

2020

Immigration Control and
Residency Management

Introduction

Publication of the 2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management

In this age of globalization, the Immigration Services Agency, Ministry of Justice plays a vital role in both promoting sound international exchange by enabling foreign nationals visiting Japan for diverse reasons from various countries and regions to smoothly enter and stay in Japan and differentiating between which foreign nationals should and which foreign nationals should not be permitted to enter and stay in Japan so as to maintain the law and order of Japanese society. To this end, it is necessary to make sure that we implement sophisticated immigration examinations through the use of state-of-the-art technology, etc. and ensure compatibility between smooth entry examinations and strict immigration control at a more advanced level. In addition, we are also responsible for protecting the safety and interests of Japanese nationals through the deportation of unwelcome foreign nationals, who threaten Japan's safety and security, in accordance with the laws and regulations. Furthermore, another key role of the Immigration Services Agency is to develop the refugee recognition procedures, and to promptly and appropriately protect those seeking asylum. In addition, since the Ministry of Justice 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.

The "Immigration Control", first published in 1959, has now reached its 26th edition. On December 8, 2018, the "Act for Partial Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and the Act for Establishment of the Ministry of Justice" (hereinafter referred to as "Act to Amend the Immigration Control Act and Other Related Laws") was approved at the 197th session (extraordinary session) of the National Diet, which clearly stated that along with immigration, another duty of the Ministry of Justice would be fair management of the "residence of foreign nationals" and accordingly, the name of the report was changed to "Immigration Control and Residency Management" from 2019. It was a publication which only summarized the trends in immigration control administration over a five-year period until 2003. However, given the accelerated pace of changes in the conditions affecting Japan's immigration control policies, immigration control administration has had to incorporate various new measures to respond it properly. In line with the rapid changes, the "Immigration Control" has annually been published primarily summarizing the trends of immigration control administration over a twelve-month period since 2004.

The 2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management gives a brief introduction of the operations of the Immigration Services Agency and, while looking at policy and operation changes which took place over the past five years from 2015 to 2019, gives a summary of the recent circumstances and policies of immigration control administration, focusing primarily on the actions taken in FY 2019, such as implementation of specified skilled worker program since April 2019, implementation of technical intern training program, acceptance of foreign human resources, measures on residence support, efforts toward a tourism-oriented country, measures taken for stringent prevention against the entry of unwelcome foreign nationals such as terrorists, Comprehensive measures for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals, efforts for appropriate treatment of detainees and status of the operation of the refugee recognition system.

Finally, we hope that through this 2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management immigration control and residency management administration will prove to be beneficial and easy to understand.

December 2020

Sasaki Shoko

Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency, Japan

Points of the 2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management

Organization of the 2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management

- The 2020 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 operations conducted during 2019 based on the statistics over the five-year period from 2015 to 2019.
- Part II describes the major immigration control and residency management policies (implemented during FY 2019 as well as some of the measures for FY 2020).
- Data Section describes a summary of the operations, etc. of the Immigration Services Agency.

Part I Immigration Control and Residency Management in Recent Years

- **Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan**
 - The number of foreign nationals who entered Japan in 2019 (including those who re-entered Japan) was 31,187,179, and the number of foreign nationals who newly entered Japan, excluding those who re-entered, was 28,402,509 (an increase of 3.0% over 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 2,933,137 as of the end of 2019.
 - In addition, the percentage of foreign residents to the total population of Japan was 2.32%, an increase of 0.16 points compared to the number at the end of 2018.
- **Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay**
 - The number of foreign nationals illegally overstaying their authorized period of stay as of January 1, 2020 was 82,892, and as of January 1 each year, it has increased for six consecutive years.

Part II Major Policies Related to Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration

- **Specified Skilled Worker Program**
 - According to the preliminary figures as of August 31, 2020, the number of foreign nationals with the status of residence of Specified Skilled Worker was 7,538.
According to the preliminary figures as of August 31, 2020, there were 6,349 cases of issuance of Certificates of Eligibility pertaining to Specified Skilled Worker, 5,922 cases of permission granted for change of status of residence, and 5,034 cases of registration to registration support organizations.

- The Immigration Services Agency, in cooperation with the relevant ministries and agencies, has promoted the implementation of exams in Japan and abroad. Due to these efforts, as of August 31, 2020, exams in 13 fields have been implemented in six foreign countries and exams in nine fields have been implemented in Japan.

The number of foreign nationals who have passed the proficiency test has increased favorably, totaling 16,307 as of August 31, 2020.

- As of August 31, 2020, Memorandums of Cooperation have been entered into with twelve countries and 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.
- The Field-Specific Operation Policy was partially revised (Cabinet decision of February 28, 2020), including addition of the seven work categories to the construction field, and implementation started on April 1, 2020.
- Because the Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals was revised on December 20, 2019 and the scope of persons eligible to take the exams was revised in response to the decision in the Comprehensive Measures to extend the scope, the eligibility to take the domestic exams was revised and the “Policy regarding Exams for Specified Skilled Workers” (February 2019, Immigration Services Agency of Japan, Ministry of Justice) was revised on January 30, 2020, taking effect on April 1.

● Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals

- The Japanese government has been making efforts to create communities where foreign nationals will be able to live comfortably based on the “Comprehensive Measures for ‘Foreign Nationals as Residents’” compiled in 2006, and now based on the establishment of the new statuses of residence of “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled (ii)” (implemented in April 2019) from the perspective of more strongly and comprehensively promoting the measures for acceptance and coexistence of foreign nationals, the government has come together to compile these “Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals (hereinafter referred to as “Comprehensive Measures”)” by the “Ministerial Conference on Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals” in December 2018.
- In June 2019, “the Enhancement of Comprehensive Measures” (hereinafter referred to as the “Enhancement Measures”) was compiled in order to enhance the Comprehensive Measures, focusing especially on the urgent issues involving development of the environment for acceptance of foreign nationals. The Comprehensive Measures were revised in December 2019, in line with the direction of the Enhancement Measures, under which the government has worked together to steadily promote the relevant measures.
- Following Comprehensive Measures, Putting the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu), Human Rights Department of Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau, and other tenant organizations relating to foreign residents into the building in front of the JR Yotsuya Station in Shinjuku-ku, the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) was opened on July 6, 2020.
- Furthermore, on July 14, 2020, in consideration of the situation of implementation of related measures, the Comprehensive Measures were revised from the perspective of further

enhancing and encouraging the environment for acceptance of foreign nationals.

● Smooth and Strict Implementation of Immigration Examinations at the Port of Entry

- In Japan, government-wide efforts are being made to realize a tourism-oriented country, and measures are being taken to further promote smooth examinations through the installation and expansion of automated gates for aircraft passengers and the streamlining of examinations through operation of the system for landing permission for cruise ship tourists for cruise ship passengers.
- In October 2016, devices to acquire Biometric information (fingerprints and a facial photograph) making best use of the waiting time for a landing examination so-called Bio Carts, were introduced at Kansai, Takamatsu and Naha airports. Subsequently, the devices were introduced at 14 airports, including Narita Airport, by May 2018, at Haneda Airport in December 2019 and at Hakata Port and Hitakatsu Port in January 2020, for further promoting smooth examinations.
- The Trusted Traveler Program (TTP), which was introduced through an amendment of the Immigration Control Act in 2014, expands the scope of foreign nationals eligible to use the automated gates through to include foreign nationals with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” who are certified and registered to be a “trusted traveler” under certain criteria, and began operations on November 2016.

In addition, in order to contribute to expediting the immigration examinations between Japan and the United States, the immigration authorities of Japan and the United States discussed specific operations of TTP, and agreed that US citizens who, on the premise of being enrolled in the U.S. Global Entry Program (GEP), have applied for TTP, will not be required to meet some of the requirements.

On March 16, 2020, the existing registration requirements for business persons were relaxed, and the scope of applicants for registrations of this program was extended to tourists who satisfy certain requirements and family members of TTP registrants (spouse and unmarried minors).

- In October 2017, Haneda Airport commenced advance operation of the facial recognition automated gates in the return confirmation procedures for Japanese nationals in order to streamline and facilitate the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals by using facial recognition technology. In addition, from FY2018 to FY2019, the facial recognition automated gates were introduced in the landing and departure examination areas of New Chitose Airport, Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, Chubu Airport, Kansai Airport and Fukuoka Airport, and are being operated in the departure and return procedures for Japanese nationals.

Furthermore, the facial recognition automated gates have been started to use in the departure procedures for foreign nationals who had entered Japan for such purposes as sightseeing on July 24, 2019, in Haneda Airport, followed by the other five airports listed in the above.

- The Immigration Services Agency will continue to implement strict immigration examinations utilizing Biometric information, ICPO’s database of stolen and lost travel documents and APIS as well as other information to reliably prevent the entry of terrorists and other suspicious persons posing as tourists, etc. at the border.
- The “Center of Collection and Analysis of Intelligence” (Current Director for Intelligence Analysis) established in the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice in October 2015 has

been promoting information sharing with the related organizations in Japan and other countries, utilizing the information and conducting advanced analysis, and through the regional immigration services offices at the airports and other places utilizing the results of the analysis, stricter border measures are being implemented.

● Promotion of the Appropriate Acceptance of Foreign Students

- In order to promote the settlement of excellent foreign human resources and to expand opportunities to enable foreign students who are expected to revitalize Japan's economy and society to find employment in Japan, the public notice pertaining to the status of residence of "Designated Activities" was revised, and later promulgated and enforced on May 30, 2019. As a result, foreign students who have graduated from a university or graduate school in Japan will be permitted to work in a wide range of jobs under certain conditions.
- Since Japanese language education institutions that accept foreign students need to be optimized as educational institutions which steadily provide an appropriate learning environment, the public notice criteria for the Japanese language education institutions were partially amended, and introducing stricter criteria such as for the attendance rate of all students or for the proportion of foreign nationals staying illegally beyond their authorized period of stay to all of the students, etc. pertaining to deletion from the public notice, as well as making it obligation to report the results of periodic self-inspections pertaining to conformity with the public notice criteria, and the results of the exams on Japanese language proficiency. These revisions entered into force on September 1, 2019.

● Implementation of the technical intern training program

- In order to promote implementation of proper technical intern training and protection of the technical intern trainees, the Act on Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of Technical Intern Trainees (Act No. 89 of 2016; hereinafter referred) under the joint jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare was enforced on November 1, 2017, and have started operations.
- Bilateral agreements are being prepared in turn with the government of each dispatching country with the primary aim of securing proper dispatching organizations, and as of the end of June 2019, they have been prepared with 14 countries.
- In November 16, 2018, the "Project Team for Operation of the Technical Intern Training Program" was established and this team conducted a survey and review into the cases of disappearance and cases of death of the technical intern trainees, the format of the interview sheets pertaining to the missing technical intern trainees, the status of operation of the technical intern training program and improvement measures, and based on the results, a report prepared by the project team was published on March 29, 2019.

