

==== 2005 =====

Immigration Control



JAPAN

Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

2005
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Introduction

Publication of the “2005 Immigration Control”

This year’s report is the 11th issue of the “Immigration Control Report”, first published in 1959. Although the previous issues of the “Immigration Control Report”, including the 2003 issue, described the five-year trends of immigration control administration, owing to the accelerated pace of the changes in conditions which affect immigration control, a summary of the one-year trend of immigration control administration will be given from this year annually.

Looking at recent developments, the environment affecting immigration control administration has been changing in many ways. For example, Japan has been taking measures to achieve the following objectives: establishment of Japan as a country built on tourism by encouraging more foreign travelers to visit Japan; more open acceptance of skilled foreign workers including highly-skilled workers in professional or technical fields; halving the number of illegal foreign residents; strictly preventing terrorists from entering Japan and responding to a population-decreasing society.

In order to achieve such objectives, it is necessary for the immigration control administration to simultaneously accomplish both smooth acceptance of foreign nationals, who will contribute to the development of international exchange and the Japanese economy, and strict measures against suspect foreign nationals such as terrorists or criminals, who may pose a threat to Japan’s safety and security.

In this context, as the first step, we would like to explain to as many people as possible under what conditions the immigration control administration is operating and the specific measures being taken. Therefore, following the 2004 issue, the “2005 Immigration Control Report” is being published for this purpose. This report shows the trends of the immigration control administration during the past five years while outlining, in particular, the recent conditions affecting the immigration control administration and measures taken in FY2004. Part I, titled “Immigration Control in Recent Years”, describes the entry and residence in Japan of foreign nationals (Chapter 1), deportation procedures (Chapter 2), refugee recognition procedures (Chapter 3), and foreign registration (Chapter 4). Part I gives numerical information on the state of the immigration control administration, focusing on 2004, together with the data for the past five years.

Part II “Primary Measures Related to Immigration Control Administration in FY2004” describes the measures taken by the Immigration Bureau in FY2004. Chapter 1 outlines the Third Basic Plan for Immigration Control, which the Immigration Bureau drew up on March 29, 2005. Chapter 2 outlines the Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act affected by the Partial Amendment of the Penal Code and Relevant Laws promulgated on June 22, 2005. Chapter 3 explains measures related to immigration control in general, such as counter-trafficking measures, counter-terrorism measures and computerization efforts. Chapter 4 shows the measures related to procedures for entry and residence in order to ensure the smooth acceptance of foreign nationals, including measures to establish Japan as a country built on tourism. Chapter 5 onwards explains measures taken by the immigration control administration in FY2004 to deal with various problems and requests. These measures cover such fields as deportation procedures, refugee recognition procedures, alien registration and globalization. Part II presents qualitative information on immigration control administration in FY2004.

Further, the Data Section describes the major events related to immigration control administration that occurred in FY2004 and explains the Japanese immigration control system. This section is useful for obtaining basic knowledge on the Japanese immigration control administration services.

We hope this report will help you to discover how closely the immigration control administration is related to everyday life and to understand how the immigration control administration functions.

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2005 Immigration Control

■ Introduction — Publication of the “2005 Immigration Control”

Part 1 Immigration Control in Recent Years

Chapter 1 — Foreign Nationals Entering and Residing in Japan

Section 1 Foreign Nationals Entering and Leaving Japan … 2

1 Changes in the Number of Foreign Nationals Entering and Leaving Japan … 2

(I) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan	2
A. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan	2
B. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Region	3
C. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Nationality (Place of Origin)	4
D. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Gender and Age	5
E. The Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence)	6
(A) Temporary Visitors	7
(B) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan for the Purpose of Employment	10
a. “Engineer”, “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, “Intra-company Transferee”	11
b. “Skilled Labor”	12
c. “Professor” and “Instructor”	13
d. “Legal/Accounting Services” and “Medical Services”	13
e. “Entertainer”	14
(C) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan for the Purpose of Study	14
a. “Trainee”	14
b. “College Student” and “Pre-college Student”	16
c. Working Holiday	19
(D) Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with the Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Civil Status or Position	20

