

12

Legalities & Disasters

Visas

Taxes

Disasters

Births

Legal
Problems

More
Information



As a foreign national in Japan, you are a guest of the state and it is helpful to keep that in mind, since rules are strictly enforced. It is wise to avoid problems, as the consequences can be severe. You'll have a lot of formalities (and paperwork) to deal with which may seem annoying, but is a cost of being here.

First and foremost are your visa and alien registration. In the wake of worldwide concerns about security and terrorism, today there is an even greater focus on these rules. Fortunately, some of the rules are changing and will be less burdensome. Nonetheless, failure to follow the rules can lead to serious problems, since, while government officials can often be very helpful, the structure has historically been rather authoritarian.

Visas

In most cases, you will already have the proper visa when you enter Japan, particularly if a company brought you here. You will already have obtained a Certificate of Eligibility and visa, having submitted the forms and photos to a Japanese Consulate or Embassy where you were. Family members will also already have the appropriate visas in that case.

Visa exemption agreements between Japan and many countries on a reciprocal basis only apply to tourists and short-term visitors (less than 90 days). The 2009 revisions to the immigration laws make some steps easier, but there still remain only two basic ways to qualify for residence in Japan: 1) work or study in specified permitted categories (the worker's family is included) and 2) unlimited activity as spouse or child of a Japanese national or as a permanent resident.

Those wishing to work in Japan must thus have a proper working visa. Working while on a tourist visa is not allowed. (See "Visa Problems.")

The Kobe District Immigration Office, south of Sannomiya, is where most Kobe and Hyogo Prefecture residents apply for visas, apply to change visa status, obtain re-entry permits, and get visa extensions (you may apply for extensions with the proper papers up to three months before your visa is to expire). There is a counseling service available here, as well. The Kobe Office is a branch of the Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau, and Hyogo residents may also go there, but the Kobe Office is much more convenient and quicker. Note that some changes in visa status and extension of a tourist visa cannot be done in Japan. You may have to get a Certificate of Eligibility here in Japan, and then apply for the desired visa abroad; i.e., you must leave the country to get it. The offices tend to get crowded during the day, so it's best to get there early. Bring something to do while you wait.

Kobe District Immigration Office

Kaigan-dori, Chuo-ku

Kobe

Hours: 9:00-12:00, 13:00-16:00

Closed Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, and Dec. 29-Jan. 3.

Tel: 078-391-6377

www.moj.go.jp

Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau

1-29-53 Nanko Kita, Suminoe-ku

Osaka (at the Cosmo Square Station of the Chuo Subway Line)

Tel: 06-4703-2100

Visa problems

Aside from entering illegally, the two most serious issues are 1) overstaying your visa period, and 2) working under the wrong type of visa. Japan enforces its immigration laws rigorously and transgressions are punishable by deportation or detention in jail.

You are required by law to have your Alien Registration Card (informally known as a “*gaijin card*”) with you at all times, and the police and immigration authorities have the right to ask for it at any time, though they are supposed to have a legitimate reason to ask you to present the card. Of course, in practical terms, children and others may not always carry their cards and officials may be lenient in certain circumstances but do not assume that will always be so.

When you depart Japan for a trip, be sure to take your Alien Registration Card. You must also fill out a departure form (your travel agent should provide you with one in advance or you can pick one up at the airport) and hand it to immigration officials when leaving Japan.

Your alien card must be renewed within 30 days before its expiration. You may be



sent a reminder by your ward or city office, but you should make a note yourself of the expiration date.

Alien registration problems

One alien registration problem that can be most awkward and inconvenient is being asked by the police for your Alien Registration Card and not having it with you. There is a

real chance that you may be spending the next several hours at the police station while someone fetches your Alien Registration Card from home.

Another potential problem is neglecting to renew your alien registration or to record updates in visa status or residence. **Under the revised law, there will soon be a 200,000 yen fine for failure to do so within the 14-day time limit.** As with expired visas, your best bet is to note on your calendar and act in a timely fashion. Otherwise, immediately go to the appropriate ward or city office and ask for help.

Re-entry permits

A re-entry permit allows you to leave Japan and then re-enter the country without having to go through the immigration and visa application process. You can also enter via the Japan passport line at the airport, which is much faster than that for foreign entrants.