● Measures against Illegal and Imposter Foreign Residents in Japan, etc.

- The number of foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay had been steadily decreasing since 1993 owing to past measures that had been taken, but this trend saw an increase in 2015 for the first time in twenty-two years, and since it is estimated that there were about 83,000 foreign nationals overstaying their authorized period of stay in Japan as of January 1, 2020, which was an increase for six years running, efforts are being made to reduce the increasing number of illegal foreign residents through strengthened a crackdown, reinforced collection and analysis of information on illegal foreign residents, and the promotion

of voluntary appearances.

- “Imposter residents” are foreign nationals residing in Japan having illegally received entry or residence 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, studies or 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; therefore, the Immigration Services Agency is striving to strengthen the detection of imposter foreign residents and to reinforce the collection and analysis of information.
- When a detainee is issued with a deportation order, but there are no prospects for a deportation owing to circumstances preventing the deportation such as the fact that a detainee suffering from a disease or the institution of litigation, the Immigration Services Agency actively utilizes provisional release, and makes efforts to ensure the implementation of more suitable deportation procedures.
- In response to the opinions given by the “Immigration Detention Facilities Visiting Committee”, the Immigration Services Agency has continued to strive for greater transparency in security treatment and has endeavored to improve and enhance the operation of the immigration detention centers, etc.
- The Expert Committee on Detention and Deportation was formed under the 7th Immigration Policy Discussions Panel to the Minister of Justice, and specific measures including legislation were discussed and reviewed among the committee members. The Committee submitted its final report to the Minister of Justice on July 14, 2020.

● Promotion of Appropriate and Prompt Refugee Protection

- As part of a revision of the refugee recognition system so as to promote prompt and reliable asylum for genuine refugees, efforts had been made to curb the number of applications for refugee recognition that attempt to abuse or misuse the system, but there had still been a persistent surge in the abuse or misuse of applications, resulting in a situation where the prompt protection of genuine refugees had been hindered.
- Therefore, with regard to the many refugee recognition applications that attempt to abuse or misuse the refugee recognition system from legal residents, from January 15, 2018, the operation of the system was further revised mainly to (1) set a time limit to sort out the contents of the cases for first-time applications and to reflect the results of sorting the applications into the status of residence, (2) give further consideration to applicants whose applicability as a refugee is deemed to be high under the Refugee Convention and (3) respond more strictly than before to applications that attempt to abuse or misuse the system.
- As a result of these efforts, the number of applicants for refugee recognition mainly from neighboring countries in Asia such as the Philippines and Viet Nam, which had been increasing rapidly in recent years, turned into significant decrease. Meanwhile, the number of applicants recognized as refugees has doubled compared to before the review listed in the above and so far, the measures have been effective to a certain extent in suppressing the number of applications that attempt to abuse or misuse the system and offering prompt protection to genuine refugees.
- Myanmar refugees staying temporarily in Malaysia became eligible for acceptance pursuant to the contents of “Implementation of acceptance of refugees through third country resettlement” (Cabinet decision of January 24, 2014) and “Specific measures relating to the

acceptance of refugees through third country resettlement” (decision of the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues of January 24, 2014). Based on the above, six families, consisting of 20 refugees, came to Japan in FY 2019.

- On June 28, 2019, Cabinet approval and decision of the Liaison and Coordination Council for Refugee Issues in January 2014, listed in the above were partially amended. Due to this change, it was decided that from the scope of acceptance through resettlement would be expanded to include refugees (regardless of their country or region of origin) temporarily staying in Asia, the maximum number of accepted refugees would be increased to about 60 per year (with acceptance being increased from once to twice a year). In consideration of these government’s decision, the Immigration Services Agency will continue to appropriately fulfill its role and strive to accept these refugees in a seamless manner, while working together with the relevant ministries and agencies.

● Responses to International Society and International Situations

- The number of nurse and certified care worker candidates accepted up until FY 2019 pursuant to an EPA was 2,783 from Indonesia, 2,592 from the Philippines, and 1,109 from Viet Nam.
- The Immigration Services Agency 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.

2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management Report

Introduction — Publication of the 2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management Points of the 2020 Immigration Control and Residency Management Contents

Part I Immigration Control and Residency Management in Recent Years

Chapter 1 Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan ————— 2

Section 1. Changes in the Number of Foreign Nationals Entering and Departing from Japan ————— 2

1. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan ————— 2

(1) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan ————— 2

(2) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Nationality/Region ————— 3

(3) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Gender and Age ————— 4

(4) Number of Foreign Nationals Entering Japan by Purpose of Entry (Status of Residence) ————— 5

A. “Temporary Visitor” ————— 7

B. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan for the Purpose of Employment in Professional or Technical Fields ————— 9

