

Kocoforre News

Issue 3: Winter 2023

Kocoforre is the nickname for the Kochi Consultation Center for Foreign Residents

We hope that everyone is doing well in this beautiful new year. In Kocoforre News, we introduce our center's activities and useful information for foreign residents, those who are connected with foreigners, and people interested in multiculturalism.

Topics About Status of Residence

For more information, please visit the website of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan.
<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/index.html>



In this issue, we will answer some frequently asked questions about the status of residence granted to foreigners when they enter Japan, depending on their purpose of entry and stay.

Q. I want to hire an overseas student as a part-time worker, but their residence card says that they are not permitted to work (就労不可). Can I hire them?

Learn how to apply for an exception here

A. If there is an entry on the back of the residence card stating that they are permitted to engage in activities other than those stated on the front of the card (資格外活動許可), they can be employed. If it is not written, you need to apply for such an exception at the nearest immigration office. Please also note that for part-time jobs outside of those permitted under the status of residence, there is a limit of 28 hours per week.
<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/16-8.html>



Q. I have lived in Japan for a long time, so I would like to stay in Japan for the rest of my life.

Learn how to apply for permanent residence

A. If you want to live permanently in Japan, you will need to apply for permanent residence. The permanent residence status (永住者) has lesser restrictions than other statuses, as it has no restrictions on both permitted activities and period of stay. For this reason, obtaining a permanent residence status requires a more careful examination. There are special requirements that other statuses do not require. They are that the applicant ①Must be of good behavior ② Must possess sufficient assets or ability to make an independent living ③Must be acknowledged that their permanent residency would be in the best interests of Japan.
<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/procedures/16-4.html>



Q. I came to Japan as a tourist and am here with a temporary visitor status (短期滞在). Can I work in Japan?

A. As a general rule, foreigners staying in Japan with a temporary visitor status (for sightseeing, visiting relatives, etc.) are not allowed to work in Japan, except for short-term business purposes such as business trips.

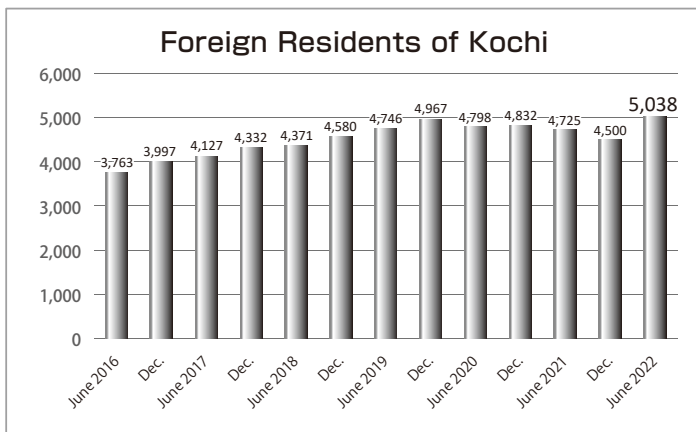
Q. We are a foreign couple and we recently had a child. What should we do?

See Q&A on immigration matters

A. You will need to apply for a status of residence for your child. This application should be made within 30 days from the date of birth, at the regional immigration office in charge of your residence area. If the child is to leave Japan within 60 days from the date of birth (except in cases of the usage of re-entry permits), there is no need for a status of residence application. Other procedures include registering the birth of your child at your local municipal office, obtaining health insurance for them, and contacting your embassy or consulate in Japan to register their birth and obtain a passport.
https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/guide/kanri_qa.html



Foreign residents in Kochi! Are they increasing or decreasing? Based on foreign residents statistics from the Immigration Services Agency of Japan



As of end-June 2022: 5,038 people

<By Nationality> Top 10 Countries

<Unit: Person>

Pop. Ranking	Country	No. of Residents	Ratio
1	Vietnam	1,356	26.9%
2	China	892	17.7%
3	Philippines	754	15.0%
4	Korea	447	8.9%
5	Indonesia	442	8.8%
6	USA	161	3.2%
7	Myanmar	115	2.3%
8	Nepal	109	2.2%
9	Cambodia	105	2.1%
10	India	66	1.3%

The number of foreign residents in Kochi Prefecture was on the increase until the end of 2019. However, it declined in 2020 due to restrictions on new arrivals from abroad as part of the border control measures against Covid-19. From the Spring of 2022, entry restrictions were relaxed and the number of foreign residents in the prefecture reached 5,038 at the end of June 2022.