If you leave Japan without a valid re-entry permit, you will have to surrender your Alien Registration Card at the airport. Then, when you return, you must again go through the registration process. For this reason, many people keep a valid multiple re-entry permit at all times in case of an unexpected departure.

To obtain a re-entry permit, take your passport and Alien Registration Card to the Kobe Immigration Office.

Single Re-entry Permit ¥4,000

Multiple Re-entry Permit ¥6,000

Births

If you have a child born in Japan, you are required by law to register the infant at the ward or city office within two weeks of the birth. Bring the official birth certificate

(*shussei shomeisho*) provided by the hospital or clinic.

Note that the official Japanese family register does not accept Romanized names and middle names, and foreign names are rendered in katakana. Some parents get around this by putting both first and middle names together to form a single first name, and since spaces are commonly omitted in Japanese anyway, this has little practical significance.

Your home country likely has its own child registration regulations, such as the completion of a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, Application for a Passport, and an identification application (e.g. Social Security card). Check with your embassy or consulate for details. If the child is half Japanese and the name is not a Japanese name, it's a good idea to get the other country's passport issued first, to provide proof of how the name is spelled. Otherwise, the Japanese officials read the katakana rendering of the name and convert it to a direct Romanization. For example, "Michael" might become "Maikeru," and that's what would be written on the Japanese registration and passport unless you take precautions.

Taxes

While Japanese tax laws may seem more flexible than in some Western countries, they are not to be taken lightly and can be enforced in ways that may surprise you. Forgetfulness is treated coolly and the ensuing audits can be tiresome. A flagrant disregard of tax laws may lead to visa difficulties, stiff fines and/or prison.

National taxes must be filed every year by March 15, but unlike in many countries, it is a fairly simple procedure. Each January, you will receive slips of paper from your

Introducing the new immigration system

Alien Registration Cards and re-entry visas will soon be replaced by the new "Residence Card" issued by the Immigration Bureau.

With the new card and a valid passport, you will be free to leave and re-enter the country as many times as you like until your Residence Card expires. A re-entry visa will only be required if you will leave Japan and plan to re-enter after more than one year away.

You'll still need to visit your local Ward office within 90 days of arrival or within 14 days of any change in address but any other changes will need to be reported to the Immigration Bureau. Lost cards need to be reported to the Immigration Bureau within the same time period.

It will also be possible to file visa renewal applications up to three months in advance of expiration. If you apply in timely fashion, you can stay beyond expiration until the sooner of two months or the date of approval, and can even leave and return to Japan once during that time. Failure to do so within the time limits will automatically attract a ¥200,000 fine. In some cases, visas may be revoked.

www.immi-moj.go.jp/english/newimmiact/koumoku1_english.html

employer or employers called *gensen choshu* which outline your total payment for the year and the amount of taxes that have been deducted from your paychecks throughout the year. If you do not receive this, you should ask your employer for the papers. Save all of these, along with proof of any insurance plans you hold and any other deductions which may be of use to you (this includes medical bills over ¥100,000 in a year, deductions for family members, work-related expenses, etc.)

and take it all to your ward or city office, or to the tax office nearest you between February 15 and March 14.

Most companies automatically handle all tax matters (deductions, filing, etc.) for their salaried employees but many contract employees, as well as the self-employed, must file for themselves. Check with your company to see if they are handling these matters for you.

If you are required to file for yourself, do not fear! Filing a tax return is a relatively straightforward process, especially if you don't have many deductions to claim. Your employer will provide you with copies of your certificate of earnings. If you have filed previously, you will usually receive the necessary national tax forms by mail in early February. If you don't get them, be sure to inquire at the local tax office before the mid-March deadline. If you have not filed a tax return before, be sure to take the following with you to the local tax office.

- 1) your certificate of earnings
- 2) your Japanese health insurance card, if you have one (*hokensho*)
- 3) your bank passbook
- 4) your personal seal, if you have one (*hanko* or *inkan*)
- 5) any deductions.

The main tax office for Kobe is located in Ashiya city and can offer assistance on how to complete your tax return in English. This is open also to residents of other Wards. Many Wards may also open temporary tax offices late February or early March, with helpers on hand to show you how to file your tax return online. Enquire at your ward office, or ask a CHIC volunteer for assistance. Finally, be sure to file a copy of your tax return safely, ready for the next year.

