

To Foreign Residents: Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Basic Resident Registration Network System

Q1 What is the Basic Resident Registration Network System?

A1 The Basic Resident Registration Network System is a system that enables nationwide identity verification by putting the Basic Resident Registration^{**} (official proof of residence) on a network in order to increase convenience for residents and contribute to rationalized administration of the national and local governments.

From July 8, 2013, for foreign residents, the Basic Resident Registration Network System will commence operation.

^{**} The Basic Resident Registration is a database containing Resident Records which list data including name, date of birth, sex, address, relationship to the householder, etc. It also serves as a basis for providing various administrative services to residents. Using the Basic Resident Registration, copies of Resident Records are issued to certify residents' residence. It is also used for various clerical work in connection with residents.

Q2 What will I have to do at the commencement of operation of the Basic Resident Registration Network System?

A2 It is not necessary for foreign residents to perform any procedures at the commencement of operation of the Basic Resident Registration Network System.

Please note that in accordance with the commencement of operation of the Basic Resident Registration Network System, a Resident Record code^{**} will be entered in the Resident Record of foreign residents and they will be notified of their Resident Record code by their municipality of residence from July 8, 2013.

Entry of the Resident Record code may be requested in some administrative procedures, so please keep the Notification of Resident Record Code in a safe and secure location.

^{**} Please see Q6 and Q7 regarding the Resident Record code.

Q3 What activities become possible with the Basic Resident Registration Network System?

A3 Residents benefit in various ways from the Basic Resident Registration Network System, except in some regions^{**}.

^{**} Yamatsuri-cho, Fukushima (as of March 1, 2013)

○ Simplified procedures with administrative organs

Identity verification information is provided for the processing of affairs of national administrative organs, etc. and local governments as specified by the Basic Resident Registration Act. This enables procedures to be simplified; for example, it will be possible to omit submission of a copy of the Resident Record at some administrative organs.

○ Nationwide issuance of copies of the Resident Record

Copies of the Resident Record were originally issued only at your municipality of residence, but it will be possible for copies of the Resident Record to be issued at municipalities other than your municipality of residence by presenting the Basic Resident Registration Card, Residence Card, Special Permanent Resident Certificate, etc.

○ Furthermore, those who have the Basic Resident Registration Card have benefits such as special provisions for Move In Notification and online administrative procedure applications. (For further information, please see ["Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Basic Resident Registration Card"](#))

- Q4 What information is stored in the Basic Resident Registration Network System?
- A4 The information stored in the Basic Resident Registration Network System is name, nickname (appellation) (only for those whose nickname (appellation) is recorded on their Resident Record), address, date of birth, sex, the Resident Record code and changes to this information. This is regulated clearly by the Basic Resident Registration Act.
- Q5 Is personal information on the Basic Resident Registration Network System well protected?
- A5 The Basic Resident Registration Network System takes various measures to maintain security such as restricting possession and usage of information, preventing improper internal use, preventing outside intrusions, etc. and no problems such as hacking of the Basic Resident Registration Network System or leakage of information have occurred since operation began in August, 2002.
- Q6 What is the Resident Record code?
- A6 The Resident Record code is a random 11 digit number that is essential in performing nationwide identity verification through the Basic Resident Registration Network System. It can be changed at any time at residents' request.
- Q7 Do non-government organizations use the Resident Record code?
- A7 Under the Basic Resident Registration Act, non-government organizations are prohibited from requesting disclosure of Resident Record codes in order to restrict non-government use of the Resident Record code.
Non-government use is strictly prohibited in the following way: particularly, it is prohibited to request the disclosure of the Resident Record code in contracts and to create databases containing Resident Record codes. If these provisions are violated, the prefectural governor issues a recommendation and an order of discontinuance, and then a penalty shall be imposed for violation of the order.

※ For the Basic Resident Registration Card, please see ["Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Basic Resident Registration Card"](#).

For further information on the Basic Resident Registration Network System, please see ["Basic Resident Registration Network System homepage"](#) (Japanese).