2 Judgment for Landing … 21

(1) Receipt and Findings of Hearings for Landing and Filing of Objections	21
(2) Foreign Nationals Who Fall under Any of the Reasons for Denial of Landing	23

(3) Special Permission for Landing	24
3 Pre-entry Examination	25
(1) Advance Consultation for Issuance of Visas	25
(2) Certificate of Eligibility	26
Section 2 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan	27
1 The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan	27
(1) The Total Number of Registered Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan	27
(2) The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals by Region	27
(3) The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals by Nationality (Place of Origin)	28
(4) The Number of Registered Foreign Nationals by Purpose (Status of Residence)	31
A. “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident”	31
B. Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for the Purpose of Employment	32
C. “College Student” and “Pre-college Student”	34
D. “Trainee”	34
E. Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with the Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Civil Status or Position	34
2 Status of Residence Examinations	35
(1) Permission for Extension of Period of Stay	36
(2) Permission for Change of Status of Residence	36
A. Change of Status of Residence from “College Student” or “Pre-college Student” for Employment	37
B. Permission to Change Status of Residence in Order to Participate in a Technical Internship Program	38
(3) Permission for Acquisition of Status of Residence	41
(4) Re-entry Permission	41
(5) Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted	41
(6) Permission for Permanent Residence	42

Chapter 2 — Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals

Section 1 Foreign Nationals Violating the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act	43
1 The Total Number of Overstayers	43
(1) The Number of Overstayers by Nationality (Place of Origin)	44
(2) The Number of Overstayers by Status of Residence	45

2 Foreign Nationals Illegally Entering and Landing in Japan	47
--	----

Section 2 Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act for Which Deportation Procedures Were Carried Out	48
--	----

1 The Number of cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act by Grounds for Deportation	48
---	----

(1) Illegal Entry	49
A. Illegal Entry by Ship	50
B. Illegal Entry by Airplane	51
(2) Illegal Landing	52
(3) Overstay	53
(4) Activities Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted	54

2 Illegal Workers	55
--------------------------------	----

(1) Summary	55
(2) The Number of Illegal Foreign Workers Classified by Nationality (Place of Origin)	55
(3) The Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Gender	56
(4) The Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Type of Work	58

3 Outline of Judgments of Violations	59
---	----

(1) Receipt and the Findings of Cases of Violation	59
(2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order	61
(3) Provisional Release	63
(4) Special Permission to Stay	63

4 Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals	64
--	----

(1) Deportation at the Expense of the Government	65
A. Deportation in Groups at the Expense of the Government	65
B. Deportation Individually at the Expense of the Government	65
(2) Deportation at the Expense of the Foreign National (Voluntary Departure)	65
(3) Sending Back at the Expense of and on the Responsibility of the Carriers	66

Chapter 3 — Recognition of Refugee Status

Section 1 Application for Refugee Status and Findings	67
--	----

1 Application for Refugee Status	67
---	----

2 Findings of Applications for Refugee Status	69
--	----

Section 2	Filling of Objections	69
1	Filling of Objections	69
2	Findings of Objections	70
Section 3	Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	70
Section 4	Refugees from Indochina	71

Chapter 4 — Alien Registration Process

Section 1	Initial Registration and Closing of Registration ...	73
Section 2	Registration of Changes in Registered Matters ...	73

Part 2 Primary Measures Related to Immigration Control Administration in FY2004

Chapter 1 — Basic Plan for Immigration Control (3rd Edition)

Section 1 Considerations for Drawing up the Third Basic Plan for Immigration Control (3rd Edition).....76

1 Informal Policy Conference on Immigration Control76

(1) Discussions at the Informal Policy Conference on Immigration Control76

(2) Report of the Immigration Control Policy Conference77

A. Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Nationals Necessary to Japan77

(A) Promoting Further Acceptance of Foreign Workers in Professional and Technical Fields77