If you are self-employed, be sure to keep

all business-related receipts, including travel and entertainment receipts. Self-employed persons may qualify for more business-related deductions. Unless you can read Japanese, you may want to make a note in your native language on the receipt describing the nature of the expense; it will prevent headaches at tax time when you need to sort and total those receipts.

Those working at home can also claim a portion of the expenses for rent, utilities, etc., so save those receipts as well.

The tax forms are in Japanese but English-language instructions are normally included for non-Japanese filers. If you still have trouble, you can take your forms, receipts, worksheets and other paperwork to the tax office and an official will help you fill them out. Generally, someone in the office can speak some English but you may wish to bring a friend or colleague. Tax consultations are also available.

In general, assuming that taxes have been deducted, all taxpayers get something back from the government within a month or so of filing. However, in May the local prefecture and city tax offices send you a tax bill (*shimin kenmin zei*), and this often is very close to the amount that has been rebated to you.

There are no forms to fill out; the city will mail you the tax bill, which you can pay at a bank or post office. It is payable all at once or in four payments over a period of eight months. The choice is yours. A fine is imposed on late payments. If you are planning to leave Japan before the end of the tax year in March, you must either designate a person to administer your tax return on your behalf, or file your final tax return and pay the tax by the time of your departure from Japan.

Tax audits

The burden of proof in tax fraud cases lies with the tax office. If it suspects you of tax

fraud, it has wide-ranging rights to enter your home and search for evidence. The good news is that foreign residents who have lived in Japan under five years are rarely targeted by the tax officials.

Overseas taxes

Living in Japan (and paying Japanese taxes) does not necessarily free you from the obligations of the tax laws of your home country. Failure to file, much less pay, can cause problems when it is time to return. Check with your embassy or consulate for more information.

Legal Problems

Problems are a part of life in any country, but they can be much more traumatic when you don't know the language or customs. Hopefully, the information in this part of the chapter will never be needed, but it is a good idea to familiarize yourself with it as soon as possible. It may help you deal with (or even avoid) problems during your stay in Kobe.

Advice lines & legal support

NGO Network for Foreigners' Assistance Kobe provides a confidential and free of charge advice service, available each Friday 13:00-20:00 (English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese). Provides referrals for legal assistance. Tel: 078-232-1290.

The Japan Legal Support Center (nicknamed "Hooterasu") can give you information about the Japanese legal system or introduce you to the appropriate consultation desks, which may lead to solutions to problems you may have with your finances, status of residence, work, or family. In-person services are primarily in Japanese so you will need a translator. Tokyo call center: 0570-078-374 (Japanese and English) weekdays

Getting legal help

In a culture that emphasizes social harmony and compromise over individual rights, litigation is a rare, costly and time-consuming option. To keep it that way, the legal system has historically limited the number of lawyers allowed to practice. The number has increased in recent years, resulting in many young, inexperienced lawyers. However, if you find yourself in a situation that can't be resolved to the satisfaction of BOTH parties, don't feel pressured into foregoing good professional help. Legal advice is available from a number of sources in Kobe. Your consulate can provide you with a list of attorneys. There are also several listed in the Directory-Services-Legal section of this book.

Kobe City offers a free consultation with a professional at its Citizen Advisory Center, on the third floor of City Hall Building No. 1. They can help you with problems relating to traffic accidents, landlords, employer relations, immigration and starting a business. Advice is given in Japanese, Tel: 078-321-0033. The Kobe International Community Center (KICC) can also arrange for free legal consultation. Tel: 078-291-8441.

If you retain a lawyer, the initial consultation fee will be around ¥20,000 to ¥30,000.

9:00-21:00, Saturdays 9:00-17:00.

www.houterasu.or.jp

Other general telephone advice lines

Japan Helpline: Toll-free 0120-46-1997 or 0570-000-911 (24 hours)

Tokyo English Lifeline (TELL): 03-5774-0992

Kobe International Community Center:
078-291-0641

Hyogo International Association:
078-382-2052

Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents (OIS): 06-6941-2297

Osaka International House: 06-6773-8989

International Counseling Center: 078-856-2201

Resolutions Counseling Services:
072-867-4437

Drugs

In a word, don't. There are some drug problems in Japan, but the government has zero tolerance for drug offenses, which include both simple possession and dealing. Even being caught under the influence of drugs can lead to unpleasant experiences with the police and legal system. Penalties range from immediate deportation (and a permanent ban on re-entry) to a lengthy prison sentence under harsh conditions. Keep in mind the many famous rock stars who have been barred from Japan because of drug records.

