Supporting Foreign Residents

Most Frequent Q&A to the Consultation Hotline

English

Akita International Association (AIA)

Introduction

At present, there are more than 3,600 foreign residents living in Akita.

We at AIA—the Akita International Association—receive various consultations from foreign residents due to the differences in language, culture, and customs between their homes and Akita.

We began offering a consultation hotline in foreign languages in 1998. We recently made this booklet "Most Frequent Q&A to the Consultation Hotline" looking back over the past consultation cases and have broken them down into categories.

In this booklet, we introduce important issues such as lists of required documents for various procedures and quick-contact information help depending on the consultation.

Please make use of this booklet if you receive a question from foreign nationals or families.

AIA offers telephone consultation services in Chinese, English, Korean and Japanese every Thursday 1:00–3:00 p.m. Please feel free to call us at 018-884-7050.

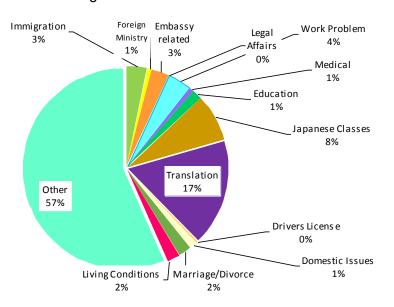
Akita International Association 公益財団法人 秋田県国際交流協会

Record of Consultations for Foreigners FY 2013 (as of March 31, 2014)

1. Number of consultations by language.

Chinese	English	Korean	Japanese	Other	Total
5	41	0	328	0	374

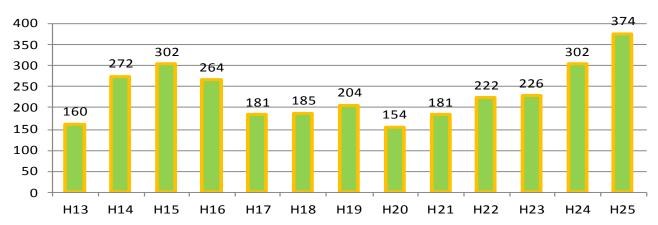
2. Content of counseling



Note: The total numbers for section 1 and 2 are different because some people had more than one type of consultation.

Туре	Number
Immigration	13
Foreign Ministry	3
Embassy related	11
Legal Affairs	0
Work Problems	15
Medical	3
Education	6
Japanese Classes	30
Translation	68
Drivers License	1
Domestic Issues	5
Marriage/Divorce	8
Living Conditions	8
Other	224
Total	395

Туре	Content of counseling
Immigration	Extending or changing Status of Residence, applying for re-entry, bringing a dependent to Japan
Foreign Ministry	Visiting relatives, visa matters
Embassy Related	Matters relating to passports
Legal Affairs	Naturalization
Work Issues	Employment insurance, unemployment benefits, unpaid wages, overtime work, looking for a job
Medical	Foreign speaking hospitals, health insurance system
Education	Admission into schools, study abroad
Japanese Classes	Information about Japanese classes in Akita
Translation	Matters relating to translation and interpretation
Drivers License	International Driving Permit, switching to a Japanese license
Domestic Issues	Domestic abuse, custody, care giving, human rights
Marriage/Divorce	International marriages and divorces
Living Conditions	Homestays, support for single parent households, etc.
Other	About how to place an international call, language classes, overseas travel, etc.



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Immigration Bureau

- *Extension and Changing of Status of Residence
- *Permanent Residency
- *Bringing Children to Japan
- *Re-entry Permits

1. Status of Residence

${f Q}_{f s}$ Could you tell me how to extend or change my Status of Residence?

A.

[Extending Period of Stay for Status of Residence "Temporary Visitor"]

The is approved only for special reasons. With exception, 90 days extension of Status of Residence can be approved only once for those from Switzerland, Germany, Lichtenstein, Austria, England and Ireland. For more details, contact the Immigration Bureau. (See p. 9 for required documents)

[Changing Status of Residence from "Temporary Visitor" to other status]

If you would like to change your Status of Residence, please go to the Immigration Bureau to obtain an "Application for Change of Status of Residence." For more details, contact the Immigration Bureau. (See p. 9 for required documents)

[Status of residence after divorce]

Those who have divorced or whose Japanese spouse has died can stay until the Period of Stay's expiration, but cannot extend the Status of Residence as a spouse of a Japanese national. Therefore, if you would like to remain in Japan, another Status of Residence must be obtained. For more details, contact the Immigration Bureau.

- *The processing period for Application for Change of Status of Residence: 2 weeks-1 month
- %The processing period for Permission to Engage in Activity Other Than That Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted: 2 weeks–2 months

□ Contact □

Sendai Immigration Bureau Akita Branch (Japanese only)

Akita Daiichi Chihogodo Chosha 5 FL

7-1-3 Sanno, Akita City, Akita 010-0951

TEL: 018-895-5221 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00-4:00 p.m. (except Sat-Sun, holidays)

Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents

Tokyo Health Plaza Hygeia 11 FL

2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0021

TEL: 03-3202-5535 03-5155-4039 (TEL/FAX combined use) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

English, Chinese (Mon–Fri, except 2nd & 4th Wed), Portuguese (Mon, Tues, Thurs), Spanish (Mon, Thurs), Bengali (Tues, Wed, except 2nd & 4th Wed), Vietnamese (Fri), Indonesian (Tues)

English, Chinese, Portuguese Mon-Fri (except 2nd and 4th Wed)

Bengali (Tues, Thurs, Fri), Vietnamese (Thurs), Indonesian (Tues), Romanian (Fri 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

Foreign Resident Information Center (foreign language support: English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, etc.)

5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8255

TEL: 0570-013-904 (IP, PHS, from abroad 03-5796-7112)

8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. (except Sat-Sun, holidays)

《Differences between Visa and Status of Residence》

Visa: Obtained at a Japanese embassy or consulate before entering Japan, issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Status of Residence: Obtained when entering Japan, issued by the Immigration Bureau.

Required documents for changing and extending Status of Residence "Temporary Visitor"

As a general rule, the applicant must file the application him or herself.

The forms differ in the case that a person other than the applicant files the application. Please refer to the website.

[Necessary documents for extending Period of Stay for Status of Residence "Temporary Visitor"]

- Application for extension of Period of Stay (forms at AIA, Immigration Bureau)
 Note: Forms are available at your regional immigration office and can also be obtained from the Legal Affairs Bureau website.
- 2. Passport must present
- 3. Resident Card (or Alien Registration Certificate deemed equivalent to a Resident Card) must present
- 4. Statement of reasons for renewal of "Temporary Visitor" free format, 1 original
- 5. Explanation of one's activities in Japan from date of entry until present free format, 1 original
- 6. Medical certificate 1 original

Notes:

Japanese translations must also be submitted if documents are written in a foreign language.

You may be required to submit documents other than those stated above. For details, please contact the Immigration Bureau.

[Necessary documents for changing resident status from "Temporary Visitor" to other]

- 1. Application for change of Status of Residence 1 original
- 2. One photo (attach with application)

Note: Not required for applicants under the age of 16. Also not required for changes in status of residence that do not result in medium to long-term residency.

- 3. Documents that correspond to your activities in Japan submit
- 4. Resident Card (or Alien Registration Certificate deemed equivalent to a Resident Card) must present
- 5. Permission to engage in activities other than that permitted under the status of residence previously granted **must present** (If already received)
- 6. Passport or Certificate of Status of Residence must present

Note: Required documents depend on one's Status of Residence. Please contact the Immigration Bureau for specific details.

>As of July 18, 2014- Legal Affairs Bureau website

2. Applying for Permanent Residence

${f Q}_{f s}$ How can I get permanent residence?

A.

(Applying for permanent residence permit)

There are several conditions necessary for applying for permanent residence (see p. 11). If the application is granted, your Status of Residence will change to "Permanent Resident." Although the Period of Stay for a permanent resident is indefinite, you will need to renew your foreign registration card every 7 years. For more details, please contact the Immigration Bureau.

□ Contact □

Sendai Immigration Bureau Akita Branch (Japanese only)

Akita Daiichi Chihogodo Chosha 5 FL

7-1-3 Sanno, Akita City, Akita 010-0951

TEL: 018-895-5221 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00-4:00 p.m. (except Sat-Sun, holidays)

Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents

Hygeia Tokyo Health Center 11 FL

2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0021

TEL: 03-3202-5535 03-5155-4039 (TEL/FAX combined use) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

English, Chinese (Mon–Fri, except 2nd & 4th Wed), Portuguese (Mon, Tues, Thurs), Spanish (Mon, Thurs), Bengali (Tues, Wed, except 2nd & 4th Wed), Vietnamese (Fri), Indonesian (Tues)

English, Chinese, Portuguese Mon-Fri (except 2nd and 4th Wed)

Bengali (Tues, Thurs, Fri), Vietnamese (Thurs), Indonesian (Tues), Romanian (Fri 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

Foreign Resident Information Center (foreign language support: English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, etc.)