(B) Issues of the Immigration Control Administration Responding to a Population-Declining Age.78

(C) Enhancing International Relations through Human Resources Development78

(D) Expanding Cultural Exchange Activities79

(E) Measures for Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for a Prolonged Period79

B. Measures against Illegal Immigrants79

(A) Actively Detecting and Smoothly Deporting Foreign Residents79

(B) Paying Due Attention to Specific Circumstances of the Offenders80

(C) Other Major Issues80

2 Hearing Sessions on Immigration Control Administration80

3 Collecting Public Comments81

4 “Opinion Survey on Accepting Foreign Workers”81

Section 2 Outline of the Basic Plan for Immigration Control (3rd Edition)81

1 Open Acceptance of Foreign Nationals Needed in Japanese Society.....82

(1) Promoting Acceptance of Foreign Workers in Professional and Technical Fields82

(2) Responding to a Population-Declining Society82

(3) Expanding International Exchange Activities through Tourism83

(4) Appropriate Acceptance of College and Pre-college Students83

(5) Improving Training and Technical Internship Programs83

(6) Measures for Foreign Nationals in Japan for a Prolonged Period83

2 Measures for Recovering Public Security through Promotion of Tough Measures and Substantial Reduction of Illegal Foreign Residents.	84
(1) Promoting Border Measures	84
(2) Strict Residence Examination	84
(3) Reinforced Detection Based on Close Information Analysis and Cooperation with Related Agencies	84
(4) Utilizing Detention Facilities and Implementing Prompt Deportation	84
(5) Reviewing the System for Efficient Deportation Procedures and Prevention of Illegal Residents	85
(6) Consideration of the Conditions of Illegal Foreign Residents.	85
3 Other Major Issues	85

Section 3 Policy Initiatives in Accordance with the Basic Plan for Immigration Control(3rd Edition) ...	86
--	----

Chapter 2 — Amendment to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act

Section 1 Purpose of the Amendment	87
Section 2 Outline of the Amendment of the Immigration Control Act	88
1 Legislation for Measures against Trafficking in Persons Relating to the Protocol on Human Trafficking	88
(1) Definition of Trafficking in Persons	88
(2) Protecting the Victims of Trafficking in Persons	88
A. Revising the Grounds for Denial of Landing and Deportation Applicable to the Victims of Trafficking in Persons	88
B. Amendment of the Grounds for Permission for Landing and Special Permission for Residence Applicable to the Victims of Trafficking in Persons	89
(3) Measures on Human Trafficking Perpetrators (Additional Grounds for Denial of Landing and Deportation)	89
2 Revision of Penalties as a Result of Japan Joining the Protocol on Smuggling	90
(1) Revision of Penalties	90
(2) Revision of the Grounds for Deportation Relating to the Newly-Created Penalties	91
3 Enhancing Revisions and Anti-Terrorism Measures in Line with the These Two Protocols	91

(1) Requiring Carriers to Check Passports	91
(2) Enhancing Legislation to Provide Information to Foreign Immigration Control Authorities	92

Chapter 3 — Immigration Control Administration in General

Section 1 Enhancing Countermeasures against Trafficking in Persons

1 Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons

(1) Revising the Immigration Control Act to Protect the Victims of Trafficking in Persons	94
(2) Preventing Trafficking in Persons	94
(3) Eradicating Trafficking in Persons	94
(4) Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons	94

2 The Immigration Bureau's Efforts to Protect the Victims of Trafficking in Persons

(1) Giving Consideration to the Wishes of the Victims of Trafficking in Persons	95
(2) Prompt Return of the Victim Back to the Home Country	95
(3) Flexibly Applying Provisional Release	95
(4) Granting Special Permission to Stay on a Case-by-Case Basis	95
(5) New Leaflet	96
(6) Efforts by the Regional Immigration Bureaus	96