Traffic Offenses

Traffic offenses are essentially the same as those back home: speeding, running red lights, reckless or drunk driving, failing to signal a turn, illegal parking, etc. Ignorance of the laws (or the language) will seldom be accepted as an excuse by the police.

The penalties include both a fine and the awarding of a certain number of points. Collect six points and your license is automatically suspended for 30 days or more. The next time, it takes only four points! Since points are awarded even for illegal parking, it doesn't take too many offenses to lose your license. You can reduce the suspension by attending a lecture and movie on safe driving (in Japanese).

Drivers with clean records for five years are rewarded with a gold license and an extension

of their license by two years, meaning five years between renewals instead of three.

Traffic offenses that do not involve damage or injury are not taken to court. The police evaluation at the scene is final, and you have no recourse but to pay the fine and accept the points. Fines can be paid at any bank or post office.

Parking

By law, the street side of a parked car must be 3.5 meters from the other side of the street. Few streets in Kobe are this wide, with the result that outside of a few designated parking zones, virtually all street parking is illegal, even in residential neighborhoods. Parking offenses are expensive: ¥15,000 to ¥18,000, and much more if the car has been towed.

Inspectors will occasionally conduct parking sweeps of a neighborhood. They will "chalk" cars, making marks on the tires and street and noting the time. Eventually, a tow truck arrives. If you find your car missing, look for these chalk marks or a notice on the pavement or curb, then go to the nearest police station.

Recently, the police in Hyogo-ken have taken to clamping a large yellow tag or folder on illegally parked cars. You must immediately drive straight to the nearest police station and pay the fine. Driving around with one of these tags on your car is a sure way to get your license suspended. And in some areas they place clamps on a wheel while they wait for the tow truck to come and tow you away.

Driving and alcohol

Japanese society is quite tolerant of public drunkenness, except behind the wheel. If you are caught driving a car, motorcycle or bicycle after imbibing even the smallest



amount of alcohol of any kind, the full weight of the legal system will come crashing down on you.

The police conduct regular, but random, road checks for alcohol. If you are waved over, they will ask you to breathe into a microphone-like breath analyzer. If alcohol is detected, you will not be allowed to drive further. Moreover, you will likely have your license suspended and may have to take driver's education classes to get it back. The penalty is between ¥300,000 and ¥500,000. Note that adult passengers in a car with a driver who has been drinking may also be held responsible. The penalties can be severe, so be aware before you get in a car as a passenger.

Other problems

- Japan has strict laws regulating cell phone use while driving, with fines up to ¥50,000.
- If you are late in applying for a license renewal, you will have to go through the procedure for a new license.
- Changes of address must be reported to the police station nearest your new address as soon as reasonably possible.
- If your license is lost or stolen, report the details immediately at the nearest police station.
- Licenses for cars are also valid for motor

scooters of 50cc or less. Anything larger requires a motorcycle license.

- Don't drive a car that has an expired safety inspection (*shaken*) sticker.

Traffic Accidents

Should you be involved in a traffic accident, you must:

- Stop and remain at the scene.
- Assist any injured person.
- Remove obstacles to traffic.
- Call the police.
- If no policeman appears, report to the nearest police station.

Make sure you have your driver's license, Alien Registration Card, car registration papers and insurance documents.

The police will not assign blame for the accident. That will be negotiated between the two parties and their insurance companies. The police may not take a statement from both parties, and, in fact, will not even officially record the accident if the case is settled out of court.

You should contact your insurance agent as soon as possible. Your agent will do all negotiating for you. It is not necessary for you to meet, much less negotiate with, the other party.

Be ready to accept at least part of the blame, even if you are sure you are blameless. If a pedestrian is injured, insurance agreements will be made in their favor, regardless of whose fault it really was. (It is appropriate to show concern and visit injured parties in the hospital even when the fault of the accident is not yours.)

Disasters

No matter how short your stay in Japan, at some point, somewhere in the country, there will be an earthquake, volcanic eruption, typhoon, fire or other life-threatening disaster. You can't avoid them, so you should prepare. And there's actually quite a bit you can do to get prepared.

