

Applying for refugee recognition does NOT necessarily mean you can work in Japan

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Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice

This notice is especially for short term visitors (“Temporary Visitors”) who change the status by applying for refugee recognition while in Japan. Recognition of refugee status is a system for the sake of refugees who have come to Japan in order to escape from persecution in their home countries and to seek for protection, and not for the sake of those who wish to work in Japan.

Until 14th January 2018, those who applied for recognition of refugee status were generally permitted to work after 6 months from the submission of application. However, the Immigration Bureau, Ministry of Justice revised this operation as of 15th January 2018, and applicants who clearly do not correspond to the status of “refugee” as stipulated in the 1951 Refugee Convention will NOT be permitted to reside nor work in Japan even if the applications are in the process. Such applicants will be subject to the procedure for departure (including procedure of deportation) upon expiry of the period of stay.