

The Ministry of Justice introduced new countermeasure for Recognition of Refugee Status system

If you think of application of refugee status

.....
please think about your future situation

Who are refugees?

Refugees are those who escape to other country because they are in danger of being persecuted because of race, religion, nationality or political opinion, or because they belong to a special social group. When the applicant who came to Japan, is recognized as a refugee status, the person is qualified as a long term resident and can work without any restriction, same as Japanese. Qualification of long term resident is approved also in case of any humanitarian reason.

Procedure of application of refugee status

- ① Those who claim refugee should apply for refugee status at Immigration Bureau. After application of recognition of refugee status, the person can stay Japan without qualification of work ability, for 6 months. Living expenses during that (85000 yen per month) will be supplied from the government. You'd better learn Japanese at local Japanese language class or NPO to improve Japanese conversation necessary for working in Japan.
- ② Result of recognition of refugee status cannot be given even you go to the Immigration Bureau 6 months after the application, in actual case. If you want to stay Japan after that, you may be given Designated Activities visa, permitting to stay for another 6 months. You cannot receive living expenses any more but you can work as the same without any restriction in working time or operation contents, excluding adult-entertainment business.
- ③ Period of stay is 6 month. You must go to the Immigration Bureau every 6 months to renew the visa to extend the period of stay. If you become trusted by your employer and employed for long period of time you may change the visa to Specialist in Humanities/International Services so that you can keep working in Japan.

In case when not recognized as refugee

After about 2 years of refugee status application and has not been recognized, though you want to stay Japan more, you can make an objection against the result. In the past you could repeat the flow of [Application of refugee status -> Not recognized -> Objection-> Dismissal] as long as you want to. However, the procedure is limited to 2 years at longest, since 2017.

Application of refugee status of overseas students and practice training workers

When you had overseas study visa or industrial trainee visa and you applied for refugee status, you will be compulsory confined to facilities of immigration bureau. This is to put the break on rapid growth of forgery of refugee status application.

Some people come to Japan with overseas student visa, borrowing big money from relatives to pay to an agent, because they believed a story in a local TV, such as "you can make 350000 yen per month in Japan." However, in case of "Permission to Engage in an Activity Other Than That Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted", you can only work 28 hours per week. As a result, many of them will be pressed for money and apply for refugee status. However, persons with overseas student visa or industrial trainee visa cannot apply for refugee status. Please think of your future very well and do not make thoughtless action.