Highlights of Kocoforre's activities

(Apr 2022 - Dec 2022)

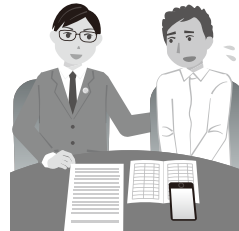
Kocoforre does not only hold general consultations at its main center, but also holds on-site consultations at various municipalities, and legal consultations with the cooperation of the Kochi Bar Association. Kocoforre also participates in various international events by setting up a consultation space where foreigners and Japanese people who are involved with foreigners can freely ask for advice.

Consultations Held

On-site Consultations

On-site consultations were held at Shimanto City on the 5th of August, and at Nankoku City on the 13th of November. These consultations were mainly on status of residence and were handled by specialists from the regional immigration services bureau. For foreigners to live in Japan, they require a residence permit called "status of residence". However, there are many different types of "status of residence" and the procedures for renewing or changing them can be complicated. At the consultations, the bureau staff answered questions asked by consultors, explaining in detail and in an easy-to-understand manner.

Legal Consultations



From September 12th to the 17th, Kocoforre held a free legal consultation week for foreigners where foreign nationals and Japanese people who were involved with foreigners consulted a lawyer for free. Lawyers kindly listened to the problems that the consultors faced and explained how to deal with them accurately from a legal perspective.

Events Participated

16th October International Fureai Hiroba 2022

Organized by: Kochi International Association



Various international exchange and cooperative organizations sold international cuisines and folk crafts, and introduced their activities.



The stage program was lined up with performances of international musician instruments, a talk show by CIRs, and more.

27th November

Kochi-Vietnam Exchange Event 2022

Organized by: Kochi-Vietnam Exchange Association



Kocoforre also set up a booth to give out information in various languages and share about their activities.



Entertainment such as Vietnamese folk music and dance, talk shows, and quiz contests were held on a specially-made stage.



Long queues formed at shops selling Vietnamese food and products.

Announcements from Kocoforre



Kocoforre is now a designated consultation branch of Houterasu, a Japan Legal Support Center.

Thanks to this, consultors wanting to consult with Houterasu, can do so at Kocoforre. In addition, consultors are able to receive support from Kocoforre interpreters and use a telephone interpretation service that is available in 21 languages.

In addition to legal advice, Kocoforre is also able to assist with other areas, such as daily life. For more information, please see the Kocoforre website.

Upcoming Consultation Sessions with Specialists

Details will be posted on the Kocoforre website as soon as they are finalized

18th February 2023 (Sat)	Tosa City On-site Consultation	Bureau staff from the regional immigration services bureau will be giving consultations. Consultors can ask for detailed explanations regarding status of residence. Other than that, consultors can consult Kocoforre consultees about any matters in daily life.
27th February 2023 (Mon) - 4th March 2023 (Sat)	Free Legal Consultation Week for Foreigners	Lawyers will be giving consultations. Consultations are available for foreigners, as well as Japanese nationals who are involved with foreigners. However, corporations are not eligible.

Seminars and Workshops

26th February 2023 (Sun)	Course for Volunteer Community Interpreters	Venue: Kochi City - Kochi Jinken Keihatsu Center's Hall (6F)	Content: Mental attitude and ethics when assisting foreigners
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Website



Available in Japanese, English, Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, and Vietnamese.

Instagram



Useful information on living in Japan is posted up in simple Japanese.

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