

# **Working in Japan - Open for Professionals -**

**March 2018**

**METI**

**Technical Cooperation Division,  
Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau**

# Affluent and Unique Cultures

- Japan welcomes highly-skilled foreign professionals to reach for their dreams. We hope you will join us and enjoy an open Japan together!

## Unique Geography and Culture

- Japan, surrounded by beautiful nature, is home to ancient cultural philosophies and ways of being.



- Japan is also at the forefront of modernity and popular culture: from manga and anime to frontier technology and innovation.

**Cool**

**Anime, manga, fashion**

**Traditional**

**Traditional performing arts and festivals**



**Unique combination**



# Qualities of Life in Japan

## Peaceful & Supportive: Safe, Secure, and Comfortable society

### Safest Country in the World

Tokyo ranks 1<sup>st</sup> for safeness.  
(Safe Cities Index by The Economist)



### High-quality, Low-cost Healthcare

You can receive high-quality medical treatment at a low cost due to universal health insurance coverage.



### Free Education

Japanese public elementary and secondary schools accept all children free of charge.



### Career Support

Free job support with foreign language assistance is available throughout Japan, including dedicated employment centers for foreign residents.



# Frontier Opportunities in Japan

## World-class Science and Technology

### Nobel Prize Laureates

Japanese scientists have won many Nobel Prizes in advanced scientific fields, including 11 in physics and 7 in chemistry.



### Cutting Edge Research Institutions

Four national institutes in Japan have been selected as The Reuters Top 25 Global Innovators (second after the United States).

### Innovativeness

Japan ranks 2nd for innovation quality and the Tokyo-Yokohama region ranks 1<sup>st</sup> for innovation clusters (WIPO “The Global Innovation Index 2017”).

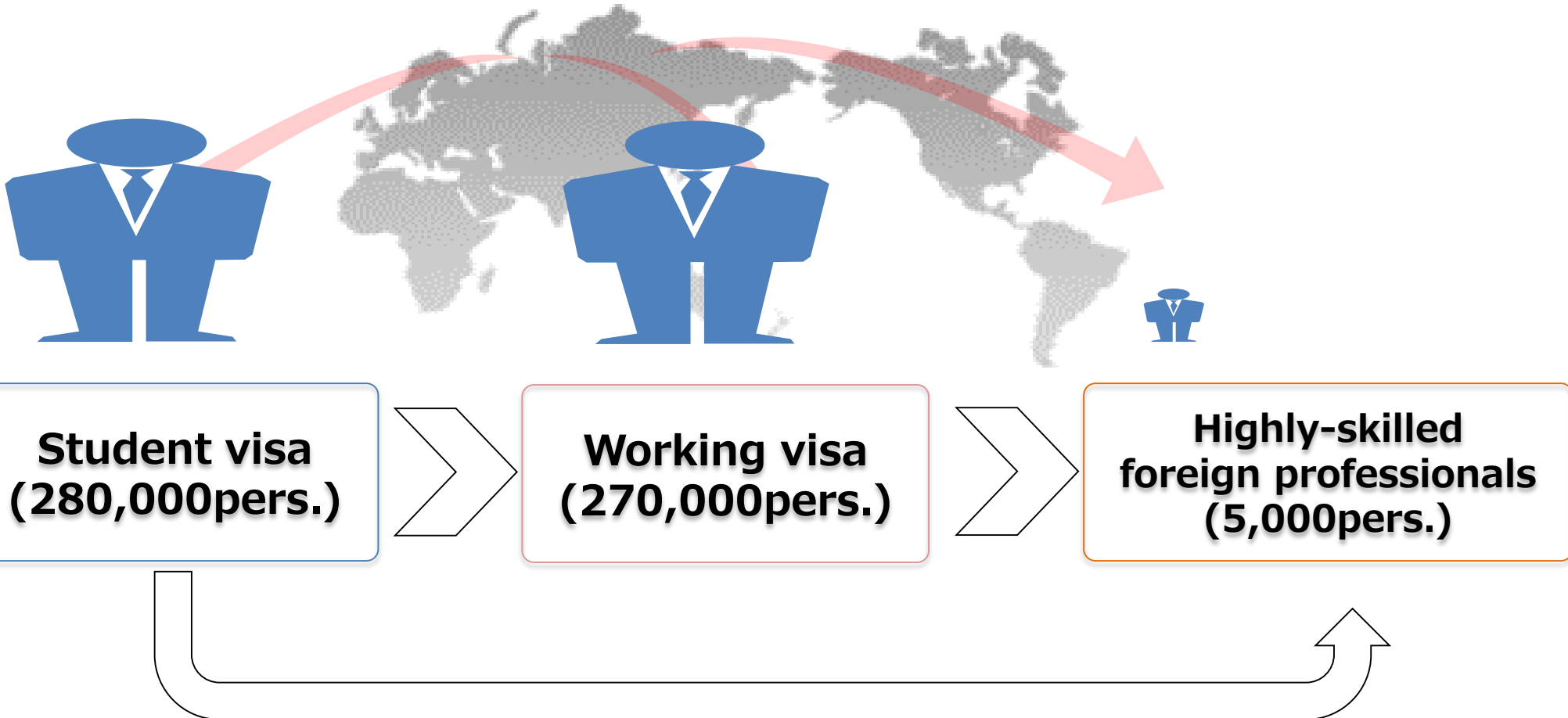
### World Premier International Research Center Initiative (WPI)

Research centers participating in the Initiative boast outstanding research environments for attracting frontline researchers from around the world.