(a) “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee” ————— 10

(b) “Entertainer” ————— 11

(c) “Skilled Labor” ————— 11

(d) “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” ————— 11

C. “Technical Intern Training (i)” ————— 12

D. “Student” ————— 12

E. Foreign Nationals Entering Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position ————— 13

2. Special Landing Permission ————— 16

(1) Permission for Landing at a Port of Call ————— 16

(2) Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists ————— 16

(3) Permission for Landing in Transit ————— 16

(4) Landing Permission for Crew Members ————— 16

(5) Permission for Emergency Landing ————— 16

(6) Landing Permission Due to Distress ————— 17

(7) Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge ————— 17

3. Foreign Nationals Leaving Japan ————— 17

Article At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of immigration examinations) ————— 18

Section 2. Judgement for Landing	19
1. Receipt and Processing of Hearings for Landing, and Filing of Objections	19
2. Foreign Nationals Falling Under Any of the Grounds for Denial of Landing	21
3. Special Permission for Landing	23

Section 3. Pre-entry Examination	23
1. Advance Consultation for Visa Issuance	23
2. Certificate of Eligibility	23

Chapter 2 Japanese Nationals Departing from and Returning to Japan 24

Section 1. Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan	24
1. Total Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan	24
2. Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Gender and Age	24
3. Number of Japanese Nationals Departing from Japan by Airport and Seaport	25

Section 2. Number of Japanese Nationals Returning to Japan	26
---	----

Chapter 3 Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan 27

Section 1. Number of Foreign Residents in Japan	27
1. Number of Foreign Residents in Japan	27
2. Number of Foreign Residents by Nationality/Region	28
3. Number of Foreign Residents by Purpose (Status of Residence)	29
(1) “Permanent Resident” and “Special Permanent Resident”	29
(2) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan for the Purpose of Employment in Professional or Technical Fields	31
A. “Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services” and “Intra-company Transferee”	33
B. “Skilled Labor”	33
C. “Specified Skilled Worker (i)”	33
(3) “Technical Intern Training”	33
(4) “Student”	34
(5) Foreign Nationals Residing in Japan with a Status of Residence for Resident Activities Based on Personal Status or Position	34

Section 2. Examination of Statuses of Residence	34
1. Permission for Change in the Status of Residence	35
(1) Permission to Change Status of Residence from the Status of Residence of “Student” to a Status for Employment Purposes	36
(2) Permission to Change Status of Residence in Order to Participate in “Technical Intern Training (ii)” and “Technical Intern Training (iii)”	37
(3) Permission to Change Status of Residence to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” and “Specified Skilled Worker (ii)”	40
2. Permission for Extension of the Period of Stay	41

3. Permission for Permanent Residence	41
4. Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence	41
5. Re-entry Permission	41
6. Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted	41
Section 3. Number of Issuance of Residence Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates	42
1. Residence Cards	42
2. Special Permanent Resident Certificates	42
Article At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of an immigration inspector in charge of status examinations)	44
Chapter 4 Implementation of the Technical Intern Training Program	45
Section 1. Outline of the Program	45
Section 2. Applications and processing of license of supervising organizations	46
1. Applications for licenses of supervising organizations	46
2. License of supervising organizations	46
Section 3. Applications and processing of accreditation of technical intern training plans	46
1. Applications for accreditation of technical intern training plans	46
2. Number of cases of accreditation of technical intern training plans	47
Section 4. Responses to Cases of Inappropriate Acceptance	47
Chapter 5 Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals	49
Section 1. Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay	49
1. Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay by Nationality/Region	49
2. Number of Foreign Nationals Overstaying Their Authorized Period of Stay by Status of Residence	52
Section 2. Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act Necessitating the Implementation of Deportation Procedures	53
1. Outline	53
2. Number of Cases of Violation of the Immigration Control Act by Grounds for Deportation	54
(1) Illegal Entry	54
(2) Illegal Landing	56

(3) Overstay	56
(4) Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted	57
3. Illegal Foreign Workers	59
(1) Summary	59
(2) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Nationality/Region	59
(3) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Gender	61
(4) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Type of Work	61
(5) Number of Illegal Foreign Workers by Place of Work	62
4. Outline of Decisions on Violations	62
(1) Receipt and the Processing of Cases of Violation	62
(2) Issuance of a Written Deportation Order	65
(3) Provisional Release	66
(4) Special Permission to Stay in Japan	67
5. Outline of Deportation of Foreign Nationals	68
(1) Deportation at the Expense of Foreign National (Voluntary Departure)	69
(2) Deportation at the Expense of the Government of Japan	70
(3) Deportation at the Expense of and on the Responsibility of Carriers	70
6. Departure Orders	70
(1) Investigation into Violations	70
(2) Examination	71
A. Receipt and Processing of Cases	71
B. Issuance of a Written Departure Order	71
(3) Confirmation of Departure	72

Chapter 6 Recognition of Refugee Status 73

Section 1. Applications and Processing for Recognition of Refugee Status 73

1. Application for Recognition of Refugee Status	73
2. Processing of Applications for Recognition of Refugee Status	74
3. Implementation of the System for Permission for Provisional Stay	74

Section 2. Request for an Administrative Review (Appeal) 75

1. Number of Request for an Administrative Review	75
2. Processing of the Appeal	75

Section 3. Application and Processing of Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge 76

Chapter 7 Measures Against Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Foreign Victims of Domestic Violence 77

Section 1. Measures Against Trafficking in Persons 77

1. Measures Against Trafficking in Persons	77
--	----

2. Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons	77
3. Foreign Nationals Deported for Committing Trafficking in Persons	79
Section 2. Protection of Foreign Domestic Violence Victims	79
1. Outline	79
2. Number of Recognized Foreign Domestic Violence Victims	80