5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8255

TEL: 0570-013-904 (IP, PHS, from abroad 03-5796-7112)

8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. (except Sat–Sun, holidays)

[The difference between a permanent resident and the spouse of a Japanese national]

Spouse of Japanese nationals		Permanent Resident	
Period of Stay	6 months, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years (Extension of Period of Stay necessary)	Indefinite period (extension of Period of Stay not necessary)	
If Japanese spouse died or divorced	Renewal of Status of Residence is not possible. In order to continue staying in Japan, one must obtain another Status of Residence. Note: Staying in Japan until the end of one's Period of Stay is permitted after a divorce, bereavement, etc.	It does not affect one's status of residence, so it is possible to continue staying in Japan.	

(The difference between permanent residence and naturalization)

Permanent residence is the right to reside permanently in Japan while still maintaining one's foreign nationality. It is a type of Status of Residence. Applications are accepted at the Immigration Bureau. **Naturalization** is the process of a foreigner attaining Japanese citizenship. In other words, the individual becomes a Japanese national. Applications are accepted at the Legal Affairs Bureau.

Conditions and required documents for permanent residence

[Conditions for granting permanent residence]

- 1. The applicant must have good behavioral conduct.
- 2. The applicant must be able to maintain a livelihood by means of his/her own property or ability.
- 3. The applicant's permanent residence in Japan is of benefit to Japan.

Note: The spouse or child of a Japanese national, permanent resident, or special permanent resident do not require conditions 1 and 2.

[Application for Permanent Residence]

- Application
- Photo (one photo, fill out your name on the back of the photo following the stated specifications and attach with application)

Note: photo not required for persons under the age of 16.

- Substantiation documentation *Note 1
- Resident Card (or Alien Registration Certificate deemed equivalent to a Resident Card) **must present**Note: In the case a person other than the applicant completes the application process for permanent residence in lieu of the applicant, he/she must also have a copy of the applicant's Resident Card.
- Permit to engage in activities other than that permitted by the Status of Residence previously granted (limited to persons issued such a permit) **must present**
- Passport or certificate of Status of Residence must present
- In the case you are not able to submit a passport or certificate of Status of Residence, submit a statement of reason
- · Identification (in the case an intermediary submits the application)

*Note 1

Documents establishing proof differ for applicants with Status of Residence: Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident, or Spouse or Child of Japanese National, or and Long-term Resident and applicants with Status of Residence: Employment Related (Specialist in Humanities, International Service, Engineering, Technical Skills, etc.) or Dependent (family).

Please confirm the necessary substantiation documentation with the Ministry of Justice.

>As of September 4, 2014- Ministry of Justice website

3. Bringing child by a former

Q. How can I bring my child from a former marriage to Japan from my home country to live together?

A.

You need to obtain the visa and Status of Residence for bringing a child to Japan. For more details, please contact the Immigration Bureau.

[The procedure of bringing a child by a former marriage to Japan]

- 1. Obtain the Application for Certificate of Eligibility for child at the Immigration Bureau.
- 2. After obtaining the certificate, send it to your child who lives in the foreign country.
- 3. The child (applicant) must bring the certificate to the Japanese embassy or consulate to apply for the entering visa to Japan.
- 4. The child enters Japan with the issued visa and Certificate for Eligibility.

□ Contact □

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Bengali (Tues, Thurs, Fri), Vietnamese (Thurs), Indonesian (Tues), Romanian (Fri 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

Foreign Resident Information Center (foreign language support: English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, etc.)

5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8255

TEL: 0570-013-904 (IP, PHS, from abroad 03-5796-7112)

8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. (except Sat-Sun, holidays)

< Points of consideration for bringing a child to Japan >

You should carefully consider the following before bringing a child to Japan:

1. The child's age 2. His/her Japanese language ability 3. Education system in Japan.

Required documents for bringing a child to Japan

[Required documents for the Application for Certificate of Eligibility for bringing child to Japan]

- 1. Application for Certificate of Eligibility (documents available at AIA) 1 original
- 2. Family register or deleted family register of applicant's parents 1 original
 - · Issued within 3 months
- 3. -1 (If born in Japan)

Proof of birth registration or certificate of recognition 1 original

- · Issued within 3 months of application
- · Certificate of recognition: In the case you submitted to the local authority office in Japan
- -2 (If born overseas)

Birth certificate issued by organization in country of birth, or certification of affiliation of the applicant (only those with a certificate of affiliation)

1 original

-3 (In case of a special adoption)

Certificate of special adoption acceptance or official copy of certificate of adoption registration judgment and certificate of final decision issued by family court in Japan. **1 original**

- 4. Certificate of Tax Payment of Resident Tax of the guardian of the applicant in Japan 1 original
 - The amount of total yearly income, taxable amount, and tax payment must be written.
 - · Must be issued within 3 months.
- 5. Identification reference 1 original
 - · Personal reference must be a Japanese national (parent or guardian) living in Japan
- 6. ID photo (4 cm x 3 cm) 1 photo
- Must be a clear, sharp photo taken within 3 months before applying, must be take in full-face view directly facing the camera, without any headwear, and with a plain background.
- · Must write the name of applicant on the backside of the photo and paste it in the photo space on the application.
- 7. Self-addressed envelope affixed with 392 yen stamp.
 - Must write your address on the envelope beforehand.
- 8. Others
 - 1. Registered seal of personal reference
 - 2. Required document (s) of identification if someone applies on behalf of the applicant.
 - 3. Required to attach the Japanese translation if the submitting document is written in foreign languages.
 - 4. In principal, submitted documents will **NOT** be returned.

Note: Other documents may be required depending on the case. For more details, please contact the Immigration Bureau.

>As of July 18, 2014- Ministry of Justice Website

4. Re-Entry Permit

\mathbb{Q}_{ullet} I heard the re-entry permit system has changed. How has the system changed?

Before

When departing from Japan temporarily, such as on a trip, you should apply for a re-entry permit at a regional immigration office. If you fail to do this, you will need to reapply for a Status of Residence. The validity of a re-entry permit is up to 3 years. ("Special Permanent Residents"/ 4 years)



Now (since July 9, 2012)

Foreign nationals with a Residence Card who will be re-entering Japan within 1 year of their departure will not be required to apply for a re-entry permit. Please be aware that foreign nationals who have departed from Japan on the new re-entry permit system cannot apply for an extension.

Attention: Be sure to present your resident card at departure!!!

□ Contact □

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TEL: 0570-013-904 (IP, PHS, from abroad 03-5796-7112)

8:30 a.m.–5:15 p.m. (except Sat–Sun, holidays)

The alien registration system will be abolished

Before

An Alien Registration Certificate will be issued to persons who don't have a Status of Residence.

An Alien Registration Certificate is issued at municipal offices.

After alien registration is completed, you must renew the application every 5 years. (Every 7 years for permanent residents).

(If you are under 16 years of age, this is different.)

Now (July 9, 2012)

A Residence Card will be issued to persons who have a status of mid to long-term residence. A Residence Card will be issued at Narita Airport, Haneda Airport, or Kansai Airport. All others who enter the country from a different port will receive the card via the address he/she submits to the local municipal. A card will not be issued to those with a Period of Stay less than 3 months or to those with a short-term Status of residence.

The valid period of a Residence Card is 7 years for permanent residents. For all other persons, it is until the expiration date of the Period of Stay.

(If you are under 16 years of age, this is different.)

The Period of Stay will be extended to a maximum of 5 years.

Before

"Spouse of Japanese National or Permanent Resident" /1 year, 3 years

Employment Status excluding "Entertainer" and "Technical Intern Training"/ 1 year, 3 years

"Student"/ From 6 months to 2 years and 3 months

Now (July 9, 2012)

"Spouse of Japanese National or Permanent Resident" / 6 months, 1 year, 3 years, 5 years

Employment Status excluding "Entertainer" and "Technical Intern Training"/ 3 months,1 year, 3 years, 5 years

"Student"/ From 3 months to 4 years and 3 months



Embassies Consulates The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- *Visiting Relatives
- *Passport
- *International Marriage/Divorce

1. Visiting Relatives

Q. My friend and relative want to visit Japan. What should I do for their visas? (Temporary stay 90 days or less)

A.

