JAPANESE IMMIGRATION

Go to <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/index.html>.

This web page is in English but that is where its user-friendliness ends. So I will try to guide you through the process. Please read everything and follow the appropriate links. Also hope they haven't changed things again.

1. For first time applicants

The link at the end of this paragraph will take you to the Immigration Procedures English web page. So go to <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/index.html>", “Apply for Japanese Immigrant Status” to begin.

The resulting page is long and has a lot of info and many links that can utterly confuse you so I suggest you follow these instructions and bypass some red-tape. Under Immigration Procedures, the first link you wiil see says (Click here to view application forms). Click this link and you will come to a page that says "List of Necessary Documents".

You will see a long list of options. Click on option number 4. This takes you to the "Application for Permission to Acquire Status of Residence" chart. From this page you can read through what you will need. The actual application form can be found in the Format section. You can choose PDF which is Adobe Acrobat format or Excel which is a spreadsheet format. I recommend clicking the [PDF] option. Print it out and complete it by hand. To do so, when the page comes up, click the small printer icon on the top right side of the PDF page and print the application.

Now the chart on this page does not include all the items you will need when you go to turn in your application. From my experience, you will need:

* Application form
* Passport
* 40 x 30mm photo of you alone
* a photo of you and your sponsor together (any snapsho size)from sometime in the past to show you have been together for a while.
* A copy of your sponsor's Koskei Tohon and Kimin Sho. Your sponsor will know what these Japanese documents are.
* Hanko - name stamp. If you don't have one, you need to get one made.
* Proof that you are legally in Japan prior to getting residency. (For example: proof of SOFA status)
* a pay statement showing that you can support yourself. I used a copy of my MyPay retiree account statement. Since I had already applied for social security, I listed proof of that. I got my data online at https://secure.ssa.gov.

2. For applicants who want to extend their stay (renewals):

To extend your stay as a resident alien, you can start at the same web page as above. By going to this website: <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/index.html>.

Now, on the new page, click the first link on the left side of the page. It says "(Click here to view application forms).

When this new page opens, you will click item 3 which is Application for extension of period of stay.

If you get lost, you can go here: <http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/kanri/shyorui/03-format.html> to go directly to the this page on the immigration website.

This page tells you most of what you need to know. When you reach the Format section of the page you will see links to two forms that you will need. Click the "Application for Extension of Period of Stay" link and then scroll down this list to find the category that you fits your situation. For most of us it will be item 13, "Spouse or child of Japanese national, Permanent resident, etc."

In the two last columns on the right you will see links to the PDF and Excel forms. Again, I recommend clicking the PDF version and the Application for Extension of Period of Stay form will show up. Print it out (maybe a couple of copies in case you mess up). Complete it by hand. This one is a few pages long.

The second form you will need is the "Letter of Guarantee". You can hit the "back" button on the browser or click this link <http://www.moj.go.jp/content/000007419.pdf> to get directly to the form.

Click the small icon on the top right to print this form. Again, you may want to print a couple just in case.

The third form, although not listed on the page above is also required according to the Aomori Immigration office. You can find it here WHAT IS Tjhis form??????????????

You can go back to see the List of Supporting Documents at http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/kanri/shyorui/Table3-2.html" but, once again, be advised that it is not complete. My wife just got off the phone (July 2016) with the Aomori branch and we verified the items needed and they are listed below.

You current residence card</li>

* Application form (Application for Extenstion of Period of Stay)</li>
* Letter of Guarnatee</li>
* Third Letter</li>
* Passport</li>
* 40 x 30mm photo of you alone</li>
* a photo of you and your sponsor together (any snapsho size)from sometime in the past to show you have been together for a while.</li>
* A copy of your sponsor's Koskei Tohon and Kimin Sho. Your sponsor will know what these Japanese documents are.</li>
* Hanko - name stamp. If you don't have one, you need to get one made.</li>
* a pay statement showing that you can support yourself. I used a copy of my MyPay retiree account statement. Since I had already applied for social security, I listed proof of that. I got my data online at https://secure.ssa.gov.

You can go back to the beginning of the immigration web site by using this link: http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/tetuduki/index.html.

The Hachinohe port Branch Office of Sendai Regional Immigration Bureau has closed. The Aomori Branch Office now processes immigration requests for our area.

The address of the Aomori Branch is:

The 2nd Government Building of Aomori,

3-5-1 Chome Nagashima, Aomori City

Aomori Prefecture, Japan

Phone: 0177-77-2939

The building is about 20 minutes on foot from the JR East Aomori Station. It is about a 5 minute walk from the Shinmachi 2 Chome, Kencho-mae Shiyakusyo-mae buss stop.

The Morioka Branch Office is available for those who find it more convenient. The address is:

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The 2nd Sangyo Daikan Building,

 4-10 Icome Seien, Morioka City

Iwate Prefecture, Japan

Phone: 0196-12-1206

The building is about a 20-minute walk from the JR Morioka Station and about 5 minutes by foot from the Iwate-Koen bus stop. There is no dedicated parking for the building. You will have to use a nearby pay parking lot.