Part II Major Policies Related to Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration

Chapter 1	The System of “Specified Skilled Worker”	84
Section 1. Outline of the System		84
Section 2. Operation Policy of the “Specified Skilled Worker” System		84
1. The government’s basic policy		84
2. Field-Specific Operation Policy		86
3. Memorandum of Cooperation		89
Section 3. Situation of Operation of the “Specified Skilled Worker” System		89
1. Situation of Acceptance of Foreign Nationals with the Status of Residence of Specified Skilled Worker		89
2. Situation of Implementation of Specified Skilled Worker Exams		89
3. Status of Memorandum of Cooperation		90
Section 4. Efforts for the Smooth Operation of the Specified Skilled Worker System		90
1. Revision of the Field-Specific Operation Policy		90
2. Revision of the Field-Specific Operation Manual		90
3. Revision of the Examination Policy		90
Chapter 2	Efforts for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals	92
Section 1. Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals		92
1. Background		92
2. Outline		92
Section 2. Major Efforts in Which the Immigration Services Agency is Involved		95
1. One-stop consulting counter		95
2. Cooperation with local governments, etc. through Accepting Environmental Coordinators		96
3. Guidebook on Living and Working		96
4. Plain Japanese Guidelines for Supporting Foreign Residents		97
5. Support at the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC)		97
Article At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of an Accepting Environmental Coordinator)		98

Acceptance of Foreign Nationals and Immigration Control and Residency Management Administration

	100
Section 1. Promotion of the Acceptance of Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals	100
1. Outline of Points-Based Preferential Treatment for Highly-Skilled Foreign Professionals	100
2. “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)” and “Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)”	100
(1) Preferential Treatment for “Highly-Skilled Professional (i)”	101
(2) Preferential Treatment for “Highly-Skilled Professional (ii)”	101
3. Situation of Acceptance	102
4. Situation of operations following review of the period of stay required for the applications for permanent residence	102
Section 2. Acceptance of Foreign Nationals in the National Strategic Special Zones	103
1. Entrepreneurs	103
2. Foreigners Conducting Housekeeping Services	104
3. Foreigners Conducting Agricultural Works	104
4. Foreigners Supporting Overseas Demand Development	105
5. Special Additions Pertaining to the Points-based System for Highly-skilled Professionals	105
6. Graduates, etc. of Japanese Language Educational Institutions	106
Section 3. Other Measures	106
1. Time-Limited Emergency Measures in the Fields of Construction and Shipbuilding	106
2. Promotion of the acceptance of foreign nationals to Cool Japan	107
(1) Work from a fashion design educational institution	107
(2) Acceptance of Foreign Licensed Cooks · Confectionery Hygiene Masters	108
3. Further acceptance of fourth-generation foreign nationals of Japanese descent	108
4. Online residence procedures	108
5. Promotion of the acceptance of foreign entrepreneurs	109
6. Promotion of the appropriate acceptance of Foreign Students	109
(1) Employment Support for Foreign Students	109
(2) Optimization of the Japanese Language Education Institutions	110
(3) New Measures on the Rigorous Implementation of Foreign Student Enrollment Management	110
7. Revision of the “Guidelines for Permission for Permanent Residence”	110
8. Revision of the Landing Criteria Ministerial Ordinance on “Nursing Care”	111

Chapter 4	The Status of Operation of the Technical Intern Training Program	112
	Section 1. Status of Expansion of the Program	112
	1. Extension of the technical intern training period for excellent supervising organizations and implementing organizations	112
	2. Expansion of the job categories	112
	Section 2. New Initiatives for Proper Technical Intern Training and Protection of the Technical Intern Trainees	112
	1. Business councils	112
	2. Regional councils	113
	3. Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)	113
	4. Protection of the technical intern trainees	114
	5. Establishment of the “Project Team on Operation of the Technical Intern Training Program”	115
	6. Measures to Reduce Cases of Disappearance of Technical Intern Trainees	115

Chapter 5	Smooth and Strict Implementation of Immigration Examination at the Port of Entry	117
	Section 1. Efforts to Promote a Tourism-Oriented Country	117
	1. Introduction of Bio Carts	117
	2. Automated Gates	118
	(1) Promotion of Use of the Automated Gates	118
	(2) Trusted Traveler Program	119
	(3) Introduction of Facial Recognition Automated Gates in the Departure and Return Procedures for Japanese Nationals	120
	(4) Expanded Use of the Automated Gates in the Departure Procedures for Foreign Nationals	121
	3. Response to Cruise Ship Passengers	121
	4. Other Measures to Reduce the Waiting Time for Examinations	122
	5. Revision of the method of measuring the time spent waiting in line for an examination, and announcement of the waiting times for the examination	123
	Section 2. Strengthened Countermeasures at the Port of Entry	123
	1. Immigration Examinations Utilizing Information	123
	(1) Implementation of Immigration Examinations Utilizing Biometric Information	123
	(2) Utilizing of ICPO’s Database of Stolen and Lost Travel Documents	124
	(3) Immigration Examinations Utilizing API and PNR	124
	2. Reinforcement of Information Collection and Analysis	125
	3. Patrol Activities at Airports and Seaports	125
	4. Measures to Deal with COVID-19	126

