

2008

Immigration Control

JAPAN

Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

Introduction

Publication of the “2008 Immigration Control”

This year's report is the 14th 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; responding to a population-decreasing society; halving the number of illegal foreign residents; and strictly preventing terrorists from entering Japan.

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 “2008 Immigration Control” is being published for this purpose. This report shows the trends of immigration control administration during the past five years from FY 2003 to FY 2007 while outlining, in particular, the recent conditions affecting immigration control administration and measures taken in FY 2007.

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), countermeasures against human trafficking (Chapter 4) and foreign registration (Chapter 5). Part 1 gives numerical information on the state of immigration control administration focusing on 2007, together with data covering the past five years.

Part 2, titled “Primary Measures Related to Immigration Control Administration in FY 2007” explains measures taken by the immigration control administration in FY 2007 to deal with various problems and requests. Chapter 1 explains the start of immigration examinations utilizing personal identification information. Chapter 2 describes a study on the new residence control system. Chapter 3 describes efforts to halve the number of illegal foreign residents. Chapter 4 explains strengthened measures to exclude terrorists at the border and promotion of IT-based immigration control efforts. Chapter 5 onwards explains measures taken to ensure the ready acceptance of foreign nationals and responses to globalization. Part 2 presents qualitative information on immigration control administration in FY 2007.

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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