

2007

# Immigration Control

**JAPAN**

Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

# Introduction

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## Publication of the "2007 Immigration Control"

This year's report is the 13th issue of the "Immigration Control", first published in 1959. Although the previous issues of the "Immigration Control", 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 has been given since 2004 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, the "2007 Immigration Control" is being published for this purpose. This report shows the trends of immigration control administration during the past five years while outlining, in particular, the recent conditions affecting the immigration control administration and measures taken in FY 2006.

Part 1, 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 1 gives numerical information on the state of immigration control administration focusing on 2006, together with data for the past five years.

Part 2 "Primary Measures Related to Immigration Control Administration since FY 2006" describes the measures taken by the Immigration Bureau in FY 2006. Chapter 1 shows the efforts to halve the number of illegal foreign residents. Chapter 2 explains measures related to immigration control administration in general, such as counter-trafficking measures, counter-terrorism measures and promotion of IT-based immigration control efforts. Chapter 3 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 and the situation concerning the training and technical internship programs including policymaking deliberation Chapter 4 onwards explains measures taken by the immigration control administration in FY 2006 to deal with the various problems and requests. These measures cover such fields as deportation procedures, refugee recognition procedures and globalization. Part 2 presents qualitative information on immigration control administration since FY 2006.

Further, the Data Section describes various kinds of statistics concerning immigration control administration in recent years.

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

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