

**Re: Changes to the Foreigner Registration System**

**In place of the Alien Registration Card (Gaikokujin Touroku Shoumeisho), Resident Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates shall be issued.**

Beginning July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012, an amendment will be made to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, affecting those staying in Japan for a period beyond three months with residence status.

Those without resident status or those only staying in Japan for a short period of time will not be subject to any of these changes.

- **Resident Card**

Resident cards, for those staying in Japan for a medium to long term period, will encompass the processes of re-entry into Japan, change of status, and updates to the length of visas. Applications for resident cards and their issuance will be carried out by the Immigration Bureau of Japan. In the event of just coming into the country, the issuance will be carried by port of entry officials (airport, etc.).

It will be necessary for those with a resident card to carry it on their person at all times. However, those under the age of 16 are exempted from this obligation.

- **Special Permanent Resident Certificate**

Applications and issuance of special permanent resident certificates will continue to be made at the public service division (Shimin-ka) in your local city council. Those with special permanent resident status are not required to carry the certificate on their person.

**Current Alien Registration Cards Shall Still be Valid after the New System Takes Effect**

It will not be necessary to have current alien registration cards replaced immediately. As detailed below, the alien registration card will be deemed, for a certain period, as the equivalent of the resident card or special permanent resident certificate.

Residency Type	Persons 16 Years of Age or Older	Persons under 16 Years of Age
Special Permanent Residents	Application for conversion from the current alien registration card is to be made within three years of the new system taking effect (by July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015), or for those with an alien registration card running beyond the three year period, to be made upon the date of next renewal.	Application is to be made by the subject's 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
Permanent Residents	Application is to be made within three years of the new system taking effect (by July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2015).	Application is to be made within three years, or promptly before his/her 16 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
Those with resident status outside of those outlined above	Application is to be made by the end of the subject's eligibility of stay in Japan.	Application is to be made by the end of the subject's eligibility of stay in Japan, or promptly before his/her birthday.

### The Law for Alien Registration to be Abolished

In accordance with the implementation of this new system, alien registration cards, along with the Alien Registration Act, will be abolished. In addition, the registry of basic residents shall also be amended, with foreigners also being registered from July 9<sup>th</sup>, the date of amendment. (A temporary registry of residents shall be sent out at the end of May to confirm this before the fact).

Following the implementation of this new system, should one require information from the Alien Registry regarding the history of his/her prior places of residence in Japan, changes to his/her name or citizenship status, or with regards to his/her date of disembarkation, said person will be required to make a direct request to the Ministry of Justice.

### Early Applications Possible for Resident Cards and Special Permanent Resident Certificates

Those who are interested can apply for the resident card or permanent resident card from Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Those in Japan for a medium to long term period of stay may apply at their local immigration office, and special permanent residents may apply at the front counter of the public service division (Shimin-ka) in their local city council.

- Necessary items: Alien registration card, passport, passport photo (40mm x 30mm) for those 16 years of age and above

\* Those with special permanent resident status are not required to bring their passports.

The new resident cards and special permanent resident cards will be issued some time after the date of implementation (from July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, as currently scheduled).

For more information, please contact Oyama City Hall, Public Service Division.

Public Service Division: 0285-22-9402 / 0285-22-9403

For further information, please visit the Immigration of Japan's website:  
[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_1/en/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/en/index.html)