



HELLO OKAYA

OKAYA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION
4F Okaya City Hall, 8-1 Saiwai-cho, Okaya City
TEL: (0266) 24-3226 FAX: (0266) 24-3229
E-mail: oiea@oiea.jp URL: www.oiea.jp
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This newsletter is distributed four times a year by the Okaya International Exchange Association, with the aim of providing local foreign residents with information necessary for daily life, as well as insight into aspects of Japanese culture. Please feel free to contact us with your feedback or any questions you may have.



New System of Residence Management starting July 2012



The alien registration system (alien registration card) will be abolished in July 2012 and will be replaced by a new system of residence management to further enhance immigration control. The aim of the new system of residence management is to enable the Minister of Justice to continuously keep the information which is necessary for residence management of foreign nationals, and also to ensure further convenience for those foreign nationals who are residing legally in Japan. Specifically, foreign nationals residing legally in Japan for a medium to long term will be issued with residence cards. If a foreign national changes workplaces or makes some other form of change, he or she will be required to give a notification of such change. The maximum period of stay, which is now 3 years for those will be extended to 5 years and a system of special re-entry permission will be introduced for those foreign nationals who wish to re-enter Japan within 1 year will, in principle, without any application for a re-entry permit.

Moreover, the existing system of alien registration will be abolished upon the introduction of the new system of residence management.

The new system of residence management will be applied to foreign nationals who do not come under any of the following 1 through 6:

1. Persons granted permission to stay for less than 3 months
2. Persons granted the status of residence of "Temporary Visitor"
3. Persons granted the status of residence of "Diplomat" or "Official"
4. Persons whom a Ministry of Justice ordinance recognizes as equivalent to the foreign nationals in the aforementioned (1) through (3)
5. Special permanent residents
6. Persons with no status of residence

Foreign nationals who are staying in Japan for a short term with such purpose as sightseeing are not subject to the new system.

Japanese Traditions ~One point Japanese culture~



Respect for the Aged Day

The third Monday in September is keiro-no-hi and is a national holiday. It is a day to honor the aged, celebrate their long life, and pray for their good health in the future.



On this day, local/regional governments and senior citizens associations organize different kinds of events, such as entertainment shows. They also hand out commemorative gifts.

For Japan, known to be the country with the world's longest life expectancy, this holiday will likely become increasingly important as the nation try to deepen its understanding of issues regarding the welfare of senior citizens.

Tinted autumnal leaves

In autumn, the leaves on most Japanese deciduous trees change color to reds and yellows and coat the mountains in beautiful colors. This is called the crimson foliage



or "koyo" in Japanese. In autumn, the people go out to hills and fields to see the changing colors of autumn leaves. Just as viewing cherry blossoms is called "flower-viewing," going to the hills and fields to see momiji is called "momiji hunting." Once all the red and yellow leaves have fallen off, the cold winter season sets in.

Onsen (hot spring)

There are many hot springs in Japan and most of them are developed as tourist spots. Japanese people are fond of hot spring bathing. The water is hot enough and contains various kinds of mineral elements and/or natural gasses. People consider it as an ideal means of relaxation. Vacationers visiting spas usually stay in hotels, inns (ryokan), or family-run lodging houses (minshuku), and spend several days enjoying their hot spring bathing facilities. Hot springs have also been recognized as medically effective. They are used not only for recuperation and rehabilitation but also for therapeutic treatment of many chronic diseases.



Procedural flow of the new system of residence management

Immigration examination

As well as having a seal of verification of landing affixed to their passports, medium to long-term residents will be issued with a residence card (only at designated airports and seaports for the time being).

Notification (change) of place of residence

Please notify the office of the city, ward, town or village of your place of residence within 14 days of establishing a place of residence. The same applies to any subsequent changes to the place of residence. (A residence card will be sent at a later date to those foreign nationals who were not issued with a residence card at the time of the immigration examination upon giving notification of the place of residence.)

Notification of a change of name or other details

If a change has been made to your name, date of birth, sex, nationality or region, please notify the regional immigration office within 14 days of the change.

Notification relating to the organization to which the foreign national belongs

Status for employment such as "Engineer" (excluding "Artist," "Religious Activities" and "Journalist") or status for study such as "Student" → If a change has been made to the name or address of the affiliated organization, please notify the regional immigration office within 14 days of the change.

Notification relating to spouses with the status of "Dependent," "Designated Activities (c)," "Spouse or Child of Japanese National" and "Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident" → If you and your spouse have divorced or your spouse has passed away, please notify the regional immigration office within 14 days of such circumstance.

Reissuance of the residence card

If your residence card has been lost, stolen, destroyed, damaged or defiled, please apply to the regional immigration bureau for its reissuance.

Note: If you wish to exchange your residence card owing to a reason other than those given above, you will be able to apply for reissuance. In such case, you will be responsible for paying for the actual cost of the handling fees.

Examination of status of residence



Medium to long-term residents will be issued with a residence card at the time of permission for extension of the period of stay or permission for a change to the status of residence. (Permission pertaining to the residence will not be affixed to the passport)

Note: Permanent residents are required to apply for the procedures for extension of the valid period of the residence card.



Japanese Language Class Schedule

Okaya International Exchange Association (OIEA) offers free classes to all interested foreigners. Enrollment is open to everyone so feel free to attend the classes!

Call OIEA to register Tel. 0266-24-3226

Mondays

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Venue: Culture Center, 3F Iif Plaza

Dates	10/17	10/24	11/7	11/14	11/21	11/28	12/5	12/12	12/19	12/26
Venue	Training Room 1	Training Room 1	Training Room 2	Training Room 1	Training Room 1	Training Room 1	Training Room 1	Training Room 1	Training Room 1	Training Room 1

Wednesdays

Time: 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM

Venue: Okaya City Hall Conference Room

Dates	10/19	10/26	11/2	11/9	11/16	11/30	12/7	12/14	12/21	12/28
Venue	401B	401B	401B	401B	401B	401B	401B	401B	401B	401B

Child Allowance

Changes on the child allowance will take effect from October this year until March next year.

15,000 yen / month

- Less than 3 years old
- 3rd, 4th, 5th... child, elementary school 6th grade level or below

10,000 yen / month

- 3 years old to elementary school 6th grade level, 1st and 2nd child
- junior high school student

With the revision of the payment requirements, eligible persons, including those who are currently receiving the allowance, are required to apply for the benefit. We will notify you as soon as a decision is made on this issue.

Contact the Okaya City Hall - Child Affairs Division Tel. 0266-23-4811