3 Revising the Criteria for Landing Permission for the Status of Residence of "Entertainer"

Section 2 Promotion of Counter-Terrorist Measures

1 Action Plan for the Prevention of Terrorism

2 Measures for Prevention of Terrorism

(1) Implementing Stricter Immigration Control	98
(2) Utilizing the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS)	99
(3) Introducing New Measures	99
(4) Framework for Close Cooperation with Related Agencies	99

Section 3 Reinforcing Measures against Forged or Altered Documents

1 Current Circumstances of the Use of Forged or Altered Passports and Other Documents

2 Establishment of Document Examination Offices and Sections

3 Increase in the Number of Personnel Specializing in Examination of Forged or Altered Documents and Introduction of Forged or Altered Document Examination Devices	101
4 Effects of the Measures against Forged or Altered Documents	102
Section 4 Consideration of the Introduction of Biometrics	103
1 Purpose	103
2 Background	103
3 Efforts by the Immigration Bureau	104
Section 5 Computerization of Immigration Control Administration	104
1 Introduction of the Foreigners Entry and Departure Information System(FEIS)	104
2 Consideration of Introduction of Electronic Application Procedures	105
Section 6 Efforts to Halve the Number of Illegal Residents	106
1 Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime	106
2 Promoting Comprehensive Efforts to Halve the Number of Illegal Residents	106

Chapter 4 — Entry and Residence Control of Foreign Nationals

Section 1 Measures to Promote Tourism in Japan	108
1 Tourism Promotion Action Plan	108
2 Measures for Smoother but Stricter Immigration Examination	109
3 Visa Exemption	109
4 Actions relating to the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan	110
(1) Measures to Smoothly Accept People Involved in the Exposition.	110
(2) Preferential Treatment for Landing Permission Procedures in the “Law on Promoting Foreign Tourists’ Visits to the 2005 EXPO, Aichi, Japan”	110
Section 2 Simplifying the Entry and Departure Procedures of Foreign Nationals	111
1 Enforcement of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC)	111

2	Operation of the Landing Permission for Crewmembers Support System	112
3	Efforts Relating to the Sumatra-Andaman Islands Earthquake and Subsequent Tidal Waves	113
	(1) Foreign nationals who lost their passport carrying the re-entry permit (except for the foreign nationals falling under (2) below)	113
	(2) Foreign nationals who lost their re-entry permit certificate	113
Section 3 Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Workers Needed in Japanese Society		114
1	Expanding Acceptance of IT Engineers from Abroad	114
2	Applying the Preferential Regulatory Measures of Special Rules for the Immigration Control Act in Accordance with the Law on the Special Zones for Structural Reform Nationwide	115
3	Guidelines on Granting the Status of “Permanent Resident”	116
4	Granting the Status of Residence of “Temporary Visitor” to Foreign College Students Who Seek Jobs in Japan after Graduation	116
5	Granting the Status of Residence to Foreign Nationals Who Seek Jobs in Japan after Graduating from Special Training Colleges	117
6	Easing Employment Restrictions to Accept Foreign Doctors and Nurses	117
7	Status of Incubation Offices in the Application Procedures for the Status of Residence of “Investor/Business Manager”	118
Section 4 Appropriate and Smooth Promotion and Further Enrichment of Training and Technical Internship Programs		119
1	Projects for Promoting Human Resource Development through Acceptance of Foreign Trainees	119
2	Association Managed Training	119
3	Expanding the Number of Job Categories and Tasks Eligible for the Technical Internship Program	120
4	Review of Training and the Technical Internship Programs	120
Section 5 Promoting Academic, Cultural and Youth Exchange, and Smooth and Appropriate Acceptance of Foreign Students		121

1 Ensuring More Proper Examination of Applicants for the Status of Residence of “College Student” and of “Pre-college Student”	121
2 Instructions to Problematic Educational Institutions	122
3 Programs for Accepting Foreign Students in School Evening Classes ...	122
4 Accepting Foreign Students Who Work as Foreign Language Teachers during the Summer Vacation	123
5 Reviewing the Status of Residence of Foreign Students Who Study at Foreign University’s Extension Campuses in Japan	123
Section 6 System of Revocation of Status of Residence ...	124

