

**Changes to the Immigration Control Act. Part 1**

Don't rely on a wild rumor. Make sure to obtain accurate information.

**First, you will receive information from your city government.**

The alien registration certificate which certifies non-Japanese citizenship for long period will be changed. Instead, a resident card will be issued. The certificate of residence is available for foreign residents as well as Japanese. However, please note that it is not issued to the foreign residents who overstay their visa.

**A resident card issued on July 2012 as new ID makes your daily life more comfortable and convenient.**

The immigration Control Act will be changed from July 9, 2012 on. It seems that the rumor has been spread out among foreign residents for long time. But there were some misleading rumors such as "The permanent visa will be voided." If you have any questions or inquiries, please contact and ask your city government or support groups for foreigners instead of relying on rumors because it is very important. One of the most drastic changes is that the alien registration certification is voided. Instead, a resident card will be issued. After enforcement of this law the certificate issued by city government is not "the alien registration certificate" but "The certificate of residence", same as Japanese. For your information, the alien registration certificate is issued to foreign residents who overstay their visa but a resident card is not issued after law enforcement. The government takes all possible measures to ensure this new system starting from coming July. Some local governments inform the foreign residents of this change on law or institution in multi-lingual languages. On May "A temporary certificate of residence" will be sent to foreign residents. They ask the foreign residents to confirm information written on this temporary card because of the execution of date transfer from the alien registration certificate to the certificate of residence. If unclear points or mistakes are found in the temporary card, please contact city government immediately. It is unnecessary to take prompt procedure for conversion to a resident card. It is available to use current alien registration certification to next renewal of resident status and a new resident card will be given on the renewal. It is necessary for permanent residents to renew the resident card by July 2015. The individual duty of notification is severely requested in new system. It is requested to notify local Immigration office/branch of the changes within two weeks, when those with residence status such as "Spouse of Japanese" or "Spouse of permanent residents" divorce or change jobs. (It is acceptable to send a notification to Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau by mail.) A residence status may be voided when a separation continues longer than six months even before getting legally divorced. (However, in case of a separation caused by DV problem, divorce suit or nurturing Japanese children, the change of residence status could be possible.)

**[www.ficec.jp/foreign/](http://www.ficec.jp/foreign/)**

Please take a look at Living Guide in 6 languages of our website. <http://www.ficec.jp/>

It is recommendable to contact and consult support groups for foreigners if you are in a separation state at present or feel uneasy in the future. It is necessary to notify both present and new city government of changes when moving-out or moving-in. For more details, please refer to the following website. (Ms. Miho Fujibayashi, an administrative scrivener)  
[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_1/index.html](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/index.html)

**“International Festival” on May 19 (Sat), 2012**



15 years have passed since FICEC established. Now we are arranging “International Festival” as 15 years’ anniversary event at Higashikubo Central Park located next to Aeon supermarket on May 19(Sat) in cooperation with Fujimino city, Fujimi city and Miyoshi town. Opening hour: From 11:00 to 16:00, canceled only in case of heavy rain.

As one of amusements you can enjoy world’s cuisines such as Thailand, Chile, Nepal, Taiwan, Philippines, Korea and Sri Lanka. There are also a lot of entertainments, such as dancing and musical performance all over the world. You can enjoy the musical performance by marching band of Saitama Prefectural Police. Please join with your all family members. We, FICEC would like you to see our activities and join us. This is a festival which enables us to become friends beyond the country barrier.

**Did you receive the eligibility certificate of medical care cost for child?**

Did you receive the eligibility certificate of medical care cost (Pink colored) to the child who became the 1st grade of elementary school? The previous one was blue colored but please use pink colored one(new) after receiving it. When going to any hospitals located in Fujimino, Fujimi and Miyoshi town, please take procedure for subsidy to city government after payment of full amount of medical care cost. For more details, please refer to the explanation leaflet or contact FICEC directly. The eligibility for medical care cost is the children before junior high school graduation. It is necessary to make a registration in advance for this subsidy and please apply it immediately if registration is not made yet.

**Personal computer lesson starts from April, free of charge. Capacity: 5students, Twice/month**

“Personal computer lesson by Ms. Kaji” is open for foreign residents who have no chance to learn computer. You can study computer over from the basics every 1st and 3rd Thursday from 13:00 to 14:30. The lesson period is one year. If you have your own computer, it would be possible to use FICEC’s computer.

The lesson will start on April 6 free of charge. Why not join this lesson by Ms.Kaji, one of the best instructors on computer lessons. Please contact FICEC directly. You can learn the basic knowledge, such as how to switch-on. We have a Japanese language class in the morning on Thursday.

FICEC Phone 049-256-4290