# Roadmap towards working in Japan (example)

- Three paths to building a career: i) Transferring from a student visa to a professional work visa; ii) Applying directly for a working visa; iii) Applying for highly-skilled foreign professional status.
- You will be able to switch your status during your stay in Japan.



※As of 2016

# Message from the Prime Minister of Japan

- The Prime Minister of Japan delivers a strong message to the world for recruiting highly-skilled foreign professionals.

## Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Invest Japan Seminar in New York (Sep. 19, 2016)



The number of **professionals working in Japan from overseas has increased** by 20% over the last three years. In order to accelerate this trend, we will create the "Japanese Green Card for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals," which is the world's fastest level approval process.

The Banquet of the 23rd International Conference on The Future of Asia (June 5, 2017)

People who surpass a certain number of points and have worked in Japan for just a single year will be able to apply at once for a "**green card**" -that is, permanent residency. This is among the fastest speeds in the world.

Wait times for visa applications will also be short. As a rule, the applicant will hear the result **within ten business days**.

**Japanese Companies  
Encourage Foreign Employees to  
Exercise their Abilities to the Fullest**

# Improving the Working Environment for Foreign Employees

- The number of foreign workers in Japan has been increasing as talented individuals ply their skills and abilities at the forefront of their respective fields.
- Japanese companies have therefore been developing ideal workplaces for foreign employees.

## Examples of Company Workplace Development

- Establishing globally-standardized personnel system
- Assignment of high-level positions depending on competency, regardless of nationality
- Correcting long-hours labor practices, developing competency, performance-based personnel evaluation system

Additionally, companies engage in many more Best Practices, including: requirements for English communication and language usage across business functions; consideration of different cultures and religions, such as serving halal foods; and provision of long holidays in accordance with international employee's respective backgrounds.





# **Government Initiatives for Enhancing Successful Careers for Foreign Professional**

# Major Efforts to Be Taken by the Government

## Improving living environment

-Reducing language barriers in daily life-

- Number of medical institutions ready to accept foreign patients will be increased to **100 by the end of FY2017.**

-Improving educational opportunities for international children-

- Japanese public elementary and secondary schools accept foreign children free of charge, and the opportunity to receive the same education as Japanese students is guaranteed. The government promotes allocation of Japanese learning assistants and teaching assistants who understand international children's mother languages.

## Improving working environments

- Clarifying employee's career track and contents of work
- Encouraging companies' mindset change

## Facilitating immigration procedures

- Online application for status of residence will start in FY2018.

# Provision of Living Information for Foreign Professionals

- Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) provides useful living information in English through the web portal “Living in Japan.”

## Living in Japan

<https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/invest/living.html>



## Living in Japan

The following list of websites provides useful information for foreigners living in Japan on topics such as hospitals, banks, mobile phones, electricity and gas. The links are available in English. Please check them out for further information.



### 1. Hospitals

[Guide for when you are feeling ill](#) (JNTO)

Here you can find a list of medical institutions in Japan. Although the site was originally created to aid the safe travel of foreign tourists in Japan, it would also be useful for foreigners living in Japan.



### 2. Banking Service

Mizuho Bank, Ltd.

- [Services for individual customers in Japan](#)
- [Call center](#)
- [Branch list](#)

\* Please contact each branch for details on available services.

The following information is available in English.

### 1. Hospitals

### 2. Banking service

### 3. Mobile phone

### 4. Electricity

### 5. City Gas

### 6. Multilingual speech translation application

### 7. Child care, medical care, housing, pensions

# **Points-Based System for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals**

# Points-Based System for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals

- Under the points-based system, foreign nationals recognized as “highly-skilled foreign professionals” will be given preferential immigration treatment.

## Three Categories of Activities of Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals

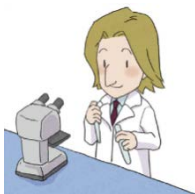
- Advanced academic research activities



- Advanced specialized/technical activities



- Advanced business management activities



### Main Preferential Treatment

Preferential processing of entry and residence procedures (within 10 days of receipt)

Permission for their spouse to work

Permission for their parent(s) to accompany them to Japan under certain conditions

Permission for a domestic worker to accompany the highly skilled foreign professional to Japan under certain conditions