Nationals of certain countries do not require a visa for temporary stays in Japan 90 days or less granted they do not engage in money-making activities. Contact your embassy, consulate, or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for details. If you need to apply for a visa, send required documents to the applicant (visitor) from Japan. The applicant will apply for the visa as "Temporary Visitor" at the Japanese embassy or consulate in applicant's own country and then can enter Japan after obtaining the visa. For more details, please contact the embassy, consulate or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Please inquire to the nearest Immigration Bureau of Japan for those seeking to come to Japan long term (spouse, work, school).

[Procedures]

<In Japan>

- 1. Inviter and guarantor confirm the required documents with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 2. Inviter and guarantor prepare the required Documents.
- 3. Inviter sends the prepared documents to the applicant in the foreign country.

<In foreign country>

- Applicant applies for visa at Japanese embassy or consulate.
- 2. Arrives in Japan after obtaining visa
- 3. After arriving, entrance is permitted if disembarkation is cleared by the Immigration Bureau.

□ Contact □

Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents

03-5501-8431 (automated answering system)

Service Details

- (1) Voice automated answering service (24 hrs.)
- a. Guidance on how to request visa related materials through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs information fax service.
- b. Guidance on how to request materials via mail.
- c. Information about the Consular Service Center (Visa Consultation Division)
- d. Information on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website address.
- (2) Inquiries about visa examination status (Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 2:00-4:00 p.m.)
- (3) Other visa related inquiries (Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 1:15-5:00 p.m.)

Note: Refer to p. 20 for details about the individual embassies.

Sendai Immigration Bureau Akita Branch (Japanese only)

Akita Daiichi Chihogodo Chosha 5 FL

7-1-3 Sanno, Akita City, Akita 010-0951

TEL: 018-895-5221 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., 1:00-4:00 p.m. (except Sat-Sun, holidays)

《Countries and regions where visas are exempt.》

61 countries and regions eligible, such as Singapore, Korea, USA, Canada, Australia and UK. etc.

Required documents for visiting relatives

[Required documents for visiting relatives]

(Philippine Nationals) 1. Passport **Applicant** 2. Visa application (in Foreign 3. Photo Country) 4. Birth Certification that was issued by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on security paper Note1 5. Marriage Certification that was issued by the NSO on security paper (Those already married only!!!) 6. Income certificate, bank deposit book, or tax payment certificate of the applicant or the applicant's supporter issued by a public institution 1. Letter of reason for invitation Inviter 2. Documents pertaining to the reason for invitation (in Japan) (copies of medical checkup, maternal health log, etc.) 3. Family register (when the inviting person or his/her spouse is a Japanese national) 4. Certificate of residence (listing all persons in the household) 5. If the inviter or personal reference in a foreign national, he/she must submit a copy of his/her Residence Card (both sides),, certificate of residence, and passport copy Guarantor 1. Letter of guarantee (in Japan) 2. One of the following documents pertaining to the guarantor: Please submit the Certificate of income or certificate of tax withholding following documents if the guarantor pays (issued by the head of administration local office at place of residence) a part or all of the · Bank certificate of account balance travel expenses. Copy of tax return (copy) Certificate of tax payment (Form number 2 issued by the tax office)

Note 1

Including the birth certificate that can attest that the relationship of the applicant to the Japanese relatives is within the third degree of kinship. Example: When a wife of Philippine nationality residing in Japan invites her younger brother, both the younger brother's (applicant) birth certificate and wife's birth certificate are required.

The required documents must be valid at the time of application, and must be submitted within three months of their date of issue. The documents submitted at the time of application are not to be returned to the applicant, with the exception of the passport.

>As of July 18, 2014- Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website

2. Passport

${f Q}_{f \cdot}$ Could you tell me about the procedures of my home country's passport?

A

[Renewing and extending your passport]

Please go to the embassy or consulate in Japan to renew or extend the period of your passport. For more details, ask the embassy or consulate general of your country in Japan.

[If you lose your passport]

If your passport is lost or stolen in Japan, please report it to the nearest police station as soon as possible and contact the embassy and consulate general of your country in Japan to find out what to do next.

[Transferring endorsements to a new passport]

There are endorsements such as the Status of Residence, and re-entry permit, etc. on your passport. However, they will not be transferred to your renewed passport. You can transfer them by taking both passports to your local immigration office. (If you do not transfer the endorsements on your passport, you will need to hold both passports during your period of stay) For more details, please contact the embassy or consulate general of your country in Japan.

Name of Country	The Embassies/ Consulates in Japan	Address	Phone number FAX number
China	Consulate General of the people's Republic of China	〒064-0913 23-5-1, Minami Jusanjo Nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido	TEL:011-563-5563 FAX:011-563-1818
Korea	Consulate-General of the Republic of Korea in Sendai	〒980-0011 1-4-3, Kamisugi, Aoba-ku, Sendai, Miyagi	TEL:022-221-2751 FAX:022-221-2754
Philippine	Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines	〒016-8537 5-15-5, Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo	TEL:03-5562-1600 FAX:03-5562-1603
U.S.A.	American Consulate General in Sapporo	〒064-0821 28, Kitaichijo-Nishi, Chuo-ku, Sapporo, Hokkaido	TEL:011-641-1115 FAX:011-643-1283
Thai	Royal Thai Embassy	〒141-0021 3-14-6 Kami-Osaki , Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo	TEL:03-3222-4101 FAX:03-3222-4114
Malaysia	Embassy of Malaysia	〒150-0036 20-16, Nanpei-Daicho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo	TEL:03-3476-3840 FAX:03-3476-4971
U.K.	British Embassy	〒102-8381 1, Ichiban-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	TEL:03-5211-1100 FAX:03-5275-3164
Indonesia	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	〒141-0022 5-2-9, Higashi-Gotanda, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo	TEL:03-3441-4201 FAX:03-3447-1697
Canada	Embassy of Canada	〒107-8503 7-3-38, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo	TEL:03-5412-6200 FAX:03-5412-6289
Vietnam	Embassy of Vietnam in To- kyo	〒151-0062 50-11 Motoyoyogi-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo	TEL: 03-3466-3311 FAX: 03-3466-3312

If your country is not listed above, please confirm your embassy and consulate through "The List of Embassy and Consulate Generals in Japan" at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website. (As of March 11, 2011)

Documents necessary to apply for a passport from the Philippines

The Philippines

Switching/updating

Re-issue (Lost/Destroyed)

- Completed application

 (can be downloaded from embassy website)
- 2. Present passport
- 3. Copies of the following passport pages
- Data page (page with name and picture)
- Page with amendment (only if you have this page)
- · Last page
- 4. Self-addressed envelope

(write your return address on the envelope.)

[Passport application fee] Please check with the embassy

[Other]

You must apply on your own

The necessary document changes according to the circumstances in which you need to re-issue your passport (e.g. lost, damaged, etc.)

•Attention• Individual procedures may vary, please verify information with the embassy.

For details, access the Embassy of the Philippines website ⇒Consular Section ⇒ Passport

>As of Oct. 9, 2014- Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines

3. International Marriage and Divorce

\mathbb{Q} . Could you tell me about the procedure for international marriage and divorce?

When two people of different nationalities get married or divorced, the laws of both countries must be observed.

[Marriage between a non-Japanese national and a Japanese national]

When a non-Japanese national and a Japanese national get married, in general, the marriage has to be registered with both countries. If it is registered in one country only, it may become problematic to have the marriage certified in the other country at a later date. There are two ways to register your marriage: 1. Follow the Japanese marriage procedure followed by registration in the other country, or 2. Follow the overseas marriage procedure followed by the Japanese one. (However, in the case of some countries, the second method goes much smoother than the first. Please check the various procedures in advance.)

[Marriage between non-Japanese nationals]

When non-Japanese nationals get married in Japan, please check the procedure with each country's Embassy or consulate in Japan as the procedure varies depending on the country. There is no problem to do the procedure in Japan, so check the required documents in advance when registering the marriage at the local authority Office. Registration of the marriage in the home country is still necessary.

[International divorce]

When a non-Japanese national and Japanese national or non-Japanese nationals want to file for divorce, the divorce has to be registered with both countries. If divorce is only registered in Japan and not in your own country, you are still married there. That may be a source of trouble if you choose to remarry at some point in the future, so please be sure to register divorce in all relevant countries. For more details, please ask the embassy or consulate general of your country in Japan.

<When remarrying>

- 1. Japanese law prohibits women from remarrying until 6 months from the date their divorce is legally granted. However, there are some exemptions such as in the case that the person chooses to remarry their former husband, so please check with the local authority office.
- 2. When a woman of foreign nationality remarries in Japan, the same law applies as well as any laws specified by that of her native country.

Divorce procedures in Japan

[Divorce procedures in Japan]

1. Divorce by agreement (協議離婚-Kyougi Rikon-)

Upon mutual consent submit a registration for divorce to the local authority office.