Chapter 6 **Measures against Illegal and Imposter Foreign Residents, etc.** 128

Section 1. Implementation of Measures against Illegal Foreign Residents 128

- 1. Past Efforts to Reduce the Number of Illegal Foreign Residents 128
- 2. Efforts to Further Reduce the Number of Illegal Foreign Residents 128
 - (1) Strengthened Detection 128
 - (2) Preparation of an Environment Facilitating Voluntary Appearance 129

Section 2. Implementation of Measures against Imposter Foreign Residents 130

- 1. Countermeasures against Imposter Foreign Residents, etc. 130
- 2. Crackdown on Imposter Foreign Residents, etc. 130
 - (1) Reinforcement of the Collection and Analysis of Information 130
 - (2) Handling Through Reinforced Exposure and Proactive Application of Law 131
- 3. Strict Handling of Brokers Involved in Aiding in Illegal Residence and Imposter Residence 131
- 4. Countermeasures against the Forging of Residence Cards 131
 - Article** At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of an immigration control officer in charge of investigation) 132

Section 3. Efforts for Further Appropriate Treatment 133

- 1. Efforts for Further Appropriate Treatment of Detainees 133
- 2. Activities and Duties of the Immigration Detention Facilities Visiting Committee 133

Section 4. Promotion of the Deportation of Deportees 134

- 1. Implementation of Safe and Reliable Deportation of Deportation Evaders 134
- 2. Implementation of Mass Deportation Using Chartered Flights 134
- 3. Promotion of the Use of IOM Repatriation Programs 135
 - Article** At the Front Line of Immigration Control Administration (Voice of an immigration control officer in Enforcement Department) 136

Section 5. Discussion and Review in the Expert Committee on Detention and Deportation 137

Chapter 7 **Promotion of Appropriate and Prompt Refugee Protection** 138

Section 1. Revision of the Operation of the Refugee Recognition System, etc. 138

- 1. Revision of the Operation of the Refugee Recognition System 138
 - (1) Outline 138
 - (2) Proper Operation of the System 138
- 2. Revision of the System by Amendment of the Regulation for Enforcement of the Immigration Control Act 139

3. Further Revision of the Operations to Optimize the Refugee Recognition System	
System	139
(1) Background	139
(2) Outline	140
4. Situation after Revision of the Operations of the Refugee Recognition System	141
Section 2. Acceptance of Refugees Through Resettlement	141
1. Acceptance in FY 2019 or before	141
2. Acceptance in FY 2020 and thereafter	142
Section 3. Promotion of Collaboration with NGOs	143
Chapter 8 Responses to International Society and International Situations	145
Section 1. Treaties and International Conventions	145
1. Major Actions for Negotiations for the Conclusion of EPAs with Other Countries	145
2. Acceptance of Nurse and Certified Care Worker Candidates Based on an EPAs	145
3. Reports and Examinations in Accordance with Human Rights Treaties	145
Section 2. International Conferences/International Exchange	146
1. Responding to International Conferences	146
2. International Exchange	146
Chapter 9 Improvement of Public Relations Activities and Public Services	147
Section 1. Promotion of Public Relations Activities	147
Section 2. Improvement of Public Services	149
1. Information Services for Foreign Nationals	149
2. Immigration Services Agency Website	149
3. Immigration Services Agency Official SNS	150
(1) Immigration Services Agency Official Twitter	150
(2) Immigration Services Agency Official Facebook page	150

Data Section 1	Outline of Japan's Immigration Control and Residency Management System	154
Section 1. Purpose and Legal Basis		154
Section 2. Immigration Procedures for All Persons		155
1. Procedures for the Entry and Departure of Foreign Nationals		155
2. Procedures for Entry (Landing) Examinations of Foreign Nationals		155
(1) Entry (Landing) Examination		156
(2) Hearing		156
(3) Filing of an Objection		156
3. Pre-entry Examination		158
(1) Advance Consultation for Issuance of Visas		158
(2) Certificate of Eligibility		159
4. Special Landing Permission		161
(1) Permission for Landing at a Port of Call		161
(2) Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists		161
(3) Permission for Landing in Transit		161
(4) Landing Permission for Crew Members		161
(5) Permission for Emergency Landing		162
(6) Landing Permission Due to Distress		162
5. Procedures for the Departure and Return of Japanese Nationals		162
Section 3. Examination of the Status of Residence of Foreign Nationals		162
1. Status of Residence System		162
2. Examination of the Status of Residence		168
(1) Permission for Change of Status of Residence		168
(2) Permission for Extension of the Period of Stay		168
(3) Permission for Permanent Residence		168
(4) Permission for Acquisition of a Status of Residence		169
(5) Re-entry Permission		169
(6) Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than Those Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted		169
3. System of Revocation of Status of Residence		170
Section 4. Residency Management System of Mid to Long-Term Residents, etc.		171
1. Residency Management System of Mid to Long-Term Residents		171
(1) Residence Card		172
(2) Notifications and Applications Relating to Residence Cards		172
A. Notification of the Place of Residence		172
(a) Notification of the Place of Residence After Newly Landing in Japan		172
(b) Notification of the Place of Residence After a Change in the Status of Residence and Other Related Matters		173