Chapter 5 — Deportation Procedures

Section 1 Measures against Illegal Immigrants	125
1 Amendment of the Immigration Control Act as a Measure against Illegal Immigrants	125
(1) Outline of the Amendment to the Immigration Control Act in 2004.....	125
(2) Effects of the Departure Order System	125
2 Actively Enhancing Detection Activities	126
(1) Enhancing Detection Capabilities	126
(2) Reinforcement of Patrols in the Airports	126
Section 2 Improving the Treatment of Illegal Foreign Residents in the Detention Facilities While Giving More Consideration to Human Rights	127
Section 3 Efforts for Smoother Deportation	128
Section 4 Treating Illegal Immigrants While Paying Attention to Their Status	129
Section 5 Reinforcing Cooperation with the Authorities Concerned	129
1 Violation of the Immigration Control Act in General	129
2 Measures against Illegal Foreign Workers	130

Chapter 6 — Refugee Recognition Procedures

Section 1	New System of Refugee Status Recognition	132
1	Establishing the System for Permitting Provisional Stay	132
2	Stabilizing the Legal Status of Recognized Refugees	132
3	Establishing the Refugee Examination Counselors System (Re-examining the Objection Filing Scheme)	133
4	Abolishing the Limitation on the Period for Applying for Recognition of Refugee Status	133
Section 2	Promoting the Handling of Applications for Recognition of Refugee Status	135
1	Establishing the Refugee Examination Department, Assigning Additional Officials as Refugee Inquirers, and Enhancing and Strengthening the Training System	135
2	Providing Refugee Information	135
3	Improving Interpretation Services	136
Section 3	Smooth Handling of Objections against Denial of Recognition of Refugee Status	136
Section 4	Information/Consultation Desks for Refugees	136

Chapter 7 — Addressing Globalization

Section 1	Holding Various Seminars	137
1	Seminar on Immigration Control	138
2	Seminar on Document Examination	138
Section 2	Supporting the Training Program: Immigration Control Administration Course	139
Section 3	Treaties and International Conventions	139
1	Negotiation on Treaties	139
	(1) Negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs)	139

A. Japan-Mexico Economic Partnership Agreement	139
B. Negotiations on the Japan-ASEAN Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement	140
(A) Negotiations on the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement	141
(B) Negotiations on the Japan-Thailand Economic Partnership Agreement	141
(C) Negotiations on the Japan-Malaysia Economic Partnership Agreement	141
C. Japan-R.O. Korea Economic Partnership Agreement	142
(2) WTO Service Negotiations	142
(3) Reports and Examinations in Accordance with Human Rights Treaties/Covenants ...	143
(4) Other Treaties	143
2 International Conventions	144
(1) G8 Rome/Lyon Group Ad Hoc Immigration Intelligence Officers Conference	144
(2) Pacific Rim (PACRIM) Immigration Intelligence Officers Conference	144
(3) Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) of Immigration Director-Generals	144
(4) Other International Conferences	144

Chapter 8 — Improving Public Relations and Administrative Services

Section 1 Facilitating the Landing Examination Procedures ...	146
Section 2 Providing Better Explanations on Why the Certificate of Eligibility Is Not Issued	146
Section 3 General Information Desk for Procedures to Apply for Entry into Japan and Recognition of Refugee Status	147
Section 4 Immigration Information Centers	147
Section 5 Immigration Bureau Website	148

Chapter 9 — Organizational Expansion and Staff Enhancement

Section 1 Organizations	149
1 Outline of the Immigration Control Organization	149
2 Major Expansions of the Immigration Control Office	151