Divorce Refusal Application • • • If you been presented with a divorce registration you did not agree to, you can submit a divorce refusal application to the local municipality's office and the divorce will not be processed. (This is valid up to 6 months. If you need an extension, you must file another application.)

2. Divorce by mediation (調停離婚-Choutei Rikon-)

When an agreement over divorce cannot be reached, the case may be referred to a family court for mediation. If you are unsatisfied with the mediator's decision, you may object the decision. Please inquire to the family court regarding expenses.

*Please inquire to family court about costs.

3. Divorce by judgment (審判離婚 -Shinpan Rikon-)

When an agreement over divorce cannot be reached even after counsel through mediation, family court can settle the case. You may object if you are unsatisfied with the judge's decision. Please inquire to the family court regarding expenses.

4. Divorce by adjudication (裁判離婚-Saiban Rikon-)

When an agreement over divorce and mediation by the family court cannot be reached, legal action can be taken. A lawyer may be necessary and legal fees will be applied. "Legal Aid" is the financial system to pay back legal expenses little by little or all at once after the trial if you have an economic reason.

(In every case, it is necessary to talk about property, estate, consolation money, custody and cost of raising a child)

[Procedures in foreign country after divorce]

When a non-Japanese national and Japanese national or non-Japanese nationals get divorced, the divorce has to be registered with both countries. If divorce is only registered in Japan and not in your own country, you are still married there. That may be a source of trouble if you choose to remarry at some point in the future.

Consultation about the process in Japan	Consultation about the process in the Philippines
□ Hoterasu Akita TEL: 050-3383-5550 (first time is free)	□Philippine Embassy
□ Akita Bar Association Legal Assistance Center TEL: 018-896-5599 (appointment required)	TEL: 03-5562-1600 Mon–Fri 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Embassies and Consulates in Japan (See p. 14, A list of Embassies and Consulates
□Local municipalities' free legal counseling services□Local newspapers, bulletins	in Japan)

[Status of residence after divorce with spouse of a Japanese national]

Those who have divorced or whose Japanese spouse has died lose their status as Spouse of Japanese National. Although it is not always necessary for them to leave Japan immediately, renewing their Period of Stay becomes impossible. Therefore, if one would like to stay in Japan, another Status of Residence must be obtained. Please consult with the Immigration Bureau.

Legal Affairs Bureau

*Japanese Citizenship (Naturalization)

1. Naturalization

Q. Could you tell me about the conditions necessary to obtain Japanese citizenship?

A.

General conditions for naturalization are as follows: (Article 5 of the Japanese Nationality Act) Also, it is not guaranteed you will be granted citizenship even if you meet all requirements.

[Conditions for obtaining Japanese citizenship]

1. Condition for residence

Must have lived in Japan consecutively for 5 years or more before applying for naturalization.

(A legal residence is require, so one must posses a legitimate Status of Residence)

2. Condition of capability

Must be 20 years of age or over. Also, must be over the age of an adult according to the law of the mother country.

3. 「Condition of behavior」

Must have good behavior and be comprehensively judged based on crime history, record of tax payment, evidence of any menacing actions toward to society, etc.

4. 「Condition for livelihood」

Must be able to maintain a livelihood in Japan and if the applicant does not have enough income to do this by oneself, he/she must receive adequate stable assistance from a relative or spouse.

5. Condition for prevention of double nationality

Must be prepared to give up former nationality in order to obtain Japanese nationality.

6. Condition for observation of constitution

Must not be engaged in or have supported activities of violence or destruction against the Japanese government, nor organized or joined in political parties or groups with the same intention.

*For more details, please inquire to the Legal Affairs Bureau .

>As of Sept. 1, 2014- Ministry of Justice Website

□Contact □

Akita Regional Legal Affairs Bureau Civil Registration Division

Consultation at the division is possible after calling to make an appointment.

Weekdays: 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

TEL: 018-862-1129 7-1-3 Sanno, Akita City, Akita 010-0951

- 1. Foreign nationals must apply for citizenship and are not automatically granted Japanese citizenship even if they marry a Japanese national or become the adopted child of a Japanese national.
- 2. According to Japanese law, children whose mother or father is a Japanese can automatically obtain Japanese citizenship.

$\mathbb{Q}_{f \cdot}$ What are the procedures for obtaining Japanese citizenship?

A.

[Procedures for obtaining Japanese citizenship]

Applicant is required to go to the regional Legal Affairs Bureau to fill out the application from (if applicant is below the age of 15, her or his parents will be a legal representative). The applicant must attach the documents that certify the general conditions for obtaining Japanese citizenship (see p. 26).

The first step is to make an appointment with the Legal Affair Bureau to consult about Japanese citizenship.

[Required documents for application for Japanese citizenship]

- 1. Application form for Japanese citizenship (need a photo of applicant)
- 2. Written summary of relatives
- 3. Motivation for naturalization
- 4. Resume
- 5. Document for summary of livelihood
- 6. Document for outline of business activities
- 7. Copy of certificate of residence
- 8. Document proving nationality
- 9. Document proving kinship
- 10. Document proving tax
- 11. Document proving salary
- 12. Document proving past residency

*Documentation proving nationality and identity should be issued by your country's national authority
*Necessary documentation changes depending on one's nationality, identity, and work, so please consult the
Legal Affairs Bureau or district legal affairs bureau.

>As of Sept. 2, 2014- Ministry of Justice Website

Family Affairs

- *Domestic Violence (DV)
- *Custody

1. Domestic Violence (DV)

Q. I have been beaten by my spouse. Who can I talk to?

A.

The Akita Women's Consultation Center and the Akita Police Department offer support services for women such as consultation, temporary protection, and help with both physical and mental recovery. If you have been the victim of domestic violence, first ensure your safety, then contact one of the following public institutions.

Akita Women's Consultation Center

DV Hotline 2 0120-783-251

Weekdays 8:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m., weekends & holidays 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Akita Police Department "Women's Line 110"

2 0120-028-110

Open 24 hours a day

DV hotline in multiple languages

Name	Yorisoi Hotline	Kapatiran (NGO supporting foreigners)	Asian women's shelter, House in Emergency of Love and Peace	OCNet
Telephone number	0120-279-338	03-3432-3055	03-3368-8855	03-3730-0556
English	Mon (1st, 3rd, 5th week) 10:00-16:00 Wed Fri 10:00-16:00	Tues Fri 11:00-16:00	Mon-Sat 10:00-17:00	Thurs 13:00-20:00 Sat 13:00-17:00
Chinese	Sun 10:00-22:00 Mon 10:00-16:00 Tues Fri 16:00-22:00 Mon Sat (1st, 3rd, 5th week) 16:00-22:00			Thurs 13:00-20:00 Sat 13:00-17:00 (appointment required)
Korean	Wed 10:00-16:00 Mon Tues Sun 16:00-22:00			Thurs 13:00-20:00 Sat 13:00-17:00
Thai	Sat 10:00-22:00 Thurs 10:00-16:00 Wed 16:00-22:00			Thurs 13:00-20:00 Sat 13:00-17:00 (appointment required)
Tagalog	Mon Fri 10:00-16:00 Mon Sat (2nd, 4th week) 16:00- 22:00	Tues Fri 11:00-16:00		Thurs 13:00-20:00 Sat 13:00-17:00 (appointment required)
Vietnamese	Thurs (1st, 3rd, 5th week) 10:00- 16:00			
Russian				Thurs 13:00-20:00 Sat 13:00-17:00 (appointment required)

2. Custody of Children

${f Q}_{f s}$ How should we decide my child custody?

A.

To decide the custody of your child, it is necessary for the mother and father to talk first. When an agreement over the custody is reached, the custodial parent is granted. However, if a mutual agreement is not reached, the case may be referred to family court for mediation. Should the mediation for custody fail, a trial automatically starts and the family court makes a judgment concerning custody.

If those who have children less than 20 years of age, the custodial parent must be decided before the divorce is registered. (If parents got divorced before the birth of the child, the mother will be the custodial parent. However, if the custodial parent is decided before the birth of child, the father can be a custodial parent.)

♦Hoterasu Akita (legal counseling)

Hokuto Building 6 FL

5-1-51 Nakadori, Akita City

TEL: 050-3383-5550 weekdays 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Hoterasu Multilanguage information service (Spanish, Portuguese, English, Chinese, Korean)

TEL: 0570-078377 Mon-Fri 9:00-17:00

《Violence by your spouse or lover》

Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence and includes: emotional abuse (insulting / yelling / ignoring); sexual abuse (forcing sex against one's will / non-cooperation with contraception); physical abuse (hitting / kicking / throwing objects); economic abuse (withholding funds for essential expenses / disallowing working outside the home); and social abuse (controlling or monitoring social life). All are reasons to call for help.