Earthquakes

It used to be said that Kobe was relatively safe from severe earthquakes (there are several minor, usually unnoticeable ones each month). The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, in January 1995, shattered that illusion along with Kobe, Ashiya and Nishinomiya, killing over 6,400 people, about 5,600 in Kobe alone, and injuring tens of thousands more. Many of those deaths and injuries could have been prevented.

Plan ahead

- Secure all furniture, china cabinets, dressers, bookshelves, TV, refrigerator, etc., to the walls or ceilings. Special earthquake brackets and clamps are available at furniture stores and hardware shops, as well as at many larger dry goods stores. Mounting low-level items, such as computer tables, on casters or wheels can also keep them from toppling. Don't put storage boxes or loose items on top of cabinets or closets. They can fly off and hit someone.
- Choose a meeting place. Make sure everyone in your family knows where the nearest emergency shelter is. These are often schools and other public halls, which have supplies of bedding and other emergency items on the premises. A multilingual list of shelters by Ward is available from KICC. www.kicc.jp/guide/saigai/index_eng.html



Display at Nojima Fault Preservation Museum

- Find out where the main valves for gas, water and electricity are and learn how to turn them off.
- Prepare an emergency kit. Keep it near the entrance. Be sure all family members know where it is, and all can get it out by themselves. Items to include:
 - Flashlight
 - Portable radio (often built into emergency flashlights)
 - First-aid kit
 - Bottled water (2-3L per person per day)
 - Crackers and other foods capable of long term storage (if canned, include a can opener!)
 - A map of the area with emergency shelters clearly marked
 - Spare batteries for the flashlight and radio
 - Emergency telephone numbers (utilities, hospital, police, friends, etc.)
 - If you have a baby, also include whatever baby items you use, such as formula or baby foods, diapers and wipes, a warm change of clothing, etc.

Other items to consider for inclusion:

- Matches and candles
- A utility or camping pocket knife with cutting blades, screwdrivers, bottle and can openers, etc.
- Utility gloves
- A small amount of money (both loose change and small bills)
- A set of clothes and sturdy shoes
- Copies of your passport and other I.D.
- A cellular telephone is also handy to have after a major earthquake, but of course needn't be kept in the emergency box.

Following the lessons learned in the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake, there are now several services available to foreign residents in times of emergency.

When you arrive in Japan, in addition to registering your details with your embassy you should consider adding your details to Hyogo E-Net, a system to send emergency information to foreign residents via cell phones. Available in five languages - English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese and Vietnamese.

<http://bosai.net/e>

Once amidst the confusion of a natural disaster, it can be difficult to get accurate information in your native language. KICC will act as a key information point for the prefectural government in communicating with foreign residents; Tel: 078-291-0641. The same information may also be available via Japan Helpline. Toll-free 0120-46-1997 or 0570-000-911 (24 hours). If you have access to a computer and internet, Google Japan may also provide key contacts.

www.google.co.jp/crisisresponse

Free over-the-phone translation services may be made available for non-Japanese speakers. This is a three-way translation, between the foreign resident, translator and Japanese speaker next to them. Providers, languages and times may vary as details will be released following specific disasters.

When a major tremor hits:

- If inside, try to get in a doorway, under a desk or table or in a bathroom. Stay away from windows, china cabinets, cupboards, etc.
- If outside, move away from walls, buildings and utility poles
- If in a car, move to the side of the road and stop.

After it stops:

- Assess the situation. Don't move until you know it is safe. Find family members or friends and assess injuries
- Turn off all utilities (gas, water, electricity) at the main valves. If you smell gas, leave the building immediately and report the leak to the gas company or an appropriate emergency worker
- Leave the building as soon as practical. Aftershocks may topple weakened structures



- Stay in a group and go to an emergency shelter. Do not go to a hotel or to the office: they are not equipped to handle a large influx of refugees and may ask you to leave
- If you are uninjured and your family does not require your attention, see what services you can offer to your neighbors, the shelter authorities, the local medical facilities, etc. Even if you don't understand the language, you can easily find something to do that will help others, if only moving benches at the hospital to make emergency beds
- Do not attempt to drive out of the earthquake zone. The authorities need the roads for emergency vehicles, heavy equipment, etc. If you must leave, walk or find a boat
- Avoid using the telephone. Call a person outside the earthquake zone and ask them to contact others for you
- Do not return home until your building is declared safe by the authorities. This may be several days later
- Contact your place of employment. It is often an excellent source of information and may even be able to offer aid, supplies, and evacuation. Let them know where you are staying and what your situation is
- Help, share, comfort. There are likely others around you who are worse off than you. They'll appreciate whatever you can do for them
- Tune in for information. Turn on the TV or listen to English broadcasts on FM Cocolo 76.5, KISS FM 89.9, NHK2 8282 AM (1539 AM in Northern Hyogo).