(1) Establishing the Chubul Airport District Immigration Office (Tentative Name)	151
(2) Organizational Enhancement to Strengthen Document Examination Capabilities	152
(3) Expanding the Organization to Strengthen Measures against Illegal Foreign Residents	152
(4) Expansion of the Organization for Refugee Recognition Procedures	153
Section 2 Staff	153
1 Immigration Control Staff	153
2 Staff Increase	154
(1) Smoother but Stricter Immigration Control at Large International Airports	156
(2) Strengthening the Status of Residence Checking Capabilities at the Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau	156
(3) Enhancing Cooperative Relationships between the Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau and Authorities Concerned and Strengthening the Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau's Ability to Detect Illegal Immigrants	156
(4) Reinforcement of the Refugee Status Examination Procedures as a Result of Introducing the Refugee Examination Counselors System	157
3 Training	157

Chapter 10 — Budget

Section 1 Budgets	158
Section 2 Facilities	159

Chart

Chart 1	Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan	2
Chart 2	Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by region	3
Chart 3	Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by major nationality (place of origin)	4
Chart 4	The Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age bracket in 2004	5
Chart 5	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by purpose of entry	8
Chart 6	Changes in the number of new arrivals by the status of residence for employment	10
Chart 7	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Trainee” by region	15
Chart 8	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Trainee” by major nationality (place of origin)	15
Chart 9	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “College Student” by region	16
Chart10	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Pre-college Student” by region	17
Chart11	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “College Student” by major nationality (place of origin)	18
Chart12	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Pre-college Student” by major nationality (place of origin)	18
Chart13	Changes in the number of new arrivals by the status of residence categories for activities based on civil status or position	20
Chart14	Changes in the number of foreign nationals who were denied landing by major nationality (place of origin)	23
Chart15	Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals and its percentage of the total population in Japan	28
Chart16	Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by region	29
Chart17	Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by major nationality (place of origin)	30
Chart18	Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals with work visas	33
Chart19	Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major nationality (place of origin)	44
Chart20	Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major status of residence	46
Chart21	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by ship classified by nationality (place of origin)	50
Chart22	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by airplane classified by nationality (place of origin)	51

Chart23	Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality (place of origin) ...	56
Chart24	Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by gender	58
Chart25	Changes in the numbers and percentages of requests for a hearing	60
Chart26	Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality (place of origin)	62
Chart27	Changes in the percentage of overstayers who entered with “College Student” and “Pre-College Student”	121
Chart28	Procedures for Recognizing Illegal Foreign Nationals as Refugees under the Amended Law	134
Chart29	Chart of ODA programs related to the Immigration Bureau	137
Chart30	Immigration Bureau organizational chart.....	150
Chart31	Responsibilities of the Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice	151
Chart32	Changes in the number of immigration control office personnel	155
Chart33	Changes in the budget for immigration control administration	158

Table

Table 1	Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by major nationality (place of origin)	4
Table 2	Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age bracket	5
Table 3	Changes in the number of new arrivals by status of residence	6
Table 4	Changes in the number of new arrivals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by purpose of entry (2004).....	9
Table 5	The number of foreign nationals entering Japan with the “Working Holiday” status, and the number of working holiday visas granted to Japanese travelers.....	19
Table 6	Changes in the number of cases assigned to special inquiry officers for a hearing by conditions for landing	22
Table 7	Changes in the number of the findings of hearings by special inquiry officers ...	22
Table 8	Changes in the number of foreign nationals denied landing by nationality (place of origin)	24
Table 9	Changes in the number of filings of objections and decisions by the Minister of Justice	24
Table10	Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examination	25
Table11	Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by nationality (place of origin)	30
Table12	Changes in the number of registered foreign nationals by status of residence ...	31