(c) Notification of a Change of Place of Residence	173
B. Notification of a Change of an Item on the Residence Card	173
C. Application to Extend the Valid Period of the Residence Card	173
D. Application for Reissuance of a Residence Card Due to Loss or Other Causes	173
E. Application for Reissuance of a Residence Card Due to Damage or Soiling, etc.	174
(3) Immigration Services Agency's Seiji Search System	174
(4) Notification Concerning the Organization of Affiliation or Concerning the Spouse	175
A. Notification from a Mid to Long-Term Resident Concerning the Organization of Affiliation	175
(a) Notification Concerning the Organization Where the Foreign National is Engaging in Activities (public or private organizations in Japan at which the activities corresponding to the status of residence are carried out)	175
(b) Notification Concerning the Contracting Organization (public or private organizations in Japan which are the other party to the contract)	175
(c) Notification Concerning the Spouse of the Foreign National	175
B. Notification Concerning Mid to Long-Term Residents to be Given by the Organization of Affiliation	175
C. Notifications to be submitted by the organization of affiliation of specified skilled workers (public or private organizations in Japan that accept foreign nationals residing with the status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i)" or "Specified Skilled Worker (ii)")	177
(a) Irregular notifications	177
(b) Regular notifications	177
D. Notifications to be submitted by the registered support organization (a person who has registered as a person to perform all of the work of implementation of the support plans for foreign nationals with the status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker (i)" having been entrusted through a contract)	177
(a) Irregular notifications	177
(b) Regular notifications	177
(5) Immigration Services Agency's Electronic Notification System	178
(6) Inquiry into the Facts	178
2. The System of Special Permanent Residents	179
(1) Special Permanent Resident Certificate	179
(2) Notifications and Applications Relating to Special Permanent Resident Certificates	180
A. Notifications of the Place of Residence	180
B. Notification of a Change of an Item on the Special Permanent Resident Certificate Other Than the Place of Residence	180
C. Application to Extend the Valid Period of the Special Permanent Resident Certificate	180
D. Application for Reissuance of a Special Permanent Resident Certificate Due to Loss or Other Causes	181
E. Application for Reissuance of a Special Permanent Resident Certificate Due to Damage or Soiling, etc.	181
3. Information Linkage Between the Immigration Services Agency and the Municipalities	181

Section 5. Deportation Procedures for Foreign Nationals	183
1. Investigation into Violations by an Immigration Control Officer	185
2. Examination of Violations by an Immigration Inspector/Hearing by a Special Inquiry Officer	185
3. Determinations by the Minister of Justice	185
4. Grant or Denial of Permission for Residence	185
(1) Denial of Permission for Residence (Deportation)	185
(2) Special Cases of Determinations by the Minister of Justice (Special Permission to Stay in Japan)	186
5. Departure Order System	186

Section 6. Refugee Recognition Procedures	187
1. Accession of the Refugee Convention	187
2. Refugee Recognition Procedures	187
(1) Definitions	187
(2) Permission for Provisional Stay	187
(3) Inquiry into the Facts	187
(4) Recognition of Refugee Status by the Minister of Justice and Effects of Refugee Status	188
3. Request for an administrative review	188
(1) Request for an administrative review	188
(2) Refugee Examination Counselors System	188
4. Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	191

Data Section 2 Organizational Expansion and Staff Enhancement 192

Section 1. Organizations	192
1. Outline of the Immigration Control and Residency Management Organization	192
2. Review of the Organizational Structure of the Immigration Control and Residency Management Offices	197

Section 2. Staff	199
1. Immigration Services Agency Staff	199
2. Staff Increase	200
3. Training	202

Data Section 3 Budget etc. 204

Section 1. Budgets	204
---------------------------	-----

Section 2. Facilities	205
------------------------------	-----

Data Section 4 Statistics 206

- (1) Changes in the Number of New Arrivals and Mid to Long-Term Residents for the

Principal Statuses of Residence by Nationality/Region	206
(2) Changes in the Number of New Arrivals and Foreign Residents of the Principal Nationalities/Regions by Status of Residence/Status	214
(3) Status of Implementation of Immigration Examination Using Biometric Information (2019)	222
(4) Changes in the Number of Cases of Detection of Forged or Altered Documents, etc. (including passports with missing or damaged pages, etc.)	222

References

Reference 1	Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan	3
Reference 2	Changes in the number of foreign nationals entering Japan by major nationality/ region	4
Reference 3	Number of foreign nationals entering Japan by gender and age (2019)	5
Reference 4	Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering Japan by status of residence	6
Reference 5	Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Temporary Visitor” by purpose of entry	8
Reference 6	Number of foreign nationals newly entering for the purpose of sightseeing by nationality/region (2019)	9
Reference 7	Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields	10
Reference 8	Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Technical Intern Training (i)” by major nationality/region	12
Reference 9	Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering with the status of residence of “Student” by major nationality/region	13
Reference 10	Changes in the number of foreign nationals newly entering by status of residence for activities based on personal status or position	15
Reference 11	Changes in the number of cases of special landing permission	16
Reference 12	Changes in the number of foreign nationals simply leaving Japan by period of stay	17
Reference 13	Changes in the number of new cases of hearings for landing by grounds for landing	20
Reference 14	Changes in the processing of the hearings for landing	20
Reference 15	Changes in the number of foreign nationals who were denied landing by major nationality/region	22
Reference 16	Changes in the number of objections filed and decisions by the Minister of Justice	23
Reference 17	Changes in the number of cases of pre-entry examination	23
Reference 18	Changes in the number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan	24
Reference 19	Number of Japanese nationals departing from Japan by gender and age (2019)	25
Reference 20	Changes in the number of Japanese nationals returning to Japan by period of stay	26
Reference 21	Changes in the number of foreign residents, and changes in the number of foreign residents as a percentage of the total population of Japan	27
Reference 22	Changes in the number of foreign residents by major nationality/region	28
Reference 23	Changes in the number of foreign residents by status	30
Reference 24	Changes in the number of mid to long-term residents by status of residence for employment in professional or technical fields	32
Reference 25	Changes in the number of permission examined in status of residence examinations	35