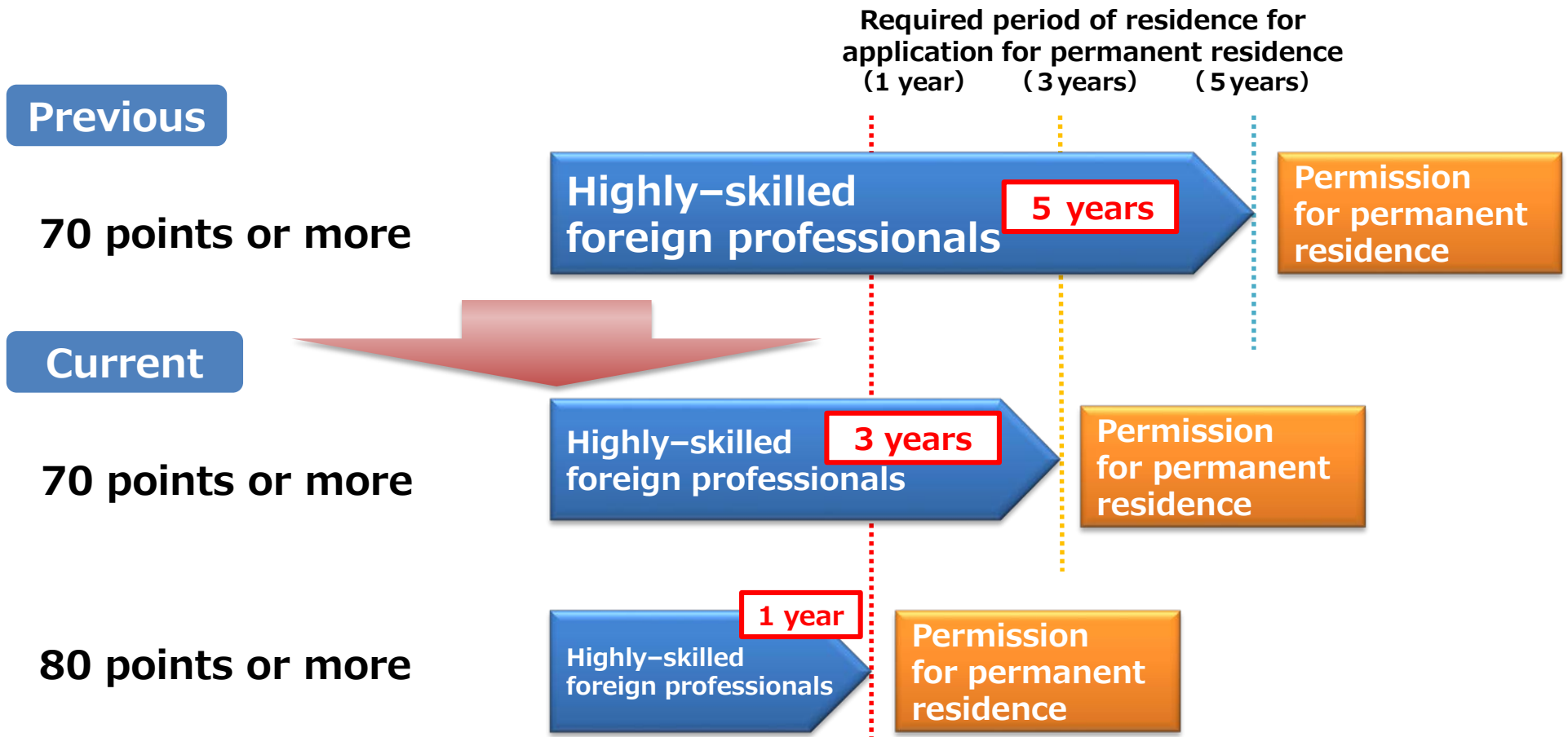
Easing of requirements for permanent residency (Japanese “Green Card” for Highly-skilled Foreign Professionals)

(URL)

[http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact\\_3/system/](http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_3/system/)

# Japanese “Green Card” for Highly-skilled Foreign Professionals

- The Government of Japan has introduced preferential treatment for highly skilled foreign professionals regarding permanent residency (“Japanese green card for highly skilled foreign professionals”) in April 2017.
- Drastically shortening the required period of residence for application of highly skilled foreign professionals for permanent residence status from 5 years.



# Web Portal “Open for Professionals”

- METI established a web portal “Open for Professionals” which provides useful information for highly-skilled foreign professionals (in English).



Open for Professionals

Open for Professionals

The Government of Japan strongly welcomes highly-skilled foreign professionals.

**Living Conditions**  
A list of websites with useful information for foreign residents including housing, childcare, medical care, banking, tax, etc.  
[for details, click here](#)

**Immigration**  
A list of websites with information on preferential immigration procedures for highly-skilled foreign professionals and other immigration procedures  
[for details, click here](#)

**Employment and Business Environment**  
A list of websites with useful information for foreign job-seekers including employment service centers in Japan and other business information  
[for details, click here](#)

**etc. Other Information**  
A list of websites including Japan Gov. – the Government of Japan, and the website of the Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet  
[for details, click here](#)

The website presents useful information including:

- information on living, employment, and business conditions
- preferential immigration treatments for foreign professionals

Contact:  
METI Technical Cooperation Division,  
Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau

TEL: +81-(0)3-3501-1937  
FAX : +81-(0)3-3501-5981  
E-mail : 202212ks@meti.go.jp