Custody

[If mediation is filed]

Who	Father or mother	
Where	A family court in your partner's area or a family court agreed upon by the mother and father	
Cost	1200 yen revenue stamp and 800 yen postage for each applicable child	
Need to bring	 Written request for mediation (can be obtained at a family court) Petitioner's seal Applicant, partner, and child's family register (certification showing all items) 	

[Legal criterion in the case where custody is decided in court]

Ability to care for the children / mental health / family environment / educational environment / love for the children / desire to raise the children / economic circumstances / age of the children / the children's wishes/ the children's environment / adaptability.

>As of Sept. 8, 2014 from Justice wesbite

[A list of family courts in Akita]

Name of Court	Zip code	Address	Telephone Number
Akita Prefecture Courts Akita Family Courts Akita Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	010-8504	7-1-1, Sanno, Akita City	018-824-3121
Oga Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	010-0511	21 Kasezawa, Funagawa Minato Funagawa, Oga	0185-23-2923
Akita Prefecture Courts Noshiro Branch Akita Family Courts Noshiro Branch Noshiro Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	016-0817	1-15 Kanmachi, Noshiro	0185-52-3278
Akita Prefecture Courts Honjo Branch Akita Family Courts Honjo Branch Honjo Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	015-0872	21 Kawarayachi, Yurihonjo	0184-22-3916
Akita Prefecture Courts Odate Branch Akita Family Courts Odate Branch Odate Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	017-0891	15 Nakajo, Odate	0186-42-0071
Kazuno Summary Courts within Akita Pref. Akita Family Courts Kazuno Branch	018-5201	1-1 Simonakajima, Hanawa, Kazuno	0186-23-2263
Akita Prefecture Courts Yokote Branch Akita Family Courts Yokote Branch Yokote Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	013-0013	2-1 Sirominamimachi, Yokote	0182-32-4130
Yuzawa Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	012-0844	2-6-41 Tamachi, Yuzawa	0183-73-2828
Akita Prefecture Courts Omagari Branch Akita Family Courts Omagari Branch Omagari Summary Courts within Akita Pref.	014-0063	1-20-4 Hinodecho, Omagari, Daisen	0187-63-2033
Kakunodate Summary Courts within Akita Pref. Akita Family Courts Kakunodate Branch	014-0372	77-4 Kodate, Kakunodate-machi, Semboku	0187-63-2305

Job Related

- *Job Seeking
- *Resolving Labor Disputes
- *Trainee System

1. Job

Q. How can I find a job in Akita?

A.

Your best options are to look for a job online or visit a job placement center (Hello-Work)

□AIA cannot directly assist with employment issues.

Name	Address	Phone number
Akita City 1-12-16 Barajima, Akita City		018-864-4111
Hello-Work Plaza Akita	Atorion 3 FL, 2-3-8 Nakadori, Akita City	018-836-7820
Oga	1-3 Shinhama, Funagawa, Funagawainato, Oga	0185-23-2411~2
Noshiro	5-29 Midori-machi, Noshiro	0185-54-7311~3
Odate	1-5-20 Shimizu, Odate	0186-42-2531~3
Takanos	26-1 Higashinakatai, Takanosu, Kitaakita	0186-60-1586
Omagari	33-3 Sumiyoshi-cho, Omagari, Daisen	0187-63-0335~6
Kakunodate	32-3 Kodate, Kakunodate-machi, Daisen	0187-54-2434
Honjo	18-1 Tajirino, Ishiwaki, Yurihonjo	0184-22-3421~2
Yokote	1-2-26 Asahikawa, Yokote	0182-32-1165~6
Hello-Work Plaza Yokote	3-2-7 Jori, Yokote Yoneya Happy Town premises	0182-33-8103
Yuzawa	4-4-3 Shimizu-cho, Yuzawa	0183-73-6117~9
Kazuno	82-4 Arata, Hanawa, Kazuno	0186-23-2173

Foreign nationals who wish to work in Japan must have a Status of Residence that permits them to work. Those found in violation of this will be punished as illegal laborers. For example, those in Japan on a Student or Dependent visa are ineligible to work. However, people on those visas can obtain a form from the immigration office which would allow them to work a part-time job. Even those who are able to work in Japan on their visas can only work a job that falls under their Status of Residence. For example, if someone was in Japan on a training visa, they would still need to apply for a permit for activities unrelated to one's visa if they wanted to receive money for doing translation work.

Work-related legal issues

[Work-related legal issues]

Foreigners working in Japan are protected under various laws.

The Labor Standards Act

Holds employers responsible for displaying labor conditions such as wages, vacations, and working hours.

The Minimum Wage Act

This assures that workers do not get paid less than a certain amount in any given region. (October 31, 2012, Akita's minimum wage is **654** yen per hour.)

Workmen's Accident Compensation Insurance Act

Allows workers to be compensated for injuries incurred on the job, or on the way to work, through the labor insurance system.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare publishes a pamphlet titled, "Are your working conditions fair?" that answers many questions about working conditions in Japan.

(Available in Japanese, English, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish, and Tagalog)

For details, contact your local Labor Standards Supervision Office (p. 38) or visit at the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare's website.

>As of Sept. 8, 2014- website of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

[Work and Status of Residence]

Ability to work	Status of Residence
Can only work in jobs designated by the Status of Residence.	Diplomat, Official, Professor, Artist, Religious Activities, Journalist, Investor/ Business Manager
	Legal/Accounting Services, Medical Services, Researcher, Instructor, Engineer, Specialist in Humanities/International Services, Intercompany Transferee, Entertainer, Skilled Labor, Trainee (*1)
Cannot work	Cultural Activities, Temporary Visitor, Student(*2), Trainee, Dependent
Depends on what activities are designated	Designated Activities
	(Advanced researcher, domestic servant of diplomat, working holiday maker, foreign nurses or welfare caretaker on an economic–partnership agreement
Activities not restricted	Permanent Resident, Spouse or Child of Japanese National, Spouse or Child of Permanent Resident, Long Term Resident (*3)

^{(*}注1) Those here under have [技能実習1号イ], [技能実習2号イ], or [技能実習2号ロ] under their [在留資格] column

>As of Sept. 4, 2014- From Immigration Bureau website, AIA summary of Status of Residence overview

^{(*}注2) If permission if give for activities outside the Status of Residence, certain activities can be performed.。

^{(*}注3) Special Permanent Residents also have no restrictions on their activities.

1. Unemployment insurance

Q. I have been fired. I would like consultation about unemployment insurance and looking for work

A.

If your employer is doing things that are not protected by law such as sexual harassment, bulling, unfair dismissal, or not paying wages, contact the Akita Social Insurance Labor Consultation Center.

□ Contact □

Akita Social Insurance & Labor Consultant Association General Labor Advisory Center

TEL 018-853-9061 FAX: 018-863-1839

Navi Dial 0570-064-794

Tue, Fri 1:00-5:00 p.m. (except national holidays)

Omachi Building 3 FL

3-2-44 Omachi, Akita City 010-0921

Note: Please make requests for consultation appointments via phone, fax, or email. The date and time will be arranged after the request for an appointment has been made.

《If you quit your job》

After you quit your job, there is a lot of paperwork you need to do. For more information contact your local Hello Work office or the Akita Labor Bureau. (TEL:018-883-0007) Japanese only

2. Trainees

Q. I heard that the Trainee and Technical Intern statuses of residence have changed. How have they changed?

A.

The system changed as of July 1, 2010. The Trainee Status of Residence became "Technical intern 1" Status of Residence, and the Designated Activities (Skilled Intern) Status of Residence became the "Skilled Intern 2" Status of Residence. For details, contact the Immigration Bureau.

□ The trainee Status of Residence under the new system is only for those whose training does not involve actual work. (Example : Someone participating in a national training program such as JICA)

□Contact □

Sendai Immigration Bureau Akita Branch (Japanese only)

Akita Daiichi Chihogodo Chosha 5 FL

7-1-3 Sanno, Akita City, Akita 010-0951

TEL: 018-895-5221 9:00 a.m.-12:00 pm., 1:00-4:00 p.m. (except Sat-Sun, holidays)

Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents

Tokyo Health Plaza Hygeia 11 FL

2-44-1 Kabuki-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0021

TEL: 03-3202-5535 03-5155-4039 (TEL/FAX combined use) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

English, Chinese (Mon–Fri, except 2nd & 4th Wed), Portuguese (Mon, Tues, Thurs), Spanish (Mon, Thurs), Bengali (Tues, Wed, except 2nd & 4th Wed), Vietnamese (Fri), Indonesian (Tues)

English, Chinese, Portuguese Mon-Fri (except 2nd and 4th Wed)

Bengali (Tues, Thurs, Fri), Vietnamese (Thurs), Indonesian (Tues), Romanian (Fri 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

Foreign Resident Information Center (foreign language support: English, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, etc.)

