

In accordance with the partial amendment of the Basic Resident Registration Act, foreign residents will be eligible to receive a Residence Record (*juminhyo*).

This will make administrative procedures at your local government simpler and more convenient. The new system will come into effect in July 2012 and the Alien Registration Act will simultaneously be abolished.

Much more convenient!

1. Official certificates (such as copies of the Resident Records) for households composed of both Japanese and foreign residents will now list all members regardless of nationality.



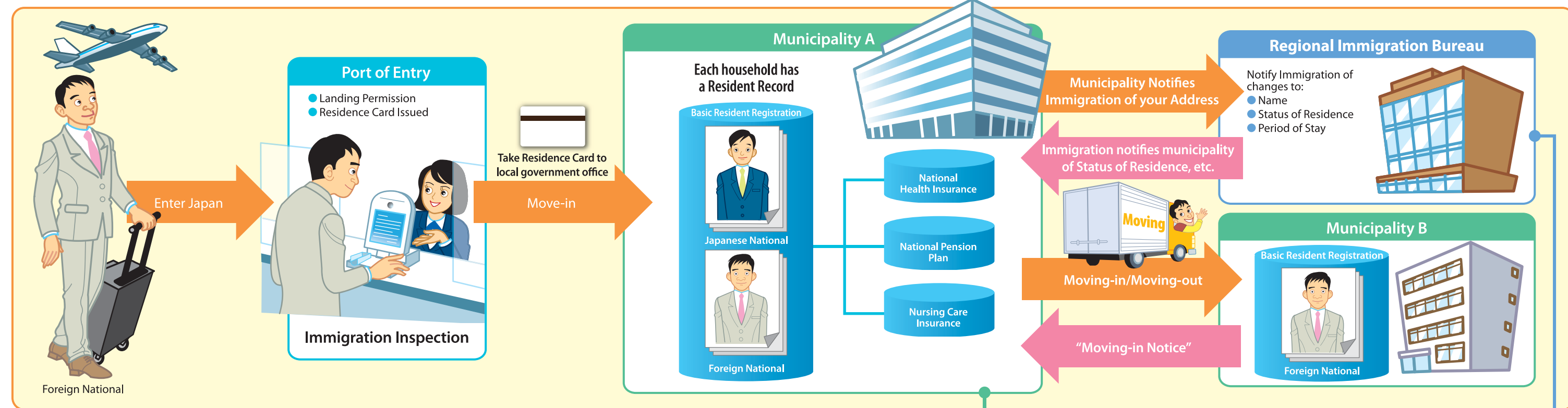
2. When notifying your municipality of a change of address, your address will automatically be changed for various government services, such as National Health Insurance, all at once.



3. In the past, you had to notify both the Regional Immigration Bureau and your municipality of changes to your status of residence and period of stay. Now you will only have to report to the Regional Immigration Bureau.

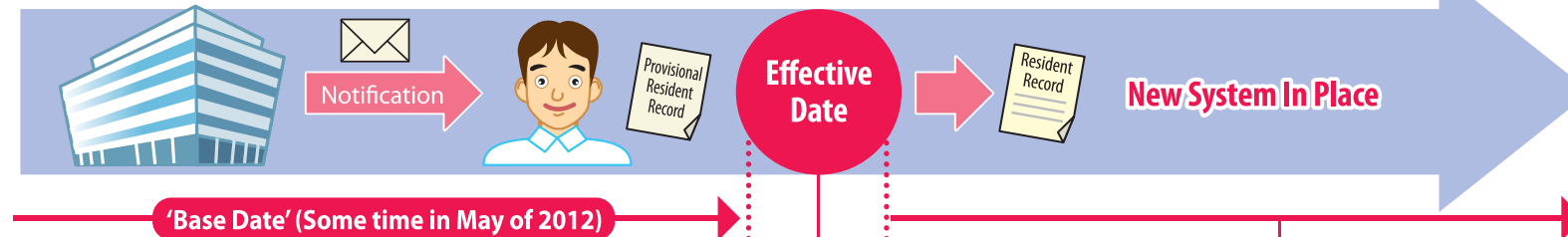


How the new system will work:



Ensuring a smooth transition to the new system...