Table13	Changes in the number of cases of permission in status of residence examinations	36
Table14	Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of status of residence for employment from college student or pre-college student by nationality (place of origin)	37
Table15	Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of status of residence for employment from college student or pre-college student by status of residence permitted	38
Table16	Job types covered by the technical internship programs	39
Table17	Changes in the number of trainees who switch to the Technical Internship Program by nationality.....	40
Table18	Changes in the number of trainees who switch to the Technical Internship Program by job type.....	40
Table19	Changes in permanent residence permits by nationality (place of origin).....	42
Table 20	Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major nationality (place of origin)	45
Table21	Changes in the estimated number of overstayers by major status of residence	47
Table22	Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation	48
Table23	Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality (place of origin).....	49
Table24	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality (place of origin)	50
Table25	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by ship classified by nationality (place of origin)	51
Table26	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by airplane classified by nationality (place of origin)	52
Table27	Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality (place of origin)	52
Table28	Changes in the number of cases of overstayers by nationality (place of origin)	53
Table29	Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted by the status of residence previously granted classified by nationality (place of origin)	54
Table30	Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality (place of origin)	57
Table31	Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work	59
Table32	Changes in the number of cases of receipt and findings of violation examinations by immigration inspectors, hearings by special inquiry officers and decisions of the Minister of Justice	60
Table33	Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation	61
Table34	Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality (place of origin)	62
Table35	Changes in the number of cases of provisional release permission.....	63
Table36	Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay by grounds for deportation	63

Table37	Changes in the number of deportees by nationality (place of origin)	64
Table38	Changes in the number of deprotees by measure of deportation	64
Table39	Changes in the number of collective deportations to China	65
Table40	Changes in the number of deportees by voluntary departure classified by nationality (place of origin)	66
Table41	Changes in the number of Convention refugee applicants/findings and protected refugees	68
Table42	Changes in the number of filings of objections and decisions of the Minister of Justice	70
Table43	Changes in the number of landing permissions as temporary refuge	71
Table44	Changes in the number of departures of boat people	72
Table45	Changes in the number of registrations of changes in registered matters	73
Table46	Changes in the number of cases of detection of forged and altered documents ...	102
Table47	Changes in the number and percentage of overstayers who entered Japan with “College Student” and “Pre-College Student”	122
Table48	Changes in the number of immigration control office personnel	155
Table49	Changes in the capacity for detention	159

Deta Section

1	Statistics	162
2	Structure of Japanese Immigration Control Administration	192
	(1) Purpose of and Legal Basis for Immigration Control Administration	192
	(2) Immigration Procedures for All Persons	193
	a. Procedures for Entry and Departure of Foreign Nationals	193
	b. Entry (Landing) Control of Foreign Nationals	194
	c. Pre-entry Examination	196
	(a) Advance Consultation for Issuance of Visa	196
	(b) Certificate of Eligibility	197
	d. Special Cases of Landing (except for Landing Permission for Temporary Refugee)	197
	(a) Permission for Landing at Port of Call	198
	(b) Permission for Landing in Transit	198
	(c) Landing Permission for Crew members	198
	(d) Permission for Emergency Landing	198
	(e) Landing Permission in the Event of a Disaster	198
	(3) Examination of Statuses of Residence of Foreign Nationals	198
	a. Status of Residence System	198
	b. Examination of Status of Residence	202
	(a) Permission for Extension of Period of Stay	202
	(b) Permission for Change of Status of Residence	202
	(c) Permission for Acquisition of Status of Residence	202
	(d) Re-entry Permission	202
	(e) Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted	203
	(f) Permission for Permanent Residence	203
	c. Revocation of Status of Residence System	203
	(4) Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals	204
	a. Investigation by Immigration Control Officers of Violations	204
	b. Examination by Immigration Inspectors of Violations	205
	c. Decision of the Minister of Justice	206
	d. Permission or Denial of Permission of Residence	206
	(a) Denial of Permission of Residence (Deportation)	206
	(b) Special Cases of Decision of the Minister of Justice (Special Residence Permit)	206
	e. Departure Order System	206
	(5) Refugee Recognition Procedures	207
	a. Signing the Refugee Convention	207
	b. Refugee Recognition Procedure	207
	(a) Definitions	207

(b) Permission for Provisional Stay	209
(c) Investigation for Refugee Recognition and Filing of Objections to the Results	209
(d) Effects of Refugee Status	210
(e) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	210
(6) Alien Registration System	210
3 List of Status of Residence	212
4 Basic Plan for Immigration Control (3rd Edition)	216
5 Immigration Offices	229