5-5-30 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8255

TEL: 0570-013-904 (IP, PHS, from abroad 03-5796-7112)

8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. (except Sat-Sun, holidays)

3. Trainees

Q. My Status of Residence is Trainee. I have not been paid my salary and am being forced to work overtime. What can you do to help?

A.

Labor disputes should be handled by your region's Labor Standards Inspection Office. In addition, the Japanese International Training Corporation Organization (JITCO) provides labor consultation in various languages.

Akita Labor Standards Inspection Office

If you are not being paid your wages, have been let go unfairly, or are being subjected to illegal treatment, contact your local Labor Standards Supervision Office for consultation.

Akita Labor Bureau General Labor Consultation Corner 018-883-4254 (Japanese only)

*Hours 8:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. (excluding Sat, Sun, New Year holiday, national holidays)

Labor Standards Supervision Office	Address	Telephone Number
Akita	7-1-4 Akita 2 nd Joint Government Building Sanno, Akita City 010-0951	018-865-3671
Noshiro	Noshiro Regional Joint Government Building 4-20 Suehiro-machi Noshiro 016-0895	0185-52-6151
Odate	6-2 Sannomaru Odate 017-0897	0186-42-4033
Yokote	1-2-23 Asahijawa Yokote 013-0033	0182-32-3111
Omagari	1-20-12 Hinode Omagari, Daisen 014-0063	0187-63-5151
Honjo	428 Mizubayashi, Yurihonjo 015 0885	0184-22-4124

[Japanese International Training Corporation Organization (JITCO)]

Native language consultation hotline: 0120-022332 (toll free)

General phone number: 03-6430-1111

Note: consultation in foreign languages is not available on holidays.

Consultation can also be conducted by mail or fax. FAX: 03-6430-1114

Mailing address: JITCO Native-Language Consultation Sumitomo Hamamatsu-cho Bldg. 4FL

1-18-16 Hamamatsu-cho, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0013

Chinese: Tue, Thurs, Sat

Reception hours: Tues, Thurs 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m (1-2 p.m. lunch), Sat 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Indonesian: Tue, Sat

Reception hours: Tues, Thurs 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m (1-2 p.m. lunch), Sat 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Vietnamese: Tue, Thurs, Sat

Reception hours: Tues, Thurs 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m (1-2 p.m. lunch), Sat 1:00-7:00 p.m.

Medical Issues

- *Foreign Language Speaking Hospitals
- *Medical Insurance

1. Foreign Language Speaking Hospitals

Q. Iw

I want to go to the hospital, but don't speak Japanese.

What should I do?

A.

[For individuals with Internet access]

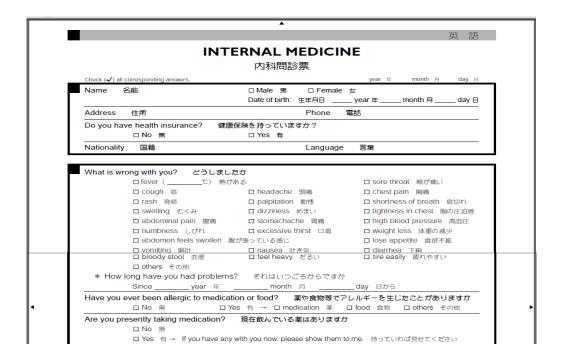
Check your symptoms on the Multilingual Medical Questionnaire and bring it with you to the hospital as shown in the example below. This form is for foreigners living in Japan to take to the hospital to help communicate to the doctor their medical condition. This form has been translated for 10 different medical departments into 17 different languages. You can find this questionnaire by searching

「多言語医療問診票」 or by going to the URL: http://www.k-i-a.or.jp/medical/

[Available languages]

Indonesian, Tagalog, Farsi, English, Chinese (Mandarin), Portuguese, Cambodian, Japanese, Laotian, Spanish, Korean, Russian, Thai, Vietnamese, French, German, Arabic, Croatian, Nepalese

>As of Sept. 4, 2014– Kanagawa International Foundation Website



[For those without internet access]

Please contact AIA telephone consultation services.

Akita International Association (AIA)

Atorion Bldg. 1 FL, 2-3-8 Nakadori, Akita City, Akita 010-0001

TEL: 018-893-5499

Weekdays 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

2. Public Health Insurance System

${f Q}_{f s}$ Could you tell me about Japan's medical insurance system?

A.

Japan's medical insurance system is separated into two categories as listed below.

[Health Insurance]

Contact

• Who : Workers and the family of workers at companies that have health insurance.

• Description : After the insurance certificate in issued, upon displaying it to a hospital you will only

be liable for 30% of standard medical costs.

: Obtained through your work or office.

[National Health Insurance]

• Who : Individuals and their families who are not enrolled in their workplace's health insurance, who receive the basic resident register, and whose status of residence is 3 months or more (those not on welfare)

*However, individuals of countries with social security agreements with Japan concerning public health insurance systems may not need to enroll.

• Description: After the insurance certificate in issued, upon displaying it to a hospital you will only be liable for 30% of standard medical costs.

Contact : Consult your local municipal office

[Benefits]

- Medical costs......30% must be paid for by yourself, while the government pays 70%
- Expensive medical costs...The insured will be eligible for reimbursement after medical expenses exceed a certain amount.
- Childbirth one-time lump payment...Roughly 420,000 yen will be paid upon childbirth.

(The exact amount differs by municipality.)

[Excluded from benefits]

oThings that must be borne completely by the individual:

Traffic accidents, abortions, plastic surgery, health checkups, vaccinations, orthodontics, etc.

oThings that fall under accident compensation insurance:

Injuries sustained during work or during a traffic accident on the way to work, etc.

Education

- *Japanese Classes
- *Education and School Admission
- *Study Abroad
- *Japanese Proficiency Tests

1. Japanese Classes

${f Q}_{f a}$. Where can I attend Japanese classes?



There are Japanese classes all over Akita. For details on specific classes, please contact the class directly.

As of April 23, 2014 - Akita International Association Survey

[Kazuno City]	【Kita-Akita City】	[Odate City]	
①Kazuno City Japanese Class	①Kita-Akita City Japanese Class	①Odate City Japanese Class	
②Sat 13:30-15:30	②Sun 10:00-12:00	②Mon 17:30-19:30 Wed 10:00-12:00	
③Hanawa Civil Center	③Kita-Akita City cultural hall	③North Akita Gender Equality Center	
25 0186-30-0294	☎ 0186-62-1130	☎ 0186-43-7027	
[Kamikoani Village]	[Noshiro City]	[Fujisato Town]	
①Japanese Class "Fureai"	①Noshiro Japanese Class	①Fujisato International Assoc. Japanese Class	
②Sat 19:00-20:30	②Tue 19:00-21:00 Thu 10:00-12:00	②Wed 10:00-12:00	
③Lifelong Learning Center	③ (Tues) Noshiro Central Community Center	③ "FujisatoMachi San-Sedai Kouryukan"	
2 0186-60-9000	23 0185-89-2148	☎ 0185-79-1327	
[Mitane Town]	[Hachirogata Town]	[Katagami City]	
①Mitane Town Japanese Class	①Hachirogata Japanese Class	①Katagami City Japanese Class	
② 1st&3rd Tue 10:00-12:00 2nd & 4thFri 10:00-12:00	②1st, 2nd, 3rd Thu 19:00-21:00	②Sun 10:00-12:00	
③Hachiryu Community Center	③ "Roman No Sato"	③Katagami City Tenno Community Center	
☎ 0185-85-2177	2 018-875-2092	☎ 018-878-4111	
[Oga City]	[Akita City]	[Akita City]	
①Oga City Japanese Class	①Japanese Class "Nijiasu"	①Akita City Japanese Class	
②Sat 10:00-12:00	②Wed 10:00-11:30	②Thu 18:30-20:00	
③Oga City Central Community Center	3 Joinus	③Joinus	
☎ 0185-23-2251	25 018-834-7936	2 018-866-2033	
[Akita City]	[Akita City]	[Akita City]	
①Iroha Club	①Japanese Class "Jalsa"	①Akita City Japanese Association	
②Tue 18:00-19:30	②Wed 13:00-14:30 Fri 13:00-14:30	②Thu 18:30-20:00	
③Atorion 6F Harmony Plaza	③Nigiwai Koryukan AU	③Joinus	
☎ 018-864-1706	☎ 018-835-2009	☎ 018-866-2033	
[Yuri-Honjo City]	[Nikaho City]	[Daisen City] [Semboku City] [Misato Town]	
①Yuri-Honjo City Japanese class	①Nikaho Japanese class	①Daisen Semboku Area Japanese classes	
②Fri 18:45-20:45	②Wed 10:00-12:00	②Tue 19:00-21:00 ③Omagari Exchange Center	
③Cultural Exchange Center "Kadare"	③Kisakata Community Center	②Wed 10:00-12:00 ③Omagari Exchange Center	
☎0184-22-0900	☎ 0184-43-7510	②Sun 10:00-12:00 ③Kakunodate Exchange Center	
		②Tue 10:00-12:00 ③Misato Fureai Center	
		25 0187-63-1111	
[Yuzawa City]	[Yuzawa City]	[Yokote City]	
①Yuzawa City Japanese class (Yuzawa)	①Yuzawa City Japanese class (Ogachi)	①Yokote City Japanese class	
②Wed 10:00-12:00	②Thu 19:00-21:00	②Fri 10:00-12:00	
③Yuzawa City working youth Home	③Ogachi Cultural Hall	③Y2 Plaza	
द 30183-73-2163	द 30183-73-2163	☎ 0182-35-2158	
[Yokote City]			
①Tues Volunteer Class			
②Tue 17:00-20:00			
③Y2 Plaza 3F			
☎ 0182-23-5337			

These classes' details are subjected to change. For more details, contact the class directly.

2. Education and School Admission

Q. Can you tell me about education and school admission for my child whom I brought with me from my home country?

A.

[Admission to elementary/junior high school]

Although not mandatory for non-Japanese children, elementary and junior high schools can be attended by all school age children in Japan. Those who wish to admit their kids should contact their local board of education. (A list of the boards of education can be found on p. 46)

[Entering high school]

Children who attended high school in other prefectures/countries should contact the Akita Prefectural Bureau of Education Senior High School Education Division (TEL: 018-860-5161). Those that wish to be admitted to a private school should contact the school directly. (

A list of private high schools can be found on p. 46)

[For foreign kids/students that need Japanese language education.

(Only for children of compulsory school age in public educational institutions)

Municipalities offer the following support for foreign students/children that do not speak Japanese: The student enrolls in the regular class and available teachers or Japanese language teacher accompanies the student, or the student receives Japanese language classes in place of other classes. For further details about what kind of support is available, please contact your municipality's board of education (see p. 46).

《Japanese language for children》

For children whose native language is not Japanese, studying at a Japanese school will likely be very difficult. Schools will conduct all of their classes in Japanese and classroom Japanese differs from words used in every day life. Adding a difficult language to existing troubles of adapting to a new culture and customs can be a physiological burden on a child. If you feel as though your child may need support learning Japanese, please talk to your school.

[Municipal Boards of Education and Private High Schools]

Municipal Boards of Education			
Contact Information	Address	Telephone	
Akita Prefectural Board of Education	3-1-1 Sanno, Akita City	018-860-5111	
Akita City Board of Education	2-1-53 Sanno, Akita City	018-866-2242	
Noshiro Board of Education	1-1 Uwadai, Futatsui-machi, Noshiro	0185-73-2757	
Yokote Board of Education	8-12 Chuo-machi, Yokote	0182-32-2402	
Odate Board of Education	43-1 Uwano, Hayaguchi, Odate	0186-43-7111	
Oga Board of Education	452 lenoshita, Kakumazaki, Oga	0185-46-4107	
Yuzawa Board of Education	120 Kamihirajo, Kawatsura-cho, Yuzawa	0183-42-5806	
Kazuno Board of Education	4-1 Arata, Hanawa, Kazuno	0186-30-0290	
Yurihonjo Board of Education	40-61 Bentenmae, Nishime-machi Numata, Yurihonjo	0184-32-1306	
Katagami Board of Education	70 Yatsukuchi, litagawashimoabukawa, Katagami	018-877-7803	
Daisen Board of Education	2-16 Omagari Kamisakae-cho, Daisen	0187-63-1111	
Kitaakita Board of Education	15-1 Hanazono-cho, Kitaakita	0186-62-6616	
Nikaho Board of Education	49-2 Minamikonoura, Konoura, Nikaho	0184-38-2259	
Semboku Board of Education	19 Higashikatsuraku-cho, Kakunodate-machi, Semboku	0187-43-3381	
Kosaka Board of Education	7-1 Sunamori Kosaka, Kosaka-machi, Kazuno-gun	0186-29-2342	
Kamikoani Board of Education	60-3 Mukaikawara, Kosawada, Kamikoani-mura, Kitaakita-gun	0186-60-9000	
Fujisato Board of Education	67 Ienoushiro, Fujikoto, Fujisato-machi, Yamamoto-gun	0185-79-1327	
Mitane Board of Education	29-3 Higashinihonyanagi, Kado, Mitane-cho, Yamamoto-gun	0185-87-2115	
Happo Board of Education	196-1 Nakahama, Hachimori, Happo-cho, Yamamoto-gun	0185-77-2816	
Gojome Board of Education	1-1-1 Nishiisonome, Gojome-machi, Minamiakita-gun	018-852-5372	
Hachirogata Board of Education	80 Omichi, Hachirogata-machi, Minamiakita-gun	018-875-5812	
Ikawa Board of Education	79-2 Ebisawatoyonokuchi, Kitakawashiri, Ikawa-machi, Minamiakita-gun	018-874-4424	
Ogata Board of Education	1-21 Chuo, Ogata-mura, Minamiakita-gun	0185-45-3240	
Misato Board of Education	170-10 Uwanootsu, Tsuchizaki, Misato-cho, Semboku-gun	0187-84-4914	
Ugo Board of Education	177 Nakano, Nishimonai, Ugo-machi, Ogachi-gun	0183-62-2111	
Higashi-Naruse Board of Education	30-1 Senninshita, Tagonai, Higashinaruse-mura, Ogachi-gun	0182-47-3415	

Private High Schools			
School	Address	Telephone	
Meio High School	8-1 Shimokitatesakura Mamorisawa, Akita City 010-8525	018-836-2470	
Wayo Girls High School	2-26 Meitokumachi, Senshu, Akita City 010-0875	018-833-1353	
Kokugakukan High School	3-31 Meitokumachi, Senshu, Akita City 010-0875	018-833-6361	
Seirei Senior High School	4-82 Misonomachi, Mimaidori Akita City 010-8533	018-833-7311	
Akita Shuei High School	1-1-30 Suwamachi Omagari, Daisen 014-0047	0187-63-2622	

Daiichi Gakuin Koto High School

Correspondence school. Upon graduation, students receive high school graduation credentials. School provides examination instruction for Certificate for Students Achieving the Proficiency Level of Upper Secondary School Graduates and for university exams.

Address: 301 Yashikida Hiroomote, Akita City 010-0041 ☐ 018-835-9037

Akita Clark High School

Clark High School is a correspondence school that offers high school credentials upon graduating.

Address: Akita Square Building 5 FL, 4-14-16 Nakadori, Akita City 010-0001

□ 018-835-1086

3. Study Abroad

Q. I would like to study abroad. Who should I get in contact with?

A.

(If you would like to study abroad in Japan)

If you would like to study abroad at a college or vocational school in Japan, you must follow that institution's procedures. It is best to contact the school directly. For information on Akita Prefecture's universities and technical schools, please visit the Akita Prefectural Office website 「美の国あきたネット」.

[If you would like to study abroad in a foreign country]

Find a program you like through the internet or school pamphlets and follow that school's instructions.

Basic information concerning study abroad is published in JASSO.

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO)- Student Exchange Department

2-79 Oume, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-8630

TEL: 03-5520-6141 URL: http://www.jasso.go.jp/ryugaku/index.html

Note:

Browsing available in Chinese (simplified, traditional), English, Korean, Spanish, Thai, Vietnamese, and Japanese.

JASSO also distributes the booklet *Student Guide to Japan*, which contains basic information about studying abroad in Japan.

The DVD Bridges to Japan- Study Abroad Guide for a Brave New World is available to view on the Internet.

<Unification of "Student" and "Attending School" statuses of residence>

In July 2010, the Student and Attending School statuses of residence were unified into the "Student" Status of Residence. If there are no changes in activities, the student in Japan as Attending School need not change his/her Status of Residence.

Permits for activities outside the Status of Residence were formerly treated differently for those on Student and Attending. After reform both are now limited to 28 hours in a week (8 hours a day during vacations.)

>As of March 1, 2011- Immigration Bureau website

4. Japanese Proficiency Tests

Q. Could you tell me a bit about Japanese proficiency tests?

A.

Japanese proficiency tests are held multiple times throughout the year. Please refer to the chart below.

Name of test	Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)	Business J. TEST (Test of Practical Japanese)	Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students (EJU)	Business Japanese Proficiency Test
Times held a year	Twice a year	Six times a year	Twice a year	Twice a year
Cost	5,500 yen	4,500 yen	One subject 7,164 yen Two or more subjects 13,294 yen	7,000yen
Description	Measures and certifies the Japanese ability of an individual whose native language is not Japanese. Testing is held both in Japan and abroad.	Measures Japanese language proficiency required for employment and academic advancement to higher education, or for practical work that requires Japanese language ability. Intermediate-Advanced: A-D Levels Beginner: E-F levels Entry level: G	Evaluates the Japanese language proficiency and basic academic abilities of international students who wish to study at a Japanese university or institute of higher education.	Evaluates one's ability to understand and apply Japanese to appropriately respond to business issues using not only words, but the sentences, diagrams, photographs, and all provided information.
Contact	03-6686-2974	03-3633-2212	03-6407-7457	0120-509-315 (toll free)
Implementin g organization	Japan Educational Exchanges and Services Association Japan Foundation	The Japanese Language Examination Committee J.TEST Office	Japan Student Services Organization Student Exchange Department, Testing Division	The Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Public Interest Foundation
URL	http://www.jlpt.jp/ index.html	http://j-test.jp/	http://www.jasso.go.jp/ eju/index.html	http://www.kanken.or.jp/ bjt/

Interpreting Translating

*Requesting Interpretation/Translation

1. Translation

Q.

I would like to request a translator/interpreter.

A.

Akita International Association offers interpretation and translation services through our supporter system. This service is not free of charge. Please inquire for more details.

[Target clientele]

Municipalities, educational institutes, public organizations, NGOs and NPOs, and any other organizations recognized by the AIA.

[Process from request to commencement of service]

Note: Please download the necessary forms from the AIA website, or visit AIA to fill out the application.

- 1. In principle, the client should submit a request to AIA one month before any work is to begin.
 - Note: For urgent requests, please contact us by phone.
- 2. After AIA deems the request appropriate, AIA will decide on the appropriate supporter.
- 3. Once the supporter is decided, AIA will inform the client of the supporter's contact information.
- 4. The client and the supporter will conduct a preliminary meeting before the start of any work and make adjustments to details such as remuneration and transportation costs. An AIA member will join the meeting when necessary. Please present the supporter with a written request letter that clearly states the supporter's terms of commission (remuneration, transportation costs, etc.) The client may decide upon the format of the request letter. However, feel free to download the template for the letter of request, which can be found on the AIA website.
- 5. Please submit the client questionnaire to AIA after the commission has been completed.

[Estimated costs for client]

Interpretation: 2,000 yen~ per hour

Translation:

Documents with specialized vocabulary 4,500 yen~ /per page (A4 about 400 characters)

Pamphlet, flier, etc. 3,000 yen~ /per page (A4 about 400 characters)

Forms to submit to administrative offices, etc. 2,500 yen~ /per copy

[Disclaimer]

AIA does not participate at all in the remuneration negotiations with the supporter.

♦ Akita International Association (AIA)

Atorion Bldg. 1 FL, 2-3-8 Nakadori, Akita City, Akita 010-0001

TEL: 018-893-5499

http://www.aiahome.or.jp E-mail: aia@aiahome.or.jp

Driver's License

*Driver's License

1. Driver's License

Q. If I have a driver's license in my home country, can I legally drive in Japan?

A

To drive in Japan you need to possess a valid driver's license. In cases below, your home country's license is valid in Japan. For details, contact the Akita Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre.

[Countries whose licenses are valid in Japan]

Licenses issued by Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Taiwan are valid if they are attached with a Japanese translation issued by the country's license issuing institution, embassy/consulate, the JAF, or the East Asia Relations Committee (only in the case of Taiwan) for a maximum of 1 year from the date of arrival to Japan.

[International Driving Permit from countries party to the Geneva Convention]

If an international driving permit is obtained in your home country at least 3 months after you first obtained a license in your home country, then you can use that permit in Japan for 1 year after date of arrival. You cannot extend the permit, or change it to a Japanese license.

(Countries party to the Geneva convention: The Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Hong Kong, Macao, England, The United States, Canada, Australia, Italy, France, and 95 other countries and 2 regions— as of December, 2011)

[Changing your license from you home country to a Japanese license]

After having lived in your home country at least 3 months after obtaining your license, and if the license is still valid, you can change it to a Japanese license if you pass the examination administered by a Japanese licensing center. When applying, you require a Japanese translation of your foreign license by your home country's embassy/consulate or JAF.

(Those from England/Australia/Italy/France/Switzerland and 20 other countries are not require to take the test to change to a Japanese License.)

*If none of the above applies to you, you are required to obtain a Japanese driving license by attending a driving school in Japan, passing the required examinations to obtain a general car license, and a written examination held at the Driving License Center. In Akita, the written examination is available in English or in Japanese with Hiragana.

Akita Prefectural Police Headquarters Driver's License Center

12-1 Arayaminamihama-machi, Akita City, 010-1607

TEL: 018-862-7570

General driver's license information

http://www.police.pref.akita.jp/kenkei/menkyo/index.html

《When testing for a license in Japan, there is a handy guidebook available in several languages》

Rules of the Road is available for purchase in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, and Farsi from the Japan Automotive Federation. The driver's exam is based on material that this book covers.

Consultation Chart

Akita Quick Consultation Chart

Although most services offer counseling in Japanese only, organizations with the \square mark can also respond in foreign languages as well.

Туре	Keyword	Relevant Office	Contact Information	
General	 I would like to consult in my mother language I have received a consulta- tion from my foreign friend 	★Akita International Association (AIA) (English/Chinese/Korean/Japanese)	018-884-7050	Thursdays 13:00-15:00
Visa	► Changing Status of Residence► I want to bring my	Sendai Immigration Bureau Akita Branch	018-895-5221 9:00-12:00	
Issues	biological child to Japan ▶ Permanent residency ▶ Re-entry permits	Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents	03-3202-5535	13:00-16:00 (except Sat, Sun, holidays)
Embassy	► International Marriage/	★Each country's embassy/consulate	See p. 20	Except for the embassy on p. 14, you should look for information about embassies online.
Consulate		《The Philippines》 ★Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Roppongi, Tokyo	03-5562-1600	
Ministry	Calling relatives to visit Japan for a short period	Consultation Support Center for Foreign Residents	03-5501-8431	9:00-12:15 13:15-17:00 (except Sat, Sun, holidays)
Legal Affairs	► Naturalization	Akita Regional Legal Affairs Bureau	018-862-6531	Weekdays 8:30-17:15
Women's Rights	► Reporting sexual harassment	Akita Women's Consultation Center	018-835-9052	Weekdays 8:30-17:15 Sat/Sun/holidays 9:00-18:00
Domestic Abuse	► Domestic abuse by a spouse or partner	Women's counseling hotline	018-835-9052	Weekdays 8:30-21:00 Sat/Sun/Holidays 9:00-18:00
Education	► Compulsory education	Your local board of education	See p. 46	-
	►Getting into high school	(Public) Akita Prefecture High School Education Division (Private) Individual private school	018-860-5161 See p. 46	_

Туре	Keyword	Relevant Office	Contact I	nformation
Labor Issues	►I am looking for employment	Your Local Hello Work (Public Employment Office)	See p. 34	_
	► About Trainees	Your Local Labor Standards Office	See p. 38	
	►I have been fired►My wages are not being paid	★JITCO (Indonesian/Chinese/Vietnamese)	0120-022-332 03-6430-1111	Indonesian: Tue, Sat Chinese: Tue, Thu, Sat Vietnamese: Tue, Thu, Sat Tue, Thu 11:00- 19:00 Sat 13:00-19:00
Medical Issue	► Public Health Insurance	Your local municipality's National Health Insurance Division	Local	_
	► Social Insurance	Japan Health Insurance Association, Akita Branch	018-883-1650	-
Japanese	▶I want to find a Japanese class	Japanese classes	See p. 44	_
	►I want to take a proficiency test	Proficiency tests	See p. 48	-
Study Abroad	▶I want to study in Japan	Japan Student Services Association	03-5520-6141	Weekdays 9:30-17:00
	▶I want to study abroad	Study abroad pamphlets	_	(Ever 2 nd Wednesday except holidays)
Interpre- tation Transla- tion	►I want to request translation/interpretation	Akita International Association (AIA)	018-893-5499	Weekdays 10:00-18:00 (Except Sat, Sun, holidays)
Driver's License	 ▶I want a Japanese License ▶I want to change my country's license to a Japanese one 	Akita Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre	018-862-7570	Weekdays 8:30-9:30 13:00-13:50

Foreign Residents Support Project Counseling Q&A (English ver.)

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Address : Atorion Bldg. 1 FL, 2-3-8 Nakadori, Akita City, Akita

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