To facilitate a smooth transition from the Alien Registration system to the Resident Registration system, local governments will issue Provisional Resident Records, and notify each foreign resident of the change. When the law comes into effect, the temporary document will automatically become the official Resident Record.



Provisional Resident Record Becomes Official

- (1) Foreign residents who meet the following two criteria on the 'Base Date' will be issued a Provisional Resident Record.
 - ① Those who have been issued with an Alien Registration Card by a municipality.
 - ② Those who are expected to be residing in said municipality on the date the law comes into effect.

Your local government will notify you of what is listed on your Provisional Resident Record.

These details will reflect what is written on your Alien Registration Card.

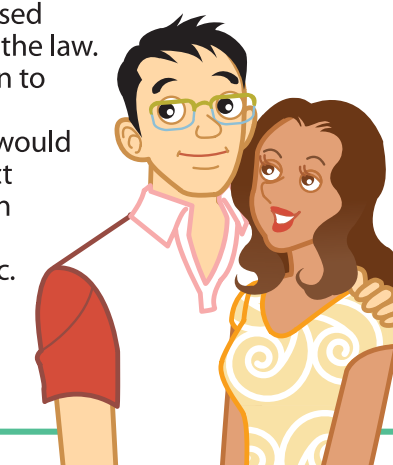
If there are any errors, you will be able to notify your municipality as you would normally under the current system as governed by the Alien Registration Act.
- (2) If you newly fulfill the above two criteria on a date that falls between the 'Base Date' and the 'Effective Date', you will also be eligible for a Provisional Resident Record, which will be based upon your Alien Registration Card. Therefore, please complete your registration under the existing Alien Registration Act.

- (3) These arrangements mean if you already have an Alien Registration Certificate you will automatically be issued a Resident Record on the day the law comes into effect. There is no need for you to fill out any extra paperwork.
- Note: If for any reason (e.g. you entered Japan immediately before the law came into effect, etc.) you are not issued a Resident Record on the day the law comes into effect, you must report your name and address to your local government within 14 days and apply for a Resident Record.



Under the new system, the Ministry of Justice (Regional Immigration Bureaus) and municipalities will directly exchange information. Foreign residents will no longer have to report immigration-related changes to municipalities.

- The Basic Resident Registration will list all members of a single household, including Japanese and foreign nationals. Foreign residents will now be able to obtain a copy of their Resident Record.
- Up until now, households that consist of both Japanese and foreign nationals had to register under two separate systems - the Basic Resident Registration Act for Japanese nationals and the Alien Registration Act for foreign nationals. Under the new, streamlined system, the actual composition of each household will be reflected on the resident record, which will list everyone in the household regardless of nationality.
- Submitting a "notification of moving in" will automatically update your address for a range of government services, including National Health Insurance. This will reduce paperwork compared to the previous Alien Registration system.
- Authorized agents will be able submit paperwork (such as "notification of new domicile") on your behalf under the new system.
- National and local authorities, along with companies and individuals are permitted to view a portion of the information contained in the Basic Resident Registration. If a request for access is granted, foreign residents' information, along with information about Japanese nationals, will be disclosed according to the law. A valid reason to access this information would be to conduct research at an accredited university, etc.



Useful Terminology

[Alien Registration Act]
The purpose of this Act is to allow local governments to fairly administer the registration of foreigners residing in Japan by clarifying matters pertaining to their addresses and residency statuses, etc.

[Basic Resident Registration]
This is a database of all residents' name, date of birth, sex and domicile, organized into household units. Registration facilitates provision of various government services to all residents. The "Basic Resident Registration Act" is the basis for this system.

[Foreign Residents]
After the "Basic Resident Registration Act" is revised, it will mainly apply to foreigners with a fixed abode who have lawfully stayed in Japan for over 3-months. Specifically, it applies to those with a Residence Card or a Special Permanent Resident Certificate.

[Residence Card]
Issued by the Minister of Justice, this card will be provided to foreign residents when they are given permission to land in Japan for the purpose of residing here for a medium to long-term period. Administered under the revised Immigration Control Act.