Tighter regulations on foreign residents

- A new registration card with IC chip will replace the current foreign resident registration card.
  Bills revising the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act and Basic Resident Registration Law were submitted to the Diet to create a new residence control system and resident certificate system for foreigners.
  Under the new system, the Immigration Bureau will collect and control personal information on foreign residents. A new foreign resident registration card with an IC chip will be issued to replace the current registration card.
  Further, the revision of the Basic Resident Registration Law aims to establish a resident certificate system for foreign residents in order to provide administrative services.

- The new registration card must be carried at all times.
  The new registration card will be issued to foreign residents who are officially permitted to stay in Japan for 3 months or longer. Foreigners must always carry the new registration card when going out, or be subject to penalties.

- You will be required to provide a wide range of information to the Immigration Bureau.
  1. The new registration card will be issued at the Immigration Bureau, rather than at the local municipal office.
  2. Depending on your visa status, you will be required to report a wide range of information to the Immigration Bureau. Failure to report is punishable by a fine, and possible revocation of visa (see the following points).

  - Foreigners officially permitted to stay in Japan for 3 months or longer
    You must report any change of address to the municipal office within 14 days when you move. The office will send the address change to the Immigration Bureau.
    Your visa status can be cancelled if you don’t report within 90 days.

  - Foreigners with “Spouse of Japanese National” or “Spouse of Permanent Resident” visa status
    You must report to the Immigration Bureau within 14 days in the case of divorce, or death of your spouse.
    Your visa status can be cancelled if you are continuously “inactive as a spouse”, e.g. due to separation, for 3 months or longer.

  - Foreigners with working visas including “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, “Engineer”, “Skilled Labor”, “College Student” or “Trainee”
    You must report to the Immigration Bureau the name and address of the organization to which you belong. If you leave the reported organization and join another (i.e. change jobs or schools), you must report it. In the case of “Specialist in Humanities/International Services”, “Engineer”, or “Skilled Labor”, you must report to the Immigration Bureau within 14 days if your contract ends or you enter into a new contract.
    Your visa status can be cancelled if you do not conduct the permitted activity continuously for a period of 3 months or longer.

- Undocumented residents and asylum seekers become invisible.
  Under the revised law, undocumented residents and asylum seekers will not be issued the new foreign resident IC card. In addition, they cannot register as residents at municipal offices unless they have permission for provisional stay or landing permission for temporary refuge. It is of grave concern that they will face even greater difficulties in going to school or hospital.

- Immigration Bureau will collect and control personal information on foreigners
  It will be technically possible for the Immigration Bureau to match a foreigner’s personal information with the data gathered from his/her employer or other institution, and use it when deciding the change of visa status or extension of period of stay.
Say no to immigration law revision!

An assembly and rally will be held to protest amendments to the law.

Everyone is welcome to attend!

Date: May 24th (Sun)
14:00-15:30 Assembly
16:00-17:00 Rally

Place: Koutsu Biru
(Tokyo, Minato-ku, Shimbashi 5-15-5)
6 minutes' walk from Shimbashi station (JR Line, Karasumori-guchi)

Raise your voice in protest against government representatives who are discussing the revised bills without hearing the opinions of the foreign residents affected by the amendments.

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Did you know?

Bills are now under discussion in the Diet to impose tighter control on foreign residents.