero illegal foreign residents plan. At the same time, by taking strict measures with regard to foreign nationals who do not follow the rules, we seek to safeguard the safety and security of the people in Japan while contributing to the realization of an inclusive society where they can live with foreign nationals in peace.

2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management Report

Introduction — Publication of the 2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management
Points of the 2025 Immigration Control and Residency Management
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Abbreviations

Refugee Convention	Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
Protocol	Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees
Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement	Agreement under Article VI of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between Japan and the United States of America, Regarding Facilities and Areas and the Status of United States Armed Forces in Japan
Immigration Control Act	Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act
Enforcement Order for the Immigration Control Act	Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act Enforcement Order
Regulation for Enforcement of the Immigration Control Act	Regulation for Enforcement of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act
Ministerial Ordinance on Criteria	Ministerial Order to Provide for Criteria Pursuant to Article 7, Paragraph (1), Item (ii) of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act
Special Act on Immigration Control	Special Act on the Immigration Control of, inter alia, those who have lost Japanese Nationality pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan
Enforcement Order of the Special Act on Immigration Control	Order for Enforcement of the Special Act on the Immigration Control of, inter alia, those who have lost Japanese Nationality pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan
Regulation for Enforcement of the Special Act on Immigration Control	Regulation for Enforcement of the Special Act on the Immigration Control of, inter alia, those who have lost Japanese Nationality pursuant to the Treaty of Peace with Japan
Technical Intern Training Act	Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees
Regulation for Enforcement of the Technical Intern Training Act	Regulation for Enforcement of the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees
API	Advance Passenger Information
APIS	Advance Passenger Inspection System * The Advance Passenger Information System was renamed the Advance Passenger Inspection System in June 2021.
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
IOM	International Organization for Migration
PNR	Passenger Name Record
RHQ	Refugee Assistance HeadQuarters
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees or United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees