

FOREWORD

You are going to Japan as an immigrant, a move that will have a profound impact on your life, as well as your family's. Your preparedness will count a lot towards the achievement of the objectives of your migration.

It is important that you comply with minimum government travel requirements to avoid unnecessary inconvenience when exiting the Philippines and entering Japan. Equally important is your awareness of regulations governing your residence, as well as your knowledge of primary settlement concerns in Japan so you may proceed with confidence in your daily activities.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas prepared this guide to provide you with information that will ease your adjustment abroad. It is our way of wishing you a safe trip and a successful settlement overseas.

Huwag po sana ninyong kalimutan na sundin ang mga batas at igo ang kultura at tradisyon ng bansang inyong pupuntahan, patuloy na ipagmalaki at panatilihin ang pagiging Pilipino, at maging bahagi sa pag-unlad ng ating bansang Pilipinas.

Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas
Chairperson
Commission on Filipinos Overseas

GETTING READY FOR TRAVEL

Travel Documents

You cannot enter Japan without the following valid travel documents:

- Philippine passport which is valid for at least six (6) months upon departure
- Visa
- Emigrant registration sticker issued by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) and if spouse/partner of a Japanese, original CFO Guidance and Counseling Certificate
- Plane ticket
- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Travel Clearance – for minors (17 years old and below) traveling alone or with someone other than the parents
- Other official papers that may be required by the Immigration Bureau of Japan to gather data that will be used for border protection and to be compared against the universal immigration data system of Japan such as Certificate of Eligibility

Handcarry these documents and check them from time to time to make sure that nothing is missing or misplaced.

Settlement Documents

Getting settled in Japan will be easier if you bring the following documents with you:

- Birth and baptismal certificates
- Marriage certificate
- Academic qualifications (diploma, school report cards, Transcript of Records)
- Employment certificates and references from previous employers
- Health and medical records
- Financial documents

All of these documents should be original and should be translated accordingly.

Travel Tax

You are required to pay a travel tax of P2,700 (Business and First Class passenger) or P1,620 (Economy Class passenger).

Payment can be made through an airline office or travel agency, or directly to the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) office, or to the TIEZA counter at the airport. The travel tax may also be paid abroad by a relative or person who buys the plane ticket for you.

Travel tax exemptions may be granted to children aged below two (2) years, while reduced travel tax rate are available to those aged two (2) to 12 years.

If you are already a permanent resident abroad who is visiting the Philippines, you are exempt from paying the travel tax. You will need to present the following documents to the TIEZA to get a certificate of exemption:

- Passport showing the latest date of arrival in the Philippines; and
- Original and photocopy of the proof of permanent residency in Japan (e.g., Alien Registration Card).

Travel Funds

You are allowed to bring out of the country any amount of foreign currency or traveler's cheques, as well as Philippine currency not exceeding P10,000.00. It is safest to carry traveler's cheques which

can be replaced if lost or stolen. You should have enough cash, however, for incidental expenses. Make sure the bills are in relatively small denominations (¥1, ¥5, ¥10 and ¥50). You may have difficulty in getting a ¥1000 bill changed in most stores.

Itinerary, Reservations, and Ticketing

Make Early Reservations

Make your flight reservations early and purchase your tickets as soon as your travel documents are complete to ensure confirmation of your desired travel schedule and itinerary.

Canvass for Best Rates

Different airlines have different fares. Low or peak seasons also affect the price of plane tickets. Call several airlines and compare their fares. Some airlines also offer Fly-Now-Pay-Later plans which you may want to inquire about. Be aware, however, of conditions and restrictions that go with discounted airfares.

Plan Your Itinerary

Get the advice of relatives abroad, airlines, or travel agencies about your itinerary. If your final destination is a city other than your port of entry in Japan, ask about the most convenient domestic flight schedule and the nearest airport where relatives may meet you. You may also want to ask about airline promotional offers, which will enable you to travel to several cities in Japan at a discounted rate. It is a good way to visit relatives and friends, and to check out opportunities in cities other than your intended destination.

Traveling with Infants and Children

Airlines usually charge less than full fare for infants and children up to a certain age. Ask about these discounted fares. You may also request for a bassinets, disposable diapers, or baby meals, provided this is done 24 hours before your scheduled flight.

Elderly Passengers

Bring all necessary health papers and prescriptions, if any. Make sure you have a sufficient supply of medicine on board. You may also request for a special medical seat and a wheelchair to bring you to and from the boarding or disembarkation area. These special amenities, however, should be requested in advance.

Pets

Carriage of pets is allowed but limited to the aircraft's cargo compartment and only when accompanied by a passenger who is 12 years or older. A valid quarantine certificate and other documents will be required by Japan authorities or of another country where you may stop over. Ask your airline or travel agency about the requirements for pets.

Clothes

The kind of clothes you should prepare will depend on the time of year you will travel to Japan. Generally, if you are leaving for Japan during winter, make sure you have overcoats. If you are leaving in autumn and spring, just bring sweaters and jackets. It may be advisable to buy your winter clothes in Japan to avoid the extra weight when you travel. If you are arriving in summer months, light clothing will suffice. While days can be pretty warm, evening can be cold in many parts of the country, so bring your sweaters.

Baggage Allowance

Ask your airlines about free baggage allowance, restrictions on carry-on items, and charges for overweight or excess baggage. As such, you will be able to anticipate added costs, if any, and adequately prepare for them. Generally, weight system for check in baggage allowance applies for travel to Japan:

- No limit on the number of baggage per passenger as long as the dimension allowance must not exceed 62 inches in total dimension (length + width + height) and weigh no more than 20 kgs. for economy or coach class passengers and not more than 40 kgs. for business and first class passengers.
- One (1) carry-on bag per passenger (not counting lady's hand-bag or brief case / attaché case). It must not weigh more than 7 kgs. and must not exceed 45 inches in total dimension. It must fit under the seat or in the overhead rack.

Packaging Your Baggage

Choose suitcases made of light but strong fiber materials with reliable locks. You may also use balikbayan boxes of the prescribed size. It is advisable that you place identification tags on all baggage, including carry-on bag. For easy identification, you may attach a distinctive marking on all your check-in bags and boxes such as ribbons of the same color.

Balikbayan boxes look alike. Write your name, contact address and telephone numbers in Japan on more than one side of your boxes to spot them more easily.

Do's and Don'ts in Packing

Do

- Prepare an inventory of all items you are packing to ensure that nothing is left out or forgotten.
- Weigh each individual bag or box before leaving the house to make sure that you are well within limitations.
- Seal and strap your luggage securely to make sure they do not break during airport transfer or in transit.

Do Not

- Pack money, jewelry, negotiable documents and other valuables in your check-in baggage. It is safer to keep them in your carry-on bags.
- Carry along any package if you do not know its content. You will be held liable for any prohibited item found therein.
- Pack check-in items in aluminum foil. Scanning machines will not be able to check these items. Hence, you may have to unpack these items, which may cause unnecessary inconvenience on your part.
- Attempt to check-in or hand-carry items prohibited by airline and Japanese' authorities.

The following is a partial list of prohibited items enumerated by the Japan Customs:

- Heroin, cocaine, opium, cannabis, stimulants, psychotropic substances, and other narcotic drugs
- Firearms (pistols, etc.), ammunition (bullets) thereof, and pistol parts
- Explosives (dynamite, gunpowder, etc.)
- Precursor materials for chemical weapons
- Germs which are likely to be used for bio-terrorism

- Counterfeit, altered, or imitation coins, paper money, bank notes, or securities, and forged credit cards
- Books, drawings, carvings, and any other article which may harm public safety or morals such as obscene or immoral materials (e.g., pornographic materials)
- Articles which infringe upon intellectual property rights.

The following is a partial list of restricted items enumerated by the Japan Customs:

- Hunting guns and swords
- Internationally protected endangered animals, plants or their products (e.g., crocodile, cobras, turtle, ivory, musk, cactus, etc.)
- Live animals and plants
- Meat products
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- Pharmaceutical products such as medicines and cosmetics

Restricted items should be declared and accompanied with pertinent certifications from the Philippine government.

Before entering Japan, you will be required to make a written declaration of your belongings. The Customs Declaration forms are available on the plane and at the desk counter of Japan Customs at the port of entry.

Travelers are advised to declare all food, plants and animal products for inspection of the Japan Customs. Some items may be required treatment before a quarantine permit will be issued. Some however, may be destroyed and dispose in the quarantine bins after inspection. You may also visit the website of the Japan Customs, www.customs.go.jp, for further information.

Quick Check

- Are your travel documents complete and in order?
- Have you re-confirmed your airline reservation (72 hours before departure)?
- If relatives or friends will meet you at your port of entry, have you informed them of your arrival schedule?
- Have you made arrangements for your travel funds in yen? In traveler's cheques?
- Have you compiled references and information on your job experiences (and those of family members) which will be helpful in finding employment in your country of destination?
- Have you gathered information on prospective schools for your children and their enrollment requirements?
- Have you prepared a checklist of things to bring (including medical records, academic records, birth certificates, and other important documents and articles)?
- Have you made arrangements for your mails to be forwarded to your new address abroad?
- Have you prepared adequate clothing for your family and yourself based on climatic conditions in your final destination?

YOUR DAY OF DEPARTURE

Airport Procedures

Time Allowance

The earlier you arrive at the airport, the less stressful it will be for you and your family. You must be at the airport at least two to three hours before your scheduled flight. Late passengers risk losing their seat reservations. Check-in counters usually close 40 minutes before boarding.

Security Check and Inspection

All check-in and carry-on baggage must go through the x-ray machine for security check. Customs may do a routine check on your baggage. It is therefore advisable to bring extra packing tapes or strings for repacking your baggage.

Check-in

Present your ticket, passport, and visa and those of each accompanying person to the airline representative at the counter. You will be given a boarding pass indicating your seat assignment and departure gate. You will also be issued an embarkation card and claim tags for your baggage. Proceed immediately to the departure gate and wait in the transit lounge for the flight to be announced. Remember your flight number at all times. The announcement for passengers is usually preceded by flight numbers.

Departure Card, Terminal Fee, and Immigration Clearance

You may ask the airline's counter personnel for a departure card or you may get one at the immigration area. Each passenger is required to fill-up this form and present it, along with the passport and visa, at the counter of the immigration officer for stamping. Prior to obtaining an immigration clearance, you will also be required to pay a terminal fee.

In-Flight Tips

Meals and Beverages

Generally, all meals and non-alcoholic beverages served on board are covered by your fare. You may request for special meals (i.e., for infants, vegetarians, and those observing dietary or religious restrictions). The request should be made at least 24 hours before your scheduled flight.

Electronic Devices

You are not allowed to operate your cellular or mobile phones, transistor radios or transceivers inside the aircraft. Portable audio records, dictating machines, laptop computers, electronic calculators, watches, hearing aids, electric shavers, and heart pacemakers may be used over certain areas of your flight.

Cameras and Binoculars

Use of these may be restricted over certain areas of your flight. Ask for guidance from your flight attendant.

Toiletries

Toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrush, towelettes, soap, tissue, and toilet paper are available on board. You may bring your own personal toiletries in your carry-on bag, for your own convenience.

However, toiletries in the form of liquids, aerosols and gels should not exceed 100 ml.

ARRIVAL IN JAPAN

While still en route, the flight attendants will distribute Disembarkation and Embarkation Card, and Customs Declaration Form. The Disembarkation and Embarkation Card is used in Japan by incoming passengers to provide their identification, purpose of travel and record of one's entry into and departure from Japan. Fill these up according to instructions.

Port of Entry

Upon arrival at the port of entry, you must take note of the signs which will tell you where to go or look for the airport personnel who can lead you to the right direction.

Immigration Clearance

All foreigners entering Japan are required to be fingerprinted and photographed by means of special devices, and interviewed by immigration officers. Those who refuse to submit their fingerprints and photographs will be denied entry in Japan.

Exemptions for the fingerprinting and photographing procedures are given to the following persons:

- Special permanent residents
- Children below 16 years old
- Persons engaged in activities which fall under the status of residence for "Diplomat" or "Official"
- Persons invited by the heads of administrative organs

Have all your travel documents ready, including the Disembarkation and Embarkation Card you filled up in the plane. Answer all the questions of the immigration officer clearly, briefly and politely. Passengers who have difficulty speaking and understanding English may be assisted by an immigration employee. As part of the procedure, the immigration officer will examine your travel documents and authority to enter Japan. In some cases, a formal interview may be required to ascertain further information about your immigration status.

Once your identity and authority to enter are confirmed and any other information required is provided, the immigration officer formally clears you for entry to Japan by placing an entry stamp on your passport. Your Disembarkation Card will be retained by the immigration officer while the Embarkation Card will be stapled to the page of your passport bearing your entry stamp. The Embarkation Card will only be removed from your passport when you leave Japan.

Claiming Your Baggage

Upon reaching the baggage claim area, get a cart. Wait for your baggage which will come in on the designated carousel. A sign will identify the corresponding flight number of each carousel or it will be announced over the intercom.

Compare your baggage claim stubs with the tags on the bags you are claiming. In case of lost baggage, immediately inform the airline personnel who will ask you to file a claim form. The airline will trace your baggage and contact you at your final destination. Otherwise, you will be compensated for lost baggage based on policies printed on your plane ticket.

As soon as you have retrieved your baggage, proceed to the customs clearance area where you

should present your Customs Declaration Form. Readily open your baggage for inspection. If you are required to pay duties for certain items, you may do so in cash or with major international credit cards. If your port of entry is also your final destination, you may then walk out of the restricted immigration and customs area and into the waiting area where relatives or friends may be waiting for you.

Domestic Leg of Your Journey

If your final destination is another city and you are boarding on another plane, please ask your flight attendant prior to disembarkation if you would need again to check in your baggage yourself. Some airlines take care of transferring the baggage of passengers to connecting flights. Make sure to check these details with your airline representatives.

If, after getting cleared by the immigration and customs, you need to check in your baggage for the domestic leg of your flight, ask for assistance from your airline representative. Airline personnel are usually on the look out for international passengers transferring to domestic flights.

GETTING SETTLED IN JAPAN

Country Profile

Japan is popularly known as the “Land of the Rising Sun”. It is situated in the eastern coast of the Asian continent, consisting of four (4) main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, as well as thousands of adjacent smaller islands. The capital of Japan is Tokyo.

The Japanese refer to their country as *Nippon* or *Nihon*. These names originated from the words “place from where the sun rises” used by Prince Shotoku, an early seventh-century Japanese ruler. Their national flag is called *Nisshoki* or *Hinomaru* or “Flag of the Rising Sun”.

Mountains claim 71% of Japan’s land area, with plains and basins, accounting for the remaining 29%. A chain of mountain extends along the middle of the long, narrow archipelago, dividing it into two (2) sides, one facing the Pacific and the other, the Sea of Japan. Rivers are short and swift flowing. Volcanoes abound in Japan, including about one-tenth of the world’s active ones. Mount Fuji, the country’s highest peak, is a dormant volcano.

Climate

Japan has four (4) seasons: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Spring (*haru*) which starts in March or April is marked by the blossoming of the palm and cherry trees. Japan’s rainy season (*tsuyu*) starts in June and lasts normally through the first week of July. Summer (*natsu*) lasts from the end of the rainy season until the middle of September. Except for Hokkaido, the weather is hot and humid. As autumn (*aki*) approaches, the temperature becomes cooler. The weather is sunny and many trees change color. Winter (*fuyu*) is characterized by heavy snowfall in the northern and southern parts of Japan.

Language

Nihongo is the Japanese language. Each region has its own dialect. A standard version of Japanese based in Tokyo is taught in schools and understood by all Japanese. The modern Japanese language uses a mixture of different types of characters, namely, *kanji*, *hiragana*, *katakana* and Roman letters.

Religion

Japan has two (2) main religions, Shintoism and Buddhism. A small percentage of the population are adherents of Christianity. The Japanese Constitution guarantees religious freedom. There is no state religion and no connection between national and religious functions. Religious instruction is forbidden at the public schools.

Government

Japan has a democratic system of government which is divided into three (3) branches: Executive, Legislative and Judiciary. The Japanese national legislature is called the Diet. It has two (2) houses, the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors. The executive power is vested in the Cabinet which consists of the Prime Minister and the ministers who are collectively responsible to the Diet, while the judiciary consists of the Supreme Court, high courts, a district court in each of the prefectures. The emperor is the symbolic head of state. While the emperor does not exercise real political power in government, he is highly revered in Japanese society.

The local government system in Japan consists of prefectures, and municipalities. Prefectures are regional authorities comprising municipalities and are in charge of broader administration and services. The municipalities are local public entities that have a direct relationship and handle affairs directly to the local residents. Japan is made up of 47 prefectures with 1,817 municipalities.

Alien Registration Certificate (ARC)

A foreigner who intends to stay for more than 90 days in Japan is required to register with the local city/municipal hall, which shall then issue him/her an Alien Registration Certificate (ARC). This document serves as a resident identification card for foreign nationals and must be carried at all times. As a permanent resident or immigrant in Japan, you are required to secure an ARC.

If the foreigner, however, is 15 years old and below or cannot appear in person by reason of illness, one of the persons living with the applicant can file the application on the latter's behalf. The spouse, child (except those 15 years old and below), father or mother, or relative can serve as proxy.

The ARC should be renewed every five (5) years. Foreigners who are 15 years old and below must renew their registration upon reaching the age of 16 years even if the initial registration has not yet expired.

In case of changes in the information written on the ARC such as place of residence, name, citizenship, status of residence, period of stay, name or location of workplace, you are required to apply for registration of such change.

In case of loss, damage or theft of the ARC, you must notify the nearest police station and is required to apply for a new certificate within 14 days. You must return the ARC to the immigration inspector at the port of departure when you leave Japan, except if you have obtained a valid re-entry permit.

Housing

Your choice of house will depend on the following concerns; space required; room layout; accessibility to public transport, place of work, and children's school; and budget.

Generally, information on housing can be found through a real estate agency. You may rent a privately owned house or apartment and you will need a large sum of money as initial deposit. Generally, it costs as much as 5 to 6 months rent for an initial down payment to rent a property. You

can also avail of the public housing in your area. You may inquire and get a list of public housing facilities at the Housing Supply Desk at the municipal office.

Employment

Being new in Japan, it may be difficult for you to find a job, as some prospective employers require local working experience. Knowledge of the Japanese language is also an important requirement for hiring.

You may visit the Public Employment Security Office or Hello Work Office in your area which provides job counseling and placement services. For listing of the Hello Work Offices, please see Appendix V. The classified ads section of a newspaper is the best means to begin your job search. It provides a list of available jobs, application procedures and eligibility requirements. Private and government employment agencies provide part-time job information services and counseling. If the particular company you would like to work does not currently show a listing, do not hesitate to approach it. Many firms such as retail store chains do not normally advertise available jobs. It is best to visit them and speak directly to the manager about employment opportunities.

Education

The five (5) stages in the Japanese educational system are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| • Kindergarten | 3-6 years old |
| • Elementary | 6-12 years old |
| • Junior High School | 12-15 years old |
| • Senior High School | 15-18 years old |
| • College or University | |

All Japanese aged six (6) to 15 are required to attend the six (6) years of elementary schooling and three (3) years of lower secondary schooling. This compulsory education is free of charge, and failure to send children to school is punishable by law. After nine (9) years of compulsory education, students can enter the three (3) year upper secondary school. Students can choose to go to a university or a technical college by passing an examination.

The academic year begins in April and ends in March of the following year.

Japanese Language Course

You may study Japanese language either at language schools operated by educational institutions, or from the local community groups such as international exchange associations and other volunteer organizations.

For information on Japanese language schools, you may visit the website of the Association for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education at www.nisshinkyo.org.

Japanese language lessons are also being offered by the city/municipal offices and volunteer groups in the community for free or for reasonable fees. The classes are usually held once or twice a week at local public facilities or schools. One benefit of taking these community-based Japanese classes is that participants are given the opportunity to meet other residents in the community. You can inquire at the city/municipal hall for the availability of classes.

After completing your Japanese language lessons, you may take the Japanese language proficiency

test. When looking for employment, you may present your test results as a proof of your Japanese language skill level.

Social Insurance System

The social insurance system was established to provide you with the medical care benefits and pension allowance in the event of sickness, injury, childbirth, death, old age and disability. All persons, regardless of nationality, should be enrolled at the appropriate social health care and pension insurance system. You must enroll at the city/municipal hall where you are registered as a foreign resident.

Employee's Health Insurance (Kenko Hoken)

All employees, regardless of nationality, companies or organizations in Japan, are automatically enrolled in the employees' health insurance which provides financial assistance to employees and their dependent during their sickness, injury, childbirth and death.

Employee's Pension Insurance (Kosei Nenkin Hoken)

The Employee's Pension Insurance is provided in addition to the basic pension from the National Pension Program. It covers pension in the event of old age and disability of an employee, and survivor's pension for the employee's dependent.

National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenko Hoken)

Foreigners who intend to live in Japan for more than one (1) year and those who are not members of the employees' insurance program are required to avail any of the government's health insurance programs. Foreigners may apply for the national health insurance at the Insurance Pension Division of the city/municipal hall. Application must be lodged within 14 days after applying for an alien registration certificate.

National Pension Program (Kokumin Nenkin)

The National Pension Program is a basic public pension system which provides all employed workers, self-employed workers and unemployed persons in Japan with the common pension benefits in the event of old-age and disability. The Program also covers widow's pension and survivor's pension for dependents.

Child-Support Allowance

In order to reduce the economic burden of families in raising children, child-support allowance is granted to parents or guardians with children below 12 years of age. Parents or guardians with children below three years of age will be paid an allowance of ¥10,000 per month, while for children three years of age and above, the allowance is ¥5,000 per month for the first and second children and ¥10,000 per month for the third and additional children.

Long-Term Care Insurance

The long-term insurance scheme is designed for the growing population of the elderly. It allows collection of obligatory insurance contributions from those aged 40 and older and provides services such as home visits by home helpers and long-term stay in nursing homes.

Employment Insurance

Employment insurance is paid to wage earners to provide them with income when they are changing jobs. The unemployment benefit includes allowances for skills acquisition, lodging, sickness, injury, relocation and job activity expenses.

Medical Services

Public Health Center

Government health centers have been set up to promote the public health of residents. These centers conduct medical check-up, free advice and guidance on matters relating to general health, pregnancy, childbirth and childcare.

Pregnancy and Childbirth

An expectant mother should report her pregnancy to the city/municipal hall where she is registered as a residence. Upon registration, the expectant mother will be provided with a mother and child health handbook (*boshi techo*) and health information materials about pre-natal check-ups and available pre-natal classes. The *boshi techo* is used to keep a record of pregnancy and other child-related facts such as the mother and child's health condition and progress of pregnancy and childbirth.

Upon the birth of the child, a notification of the birth should be submitted to the city/municipal hall within 14 days. The Philippine Embassy or Consulate should also be informed of the child's birth.

Maternal and post-natal counseling, check-ups and vaccination for children are also available at the public health center.

Transportation and Driver's License

Every type of transportation is available in Japan, from bicycle to one of the fastest trains in the world. Trains in Japan are very efficient and almost always on time. The bullet train links some of Japan's major cities. For shorter city journeys, commuter trains and buses are available.

Japan allows the use of an international license for one (1) year. You may apply for a driver's license at the Japanese Automobile Association (JAP) or a prefectural licensing center and present your alien registration certificate and passport.

Food and Clothing

A typical Japanese meal includes rice, noodles, vegetables, seafood, pickles, soya bean products, and fruits. Today, the Japanese are eating more dairy products and meat. Western fast food chains are also visible in the streets of Japan. Japanese meal is served in little amounts but in greater variety. All the dishes are served at the same time. Each dish is classified according to the way it is cooked rather than by the main ingredients. The Japanese wear the same type of clothes as people in other countries. On special days, however, many Japanese wear the traditional *kimono*.

Banking

When you open an account, you will be required to fill-up an application form and present your passport and alien registration card. You can arrange for an automated teller machine (ATM) card or cash card, which will enable you to make deposits, withdrawals, transfer fund and balance inquiry. ATM or cash service counters can be found at banks and convenience stores.

Emergency Call

Police – 110

Call 110 to report crimes or traffic accidents to the police.

Fire and Ambulance – 119

Call 119 to report a fire or ask for an ambulance.

An emergency call can be made free of charge from any telephone including public telephones.

Earthquake

Japan is an earthquake-prone country. It is best to pack your emergency supplies in a bag and keep it in place where other family members can easily locate it. When earthquake happens, be prepared and do not panic.

Common Cultural Norms

Shoes in the house

Shoes are never worn inside a Japanese house.

Table manners

The Japanese usually eat with chopsticks (*hashi*). The table should be set with the rice bowl on the left and the soup bowl on the right. The chopsticks are laid in front of them horizontally. They drink their soup directly from the bowl. Before the meal begins, everyone says *Itadakimasu* and at the end of the meal, they say *Gochisosamadeshita* which are both expressions for appreciation of the meal.

Looking in someone's kitchen

It is considered impolite in Japan to have a look in the kitchen of a home you are visiting.

Japanese bathroom

Every Japanese home has a bathroom (*ofuro*). The tub is square and deep, and filled with hot water. Before you get into the tub, you wash yourself with soap while sitting on a small stool next to the bath. After rinsing off the soap, you get into the hot water. The whole family uses the same tub of water, and young children often bath with their parents.

Kissing in public

Among Japanese, it is considered not in good taste to kiss in front of other people.

Embracing

It is considered impolite in Japan to touch, hug or embrace someone.

Valentine's Day in Japan

During *Valentine's Day* in Japan, it is the women who give presents, which are usually chocolates, to men. Men are expected to return gifts to women on *White Day* every March 14.

Japanese cheer

Banzai which literally means ten thousand years of life is a Japanese cheer which can be translated to long life or hurrah. It is usually repeated three times to express enthusiasm, celebrate a victory, applause and favor on happy occasion while raising both arms. It is commonly done together with the large group of people.

IMMIGRATION CONCERNS

Foreign Residents Information Center

The Immigration Bureau has established the Foreign Residents Information Center to advise foreigners on their immigration concerns. These centers are located at the regional immigration bureaus and the district offices of Sendai, Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima and Fukuoka. The information is provided through personal visit or telephone in various languages such as English, Korean, Chinese and Spanish.

Re-entry Permit

A re-entry permit is required when you wish to re-enter Japan and take up residence again after leaving temporarily during your authorized period of stay. Application can be done at the nearest Immigration Bureau in Japan.

A multiple re-entry permit will allow you to visit and leave Japan any number of times as long as the permit is still valid, while a single re-entry permit will allow you to leave and visit Japan only once.

If you are unable to return to Japan within the validity period of the re-entry permit due to an unavoidable reason, you may apply for an extension at the Japanese embassy or consulate in your home country.

Permission to Extend Period of Stay

This permission is required when a foreign national desires to remain in Japan beyond the authorized period of stay. Applications for extending period of stay should be filed at the immigration office a month before the expiration of the visa.

Permission for Permanent Residency

This permission is required when a foreign national wishes to acquire permanent residency status. The requirements are as follows:

- Stay in Japan for more than 10 years consecutively, with five (5) years as a resident or holder of a work permit
- Record of good conduct
- Sufficient assets and ability to live independently

If the foreigner is a spouse or a child of a Japanese national or a permanent resident, the requirement are as follows:

- For spouses, real marital relationship for more than three (3) years, and consecutive stay in Japan for more than a year
- For children, consecutive stay in Japan for more than a year

Acquisition of Japanese Nationality

Acquisition by Birth

A child can become a Japanese national if any of his/her parents is Japanese.

Acquisition by Legitimation

On 1 January 2009, the *Nationality Act of Japan* was amended which allows a child whose paternity was acknowledged by his/her father who is a Japanese national can acquire Japanese nationality

even if his/her parents are not married to each other.

The requirements for acquiring nationality are the following:

- Be acknowledged legally by his/her father or mother
- Be under 20 years of age
- The father/mother who acknowledged the child must presently be a Japanese national or must have been a Japanese national at the time of death, if he/she died

Dual Nationality

Dual nationality occurs when a child's parents have different nationalities and the child takes both their nationalities or when a child is born in a country adhering to the principle of *jus soli*. The child with dual nationality, however, is required to make a choice of nationality before reaching 22 years old for those who acquired dual nationality before the age of 20, or within two (2) years of acquiring dual nationality in case of those who became dual nationals on or after reaching 20 years old.

Naturalization

The Ministry of Justice only permits a foreigner to become a Japanese national through the process of naturalization. Application for naturalization must be submitted to the Legal Affairs Bureau in the foreigner's area of residence.

The following conditions must be met by a foreigner before he/she can be naturalized:

- Must have resided in Japan for five (5) consecutive years;
- Must be at least 20 years old;
- Must be of good moral character;
- Must be able to maintain a livelihood;
- Must renounce or lose his/her nationality; and
- Must not have engaged in activities that endanger Japan.

The following guidelines must be met by the foreign spouse of a Japanese national before he/she can be naturalized:

- Must have resided in Japan for three (3) consecutive years or more and is presently residing in Japan;
- Must be married to a Japanese national for three (3) years or more and resident of Japan for at least one (1) year; and
- Must have a good knowledge of *kanji* writing.

Regulations Affecting Foreign Spouse of Japanese National

Family Registry

A married couple in Japan must report their marriage at the nearest city/municipal hall to have a new family registry (*koseki tohon*). When a Japanese marries, he/she leaves his/her parent's family registry and sets up a new one.

Children of Foreign Spouse from Previous Marriage

The children of the foreign spouse from a previous marriage who were not adopted by the Japanese national may be granted entry in Japan as "long-term residents", provided that the following requirements are met:

- The mother has the status of "spouse of Japanese national";
- The child must be the blood child of the foreign wife; and

- The mother supports the child while he/she is in the home country.

In case the child from previous marriage is adopted by the Japanese, a legal blood relationship is created between the adopted child and the parent-in-law. The adopted child and his parent-in-law are also charged with the mutual duty of support and inheritance.

Divorce

There are three (3) types of divorce in Japan:

a. Divorce with consent or by agreement (*kyogi rikon*) – This type of divorce may be obtained if the couple mutually agreed to separate legally. A divorce report is filed with the municipal office. If the husband and wife are in agreement, divorce can be obtained by simply submitting a notification with two (2) witnesses.

A “Non-acceptance of Divorce Report” may also be filed by either of the couple if the divorce is viewed as disadvantageous and that one still needs an ample time to come up with an informed decision. The document is submitted to their municipal office in order for the “divorce report” to be declared null. This non-acceptance document is only valid for six (6) months.

b. Divorce through mediation (*chotei rikon*) or divorce by decision of the family court (*shimpan rikon*) – If the parties failed to reach an agreement, divorce through mediation by a family court is another option. In mediation, two (2) mediators and a judge will listen to the testimonies of each of the two (2) parties.

c. Divorce through legal suit (*saiban rikon*) – If divorce through mediation is unsuccessful, the court may decide on the case. If the parties have financial difficulty, they may avail the services of public legal assistance or consult non-governmental organizations.

Residence Status of the Foreign Spouse

In case of divorce or death of the Japanese national, the foreign spouse loses the status as “spouse of Japanese national”. As such, the status of the unadopted child as a “long-term resident” cannot be renewed. If they want to continue their residence in Japan, both the foreign spouse and his/her child must apply as “long-term residents”.

Child Custody

In case the father and mother effect a divorce and there is no agreement on child custody, the family court shall decide. The family court may, if it deems necessary for the benefit of the children, choose the person who will take custody of the children or order other depositions as may be appropriate. The foregoing provisions shall not cause any change in the rights and duties of the parents outside the scope of the custody.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is considered a serious violation of human rights in Japan. In October 2001, Japan has enacted the Law for the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims.

A foreigner who is a victim of physical, verbal or psychological abuse of their spouse, former spouse or de-facto spouse can seek protection and assistance from the Spousal Violence Counseling and Support Centers or police in their city or municipality.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Philippine Embassy and Consulates

Philippine Embassy

5-15-5, Roppongi Minato-ku

Tokyo 106-8537, Japan

Telephone numbers : (813) 5562-1600, 5562-1607, 5562-1577

Fax number : (813) 5562-1603

E-mail address : phjp@gol.com

Website : <http://www.tokyope.org>

Philippine Consulate General

Twin 21 MID Tower, 2-1-61 Shiromi

Chuo-ku, Osaka 540-6124, Japan

Telephone number : (06) 6-910-7881

Fax number : (06) 6-910-8734

Mobile number : (090) 4036-7984

E-mail address : osakapc@osk.3web.ne.jp

Website : <http://www4.osk.3web.ne.jp/~osakapc/>

(Jurisdiction: Honshu, Toyama, Aichi & West thereof, Shikoku & Khushu areas)

Philippine Honorary Consulate, Hokkaido

1-2-27 Ichijo, Nishi Hakken

Nishi-ku, Sapporo-shi 063, Hokkaido, Japan

Telephone numbers : (8112) 386-2026, 611-1633, 611-2225

Fax number : (8112) 641-8090

(Jurisdiction: Hokkaido Prefecture)

Philippine Honorary Consulate, Okinawa

2nd Floor Aljon Building

2-35-1 Aragasuku Ginowan City

Okinawa, Japan 901-22

Telephone number : (819-8) 892-5486

Fax number : (819-8) 892-5487

(Jurisdiction: Okinawa Prefecture)

Philippine Honorary Consulate, Iwate

5/F Hotel Higashinihon Morioka

3-3-18 Odori Morioka, Iwate, Japan 020-0022

Telephone numbers : (811-9) 625-2131, 626-9139

Fax numbers : (811-9) 626-9092, 652-6999

(Jurisdiction: Tohoku region - Akita, Aomori, Fukushima, Iwate, Miyagi, and Yamagata Prefecture)

Philippine Honorary Consulate, Nagoya

4/F, Century Toyota Bldg., 4-9-8 Meieki
Nakamura-ku, Nagoya City, 450-8575, Japan
Telephone number : (815) 2584-8698
Fax number : (815) 2584-5050
(Jurisdiction: Aichi Prefecture).

Appendix II: Filipino Associations Overseas/Support Network**Alay Sa 'Yo Lamang Educational Foundation**

Room 410 Kyoei Bldg. Okubo 2-7-5
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0072 Japan
Telephone numbers : 080-3389-0419/03-5287-6287
Fax numbers : 03-5287-6287/03-5687-2557

Association of Filipino Students in Japan (AFSJ)

Room 2-508 Komaba International House, 4-5-29 Komaba
Meguro-ku, Tokyo 158-8503
Mobile numbers : 090-6016-7485/080-5523-5272/090-6155-2821

Association of Filipinos in Tokyo (AFIT)

3-10-22 Takamatsu, Toshima-ku
Tokyo 171-0042, Japan
Telephone number : 03-3554-2620
Mobile numbers : 090-3213-0668/090-4394-3386
Fax numbers : 03-3530-6866/03-3554-2620

Catholic Tokyo International Center (CTIC)

4-6-22 Kamiosaki, Shinagawa-ku
Tokyo 141-0021, Japan
Telephone numbers : 03-5759-1064/090-2738-6995
Fax number : 03-5759-1063

Center for Japanese-Filipino Families (CJFF)

Room 15 Japan Christian Center 2-3-18
Nishi Waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Japan
Telephone numbers : 03-3209-2439/090-5763-8320
Fax number : 03-3209-2439

Children's House (Nonohana No ie)

292-0201 1880-5 Mariyatsu Kisarazu-shi
Chiba-ken, Japan
Telephone number : 0438-53-2787
Fax number : 0438-53-5880

Children's Joy Foundation, Inc.

1-1-7-205 Nisshin Palace Stage, Shiba Saimo
Kawaguchi-shi, Saitama 333-0848
Telephone number : 048-2680-768
Mobile number : 080-5017-3418

Citizen's Network for Japanese-Filipino Children (CNJFC)

Room 303, HK Haim, 4834 Kudan-Minami
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0074, Japan
Telefax number : 033-264-4272

EI Shaddai Japan Chapter DWXI-PPFI

8696 Ohara-machi, Izumi-gun, Chiba-ken 298, Japan
Telefax numbers : 047-062-8609/047-062-0424/090-1456-5721

Family Center Viola

1879-2 Mariyatsu, Kisarazu-shi
Chiba-ken, Japan
Telephone number : 0438-53-3453
Fax number : 0438-53-3463

Filipina Wives of Japanese Association (FWJA)

1-14 Takasu Pilot Homes, No. 7-302
Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi 261-0004
Telephone numbers : 080-5503-6873/090-8119-7980/043-278-9551
Fax number : 043-278-9551

Filipina Wives of Japanese Association (FWJA) – Yokohama

17-7 Futatubashi-cho, Seya-ku
Yokohama City, 246 Japan
Telephone number : 045-3672-333
Fax number : 045-367-2355

Filipino Catholic Association (FCA), Kasukabe

Kasukabe Catholic Church, Chuo 5-7-15
Kasukabe-shi, Saitama-ken
Mobile numbers : 090-6569-9662/090-6509-5935
Fax number : 048-736-9259

Filipino Community in Chigasaki

4-6 Motomachi, Chigasaki City
Kanagawa, Japan
Telephone number : 0467-58-2040

Filipino Migrants Center (FMC)

1st Floor Copo Ogawa, 2-3-29 Higashi-Sakura
Higashi-ku, Nagoya City, Aichi 461-0005
Telefax number : 052-935-6709

Filipino Migrants Desk of the Yokohama Diocese

11-11 Midorigahama, Chigasaki City
Kanagawa, Japan 253-0034
Telephone number : 090-4175-5588

Friendship Asia House (FAH Cosmos)

1880-12 Mariyatsu, Kisarazu City
Chiba-ken, Japan
Telefax number : 0438-53-5105

Hawak Kamay sa Mahal na Ina (HAKMI)

4-19-19-301 Ukima, Kita-ku
Tokyo 115-0051, Japan
Telephone numbers : 03-5392-9499/080-1035-2808/050-7550-3733
Fax numbers : 03-5939-4335/03-5939-4336

House for Women "Saala"

Telephone number : 04-5901-3527
Fax number : 04-5902-4045

International Social Service Japan (ISSJ)

Nishimura Bldg. 601, 6-18 Meguro 3-chome
Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153-0051, Japan
Telephone number : 03-3760-3471
Fax number : 03-3760-3474

Japan Association of Novo Ecijanos (JANE)

Shinjuku-ku, Nishi Waseda
1-22-2 Higashi Wing Bldg., Room 1102 169-0051
Mobile numbers : 090-6567-8267/090-7406-3242
Fax number : 03-3205-4861

Japanese-Filipino Children and Filipino Global Associates College Foundation, Inc.

1-1-5 Unno Bldg., 3rd Floor Room 302 Hitoyado-cho
Aio-ku, Shizuoka City 420-0037
Telephone number : 090-991-86295

Kabayan Yamato Filipino Community

St. Michael Parish Church, 7-4-1 Minami-Rinkan, Yamato
20-1 Sachigaoka, Asahi-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 241-0822
Telephone number : 045-372-6774
Mobile number : 090-8512-0545
Fax numbers : 045-360-9048/045-371-5627

Kalakasan (Migrant Women Empowerment Center)

21-0057 Kanagawa, Kawasaki City
Saiwa-ku, Kita-kase 1-34-8 KKF, Haimu 201
Telephone number : 044-580-4675
Fax number : 044-580-4676

Kanagawa Tokyo Together (KATOTO)

33-1 Bios Hirama, Room 603, Kajiri-cho
Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa-ken 211-0014
Telefax number : 044-542-2640

Kapatiran

c/o The Diocese of Tokyo
Nippon Sei Ko Kai 3-6-18 Shibakoen
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0011, Japan
Telephone number : 033-432-3055
Fax number : 033-432-6449

Kapisanan ng Migrating Pilipino (KAPISANAN)

1-13-18 Kitasenzoku, Ota-ku 145-0062
Telephone numbers : 03-5819-1203/03-3265-5075
Fax number : 03-3222-0726

Nagkaisang Samahan ng mga Manggagawa sa Japan

TOA Mansion Room 305, 1-8-7 Kami-Itabashi
Itabashi-ku, Tokyo
Telephone number : 03-5967-7923

Nagkakaisang Kapisanan ng mga Magkababayan (NAKAMA)

4-2-8 Komagata, Aoi-ku, Shizuoka City 420-0042
Telefax number : 054-253-2524

Philippine Development Society (PDS)

1-10-1 Nishi Kashiwadai, Kashiwa-shi, Chiba 277-0886
Telefax number : 047-1398-619

Philippine Japan Volunteer Association

306-0433 Ibaraki-ken, Sashima-gun
Sakaimachi Sanjincho 1077 A-302
Telephone number : 028-086-7097

Philippine Nakama Organization

1-1 Nishinakahara, 907 Shanboro
Shizuoka-shi, Shizuoka 422-8053
Telephone number : 054-253-2524
Mobile numbers : 090-4854-4682/090-1786-9624

Philippine Society in Japan-Nagoya

Mikokoro Catholic Center, 6-43 Maronouchi 3-chome
Naka-ku Nagoya City 460, Japan
Telephone number : 090-769011398
Fax number : 052-8772835

Philippine Women's Association (PWA)

2-19-1-711 Minami-sumiyoshi
Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka City, Osaka 558-0041
Telefax number : 090-27037616

Samahang Pilipino

1-19-19 Miyako Sou #5, Nakameguro
Meguro-ku 153-0061
Mobile number : 080-3098-2079

Samahang Pilipino ng Hokkaido

Nishioka 1-jo 8-chome 4-6
Toyohira-ku, Sapporo City, Hokkaido
Telephone number : 011-854-1838
Mobile number : 090-1647-9560

Solid Filipino Migrant Association (SOFILMA)

1-9-8 Minami Azabu, Minato-ku 107-0046
Telefax number : 03-5443-0870

Unified Filipino Group of Yokohama

2-504 Sun Life Hachiman 91-3 Hachiman-Cho
Minami-Ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa
Kanto 232-0037, Japan
Telefax number : 04-5241-1579

United Filipinos in Chiba

Chiba-shi, Wakabaku, Mitsuwadai 2-4-20 307
Telephone number : 043-256-0158]
Fax number : 045-241-1579

United Phil-Japan Association (UPJA)

Kawasaki-shi, Kawasaki-ku
Sakuramoto 2-3-17, Minori Heights 102
Telefax number : 044-266-5636

Appendix III: Immigration Bureaus**Sapporo Regional Immigration Bureau**

Odori-nishi 12 Chome , Chuo-ku
Sapporo City, Hokkaido 060-0042
Telephone number : 011-261-7502

Sendai Regional Immigration Bureau

1-3-20 Gorin, Miyagino-ku
Sendai City, Miyagi 983-0842
Telephone number : 022-256-6076

Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau

5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku
Tokyo 108-8255
Telephone number : 03-5796-7111

Narita Airport District Immigration Office

1-1 Furugome, Narita City, Chiba 282-0004
Telephone number : 0476-34-2222

Yokohama District Immigration Office

10-7 Torihama-cho, Kanazawa-ku
Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 236-0002
Telephone number : 045-769-0230

Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau

5-18, Shoho-cho, Minato-ku, Nagoya City, Aichi 455-8601
Telephone numbers : 052-559-2114/ 052-559-2117/052-559-2120

Chubu Airport District Immigration Office

1-1 Centrair, Tokoname City, Aichi 479-0881
Telephone number : 0569-38-7410

Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau

1-29-53 Nankou Kita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka City, Osaka 559-0034
Telephone number : 06-4703-2100

Kansai Airport District Immigration Office

Senshu-kuko Naka1banchi, Tajiri-cho, Sennan, Osaka 549-0011
Telephone number : 0724-55-1453

Kobe District Immigration Office

29 Kaigan-dori, Chuo-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo 650-0024
Telephone number : 078-391-6377

Hiroshima Regional Immigration Bureau

6-30 Kami-hacchobori, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima 730-0012
Telephone number : 082-221-4411

Takamatsu Regional Immigration Bureau

1-1 Marunouchi, Takamatsu City, Kagawa 760-0033
Telephone number : 087-822-5852

Fukuoka Regional Immigration Bureau

778-1 Shimo-usui, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka 812-0003
Telephone number : 092-623-2400

Naha District Immigration Office

1-15-15 Hikawa, Naha City, Okinawa 900-0022
Telephone number : 098-832-4185

Higashi-Nihon Immigration Center

1766-1 Kuno-cho, Ushiku City, Ibaraki 300-1288
Telephone number : 029-875-1291

Nishi-Nihon Immigration Center

1-11-1 Koriyama, Ibaraki City, Osaka 567-8550
Telephone number : 072-641-8152

Omura Immigration Center

644-3 Kogashima-cho, Omura City, Nagasaki 856-0817
Telephone number : 0957-52-2121

Immigration Bureau

1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8977
Telephone number : 03-3580-4111

Appendix IV: Foreign Residents' General Information Centers**Sendai**

1-3-20 Gorin, Miyagino-ku, Sendai City, Miyagi 983-0842
Telephone number : 022-298-9014

Tokyo

5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8255
Telephone number : 03-5796-7112

Yokohama

10-7 Torihama-cho, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa 236-0002
Telephone number : 045-769-0230

Nagoya

5-18, Shoho-cho, Minato-ku, Nagoya City, Aichi 455-8601
Telephone number : 052-559-2151

Osaka

1-29-53 Nankou Kita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka City, Osaka 559-0034
Telephone number : 06-4703-2150

Kobe

29 Kaigan-dori, Chu-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo 650-0024
Telephone number : 078-326-5141

Hiroshima

6-30 Kami-hacchobori, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City, Hiroshima 730-0012
Telephone number : 082-502-6060

Fukuoka

778-1 Shimo-usui, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka 812-0003
Telephone number : 092-626-5100

Appendix V: Public Employment Security Offices/Hello Work Offices

Hokkaido

10-14 Minami Chuo-ku, Sapporo City, Hokkaido
Telephone number : 011-562-0101

Ibaraki

1573-1 Suifu-cho, Mito City, Ibaraki
Telephone number : 029-231-6221

1-18-19 Manabe, Tsuchiura City, Ibaraki
Telephone number : 0298-22-5124-6

Saitama

3-2-7 Aoki, Kawaguchi City, Saitama
Telephone number : 048-251-2901

5-7-2 Hakoda, Kumagaya City, Saitama
Telephone number : 048-522-5656

1-525 Onari-cho, Omiya-ku, Saitama City, Saitama
Telephone number : 048-667-8609

5-8-1 Tokiwa, Urawa-ku, Saitama City, Saitama
Telephone number : 048-832-2461

4-10-7 Benten-cho, Soka City, Saitama
Telephone number : 0489-31-6111

61-3 Shimoomasushinden, Kasukabe City, Saitama
Telephone number : 048-736-7611

1-5-61 Higashikoshigaya, Koshigaya City, Saitama
Telephone number : 048-969-8609

Chiba

1-1-3 Saiwai-cho, Mihama-ku, Chiba City, Chiba
Telephone number : 043-242-1181-4

2-10-17 Minato-cho, Funabashi City, Chiba
Telephone number : 047-431-8287-9

3-4-2 Karabe, Narita City, Chiba
Telephone number : 0476-27-8609

Tokyo

2-42-10 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo
Telephone number : 03-3204-8609

1-9-21 Nishiki-cho, Tachikawa City, Tokyo
Telephone number : 042-525-8609

Kanagawa

3-30 Hon-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa
Telephone number : 045-663-8609

3-7-10 Kotobuki-cho, Atsugi City, Kanagawa
Telephone number : 046-296-8609

Niigata

Niigata KS Bldg., 2-2-18 Benten, Niigata City, Niigata
Telephone number : 025-241-8610

Fukui

2-22-18 Ote, Fukui City, Fukui
Telephone number : 0776-23-0174

2-8-23 Chuo, Takefu City, Fukui
Telephone number : 0778-22-4078

Nagano

3-6-21 Shonai, Matsumoto City, Nagano
Telephone number : 0263-27-0111

Gifu

5-39-1 Otowa-cho, Tajimi City, Gifu
Telephone number : 0572-22-3381-3

4-3 Kayanoki-cho, Nakatsugawa City, Gifu
Telephone number : 0573-66-1337

Aichi

Chunichi Bldg. 121, 4-1-1 Sakae, Naka-ku, Nagoya City, Aichi
Telephone number : 052-264-1901

Kyoto

Higashiaburakouji-cho 803, Shiokoujisagaru, Nishinotouin-dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto City, Kyoto
Telephone number : 075-341-8609

Osaka

1-2-2 Umeda Kita-ku, Osaka Ekimae-Daini Bldg., Osaka
Telephone number : 06-6344-1135

152 Miyuki-dori, Mikunigaoka, Sakai City, Osaka
Telephone number : 072-238-8301

Hyogo

1-3-1 Aioi-cho, Chuo-ku, Kobe City, Hyogo

Telephone number : 078-362-8609

250 Houjouzananakamichi, Himeji City, Hyogo

Telephone number : 0792-22-8609

Hiroshima

3-12 Higashi Sakura-cho, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima

Telephone number : 0849-23-8609

Fukuoka

1-6-19 Akasaka, Chuo-ku, Fukuoka City, Fukuoka

Telephone number : 092-712-8609

Ooita

11-22 Aoyama-cho, Beppu City, Beppu

Telephone number : 0977-23-8609

Appendix VI: Women's Shelter

OCNet	03-3730-0556
KALAKASAN	044-580-4675
PAKIKI-ISA	026-232-6881
Clover	06-6577-9680
Onna no supesu ON	011-622-7240
Onna no supesu Niigata	025-231-3012
Women's Tochigi	028-621-9993
Tokyo Gokan kyusai Center	03-3207-3692
Space Enjo	0726-360-030
Women's Net Kobe	078-731-0324
Asia Josei Center	092-513-7333
Josie e no boryoku Hotline	092-725-7497
Gokan kyusai Center Okinawa (REIKO)	098-890-6110

Appendix VII: Acquisition of Nationality

Acquisition of nationality in accordance with Article 3 of the amended Nationality Act

The amended act permits a person whose parents are not married to each other to acquire Japanese nationality through a notification to the Minister of Justice, provided that he/she meets the following requirements:

Requirements for acquiring nationality

The person who intends to acquire nationality must:

- Be acknowledged legally by his/her father or mother,
- Be under 20 years of age,
- Not have previously been a Japanese national.
- The father/mother who acknowledged the person who intends to acquire nationality must have been a Japanese national when the person was born.

The father/mother who acknowledged the person must presently be a Japanese national (or must have been a Japanese national at the time of death, if he/she died).

Notification Procedure

You (or a legal representative if you are under 15 years of age) must come in person to the relevant office and make the notification in writing.

Offices where the notification should be made

If you are residing in Japan

The legal affairs bureau / district legal affairs bureau with jurisdiction over the area in which you reside

If you are residing abroad

The Japanese embassy or consulate

Acquisition of nationality through this interim measure

If you fulfill the following conditions you will be able to acquire Japanese nationality by notifying the Minister of Justice by December 31, 2011.

- 1 You were born on or after January 2, 1983, your father was a Japanese national at the time of your birth, and you were legally acknowledged by your father before you reached 20 years of age. It is also required that your father is still a Japanese national at present (or was at the time of death if your father is deceased).
- 2 You submitted a notification to acquire nationality by June 4, 2008, but could not acquire nationality at the time due to your parents' unmarried status.
- 3 You are the child of a person who submitted a notification to acquire nationality by December 31, 2002, but your parent could not acquire nationality at the time due to his/her parents' unmarried status. (In this case, your parent must first acquire Japanese nationality by filing the notification given in the interim measure.)

For further details, please contact your local legal affairs bureau / district legal affairs bureau, or the Japanese embassy or consulate.

False notifications of parental acknowledgement or of nationality acquisition may be subject to punishment.

You may be penalized if you make a false notification of acknowledgement stating that another person's child is your child, or if you make a notification of nationality acquisition using a false parental acknowledgement.



Information on Customs procedure in Japan

The sequence of entry formalities is the following:



- You are required to make written declaration to Customs about the goods that you bring into Japan. Please submit the Declaration of your accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

- Those who are carrying cash which exceeds the amount of ¥ 1,000,000 must present a "REPORT OF CARRYING OF MEANS OF PAYMENT, ETC".

LIMITS OF TAX EXEMPTION (for One Adult Person)

(attention) : Commercial goods and commercial samples are taxable and are not subject to tax exemption indicated below.

Name of Product	Amount or Price Value
Alcoholic Beverages	3 bottles
Tobacco (non-resident)	400 cigarettes, or 100 cigars, or 500 grams of other tobacco products <small>if these require a Customs officer if you are a Japanese resident.</small>
Perfume	2 ounces
Others	¥200,000 (total of overseas market prices)

Main Items Prohibited from Importation:

- Opium, cocaine, heroin, hemp, stimulant drugs, psychotropic substances
- Pistols and other firearms, ammunition for firearms
- Explosives (dynamite, gunpowder, etc)
- Precursor materials for chemical weapons
- Obscene or immoral magazines, videotapes etc.
- Counterfeit brand name products, other articles which infringe upon rights in intellectual property etc.
- Child pornography

Main Items Restricted for Importation:

- Animals and plants that require quarantine (please undergo inspection at Animal/Plant Quarantine Counter)
- Air guns, swords, smoke bombs etc
- Pharmaceutical products, cosmetics (subject to quantitative restrictions)
- Animals and plants stipulated by the CITES (the Washington Treaty)

Japan Customs

REFERENCES

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GUIDE FOR FILIPINOS MIGRATING TO JAPAN

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