Reference 26	Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by status of residence —	36
Reference 27	Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status of residence from student, etc. to a status for employment by nationality/ region —	37
Reference 28	Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (ii)” by nationality/region —	38
Reference 29	Changes in the number of trainees who changed to “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by nationality/region —	39
Reference 30	Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (ii)” by job categories (2019) —	39
Reference 31	Number of accreditations of the technical intern training plan for “Technical Intern Training (iii)” by job categories (2019) —	40
Reference 32	Changes in the number of cases of permission for change of the status to “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” by nationality/region —	40
Reference 33	Changes in the number of cases of permission for permanent residence by nationality/region —	41
Reference 34	Number of issuances of residence cards (2019) —	42
Reference 35	Number of issuances of special permanent resident certificates (2019) —	43
Reference 36	Changes in the number of applications and grant of license of supervising organization —	46
Reference 37	Changes in the number of applications and accreditations of the technical intern training plan —	47
Reference 38	Number of administrative dispositions, etc. (2019) —	48
Reference 39	Changes in the number of technical intern trainees absconding by nationality/ region —	48
Reference 40	Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region —	51
Reference 41	Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by major nationality/region —	52
Reference 42	Changes in the estimated number of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by status of residence —	53
Reference 43	Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by grounds for deportation —	54
Reference 44	Changes in the number of cases of violation of the Immigration Control Act by nationality/region —	54
Reference 45	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by nationality/region —	55
Reference 46	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry using aircraft by nationality/ region —	55
Reference 47	Changes in the number of cases of illegal entry by vessel by nationality/ region —	56
Reference 48	Changes in the number of cases of illegal landing by nationality/region —	56
Reference 49	Changes in the number of cases of foreign nationals overstaying the authorized period of stay by nationality/region —	57
Reference 50	Changes in the number of cases of activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted by nationality/region —	58

Reference 51	Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by nationality/region	60
Reference 52	Changes in the number of cases of illegal work by type of work	61
Reference 53	Changes in the number of cases of illegal foreign workers by area	62
Reference 54	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	64
Reference 55	Changes in the number and percentage of requests for a hearing	65
Reference 56	Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by grounds for deportation	65
Reference 57	Changes in the number of issuance of written deportation orders by nationality/region	66
Reference 58	Changes in the number of cases of permission for provisional release	66
Reference 59	Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by grounds for deportation	67
Reference 60	Changes in the number of cases of special permission to stay in Japan by nationality/region	67
Reference 61	Changes in the number of deportees by nationality/region	68
Reference 62	Changes in the number of deportees by means of deportation	69
Reference 63	Changes in the number of deportees through voluntary departure by nationality/region	70
Reference 64	Changes in the number of foreign nationals handed over under a departure order by nationality/region	71
Reference 65	Changes in the number of issuances of written departure orders by nationality/region	72
Reference 66	Changes in the number of applications for recognition of refugee status	73
Reference 67	Changes in the number of foreign nationals protected as refugees, etc.	74
Reference 68	Changes in the number of appeals, and decisions of the Minister of Justice	75
Reference 69	Changes in the number of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge	76
Reference 70	Processing status of applications for Landing Permission for Temporary Refuge (2019)	76
Reference 71	Number of victims of trafficking in persons (2019)	78
Reference 72	Changes in the number of victims of trafficking in persons	78
Reference 73	Number of recognized foreign domestic violence victims (2019)	80
Reference 74	Changes in the number of victims of domestic violence cases recognized by Regional Immigration Services Bureau	81
Reference 75	Outline of the Basic Policy on Operation of the System Related to the Status of Residence of “Specified Skilled Worker”	85
Reference 76	Field-Specific Operation Policy (14 fields)	87
Reference 77	Comprehensive Measures for Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign nationals (FY2020 revised) Outline	94
Reference 78	Changes in the number of cases of recognition (cumulative) through the points-based system for high-skilled professionals	102
Reference 79	Summary of further revision of the operations of the refugee recognition system	141
Reference 80	Situation of implementation and cases of acceptance through resettlement	143

Reference 81	Flow of landing examination	158
Reference 82	Procedures for advance consultation for the issuance of visas and applications for certificates of eligibility	160
Reference 83	List of Statuses of Residence (As of April 1, 2020)	164
Reference 84	Procedural flow of the residency management system of mid to long-term residents	176
Reference 85	Information linkage between the Immigration Services Agency and the Municipalities	182
Reference 86	Flow of deportation procedures and departure order procedures	184
Reference 87	Outline of Refugee Recognition Procedures	190
Reference 88	Flow of procedures of landing permission for temporary refuge	191
Reference 89	Immigration Services Agency organizational chart	193
Reference 90	Responsibilities of the Immigration Services Agency	194
Reference 91	Reorganization, abolishment or establishment of branch offices of the Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (actual performance)	198
Reference 92	Changes in the number of immigration control and Residency Management office personnel	201
Reference 93	Changes in the budget for immigration administration	204