Useful Japanese Vocabulary: **Legalities & Disasters**

jishin 地震	earthquake
taifu 台風	typhoon
kinkyu 緊急	emergency
kinkyu hoso 緊急放送	emergency broadcasts
bofu 暴風	gale force winds
kyofu 強風	strong winds
keiho 警報	warning
bofu-u 暴風雨	gale force winds with rain
kaji 火事	fire
tasuketel! 助けて	Help!
shobo-sho 消防署	fire station
keisatsu-sho/koban 警察所/交番	police station
keisatsu-kan 警察官	police officer
tonan/dorobo 盗難/泥棒	theft/robbery
jiko 事故	accident
hoken 保険	insurance
gaikokujin toroku kado 外国人登録カード	alien registration card
biza ビザ	visa
sai nyukoku kyoka 再入国許可	re-entry permit
nyukoku kanri 入国管理	immigration
Kobe nyukoku kanri-kyoku 神戸入国管理局	Kobe immigration office
ku-yakusho 区役所	ward office
koku-zei 国税	national tax
shimin-zei 市民税	city tax
zeimu-sho 税務署	tax office

Typhoons

Japan's other major natural disaster is the typhoon. (Generally, major storms in the Atlantic Ocean are called hurricanes. The same type of storm, but in the Pacific Ocean, is called a typhoon.) It can bring extremely high winds, torrential rains and floods. The

typhoon season runs from June to September. There may be a dozen or more typhoons in a season. A few will come ashore and cause significant damage, mainly from flooding, landslides and high waves along shorelines.

Public transportation is often delayed and sometimes canceled. Schools also close. Check with your child's school for their

cancellation policy. Companies may bring in bedding for their employees (work stops!) or send them home.

Typhoons and possible tsunamis are closely monitored by the authorities. Warnings are broadcast on in the media (as issued by the Japan Meteorological Association www.jma.go.jp/en/warn) beginning several days in advance of landfall. This is more than enough time to prepare yourself and your home:

- Secure or bring inside all objects on your balcony or in your yard. This includes even large objects that you think can't possibly be affected, such as large flower pots, porch furniture, children's outdoor apparatus, bicycles, trash containers, laundry poles, etc.
- Close all windows and lock them. Modern Japanese homes have special pressure equalization devices installed to ensure that the windows don't blow out. Older homes have wooden or metal panels that can be pulled out and locked in place over the windows
- Stay inside. Loose objects flying through the air at high speed can pose serious risk of injury
- Keep the TV or radio on and listen for announcements.

Some people say that surviving a natural disaster is merely a matter of luck. It is also a matter of proper preparation and common sense. Your fate (and possibly even the fate of your family and colleagues) is in your hands.

More information

Guidebook to Disaster Prevention

Published by Ashiya City, this guidebook, in English, provides detailed information on

precautions, procedures, and other valuable information for dealing with earthquakes, typhoons, fires, and other disasters. Tel: 0797-38-2008.

Hyogo Living Guide

This online guide, available in multiple languages, covers registration procedures for foreigners, extension of periods of stay, re-entry permits, reporting procedure for marriages, deaths and divorces, and resolution of legal disputes. There's also a discussion of the Japanese police system. The same site has information about employment and working conditions, workers compensation insurance, the pension insurance system, income taxes, residents' taxes, and tax withholding. And, there is good information about being prepared for earthquakes, typhoons and floods. www.hyogo-ip.or.jp/livingguide/ml_top/en-top.html

This chapter was written by Norman Solberg, an American lawyer and licensed *Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi* (foreign lawyer) whose practice is focused on international transactions and family business and wealth matters, and Yutaka Murai, a Gyosei Shoshi also admitted as a lawyer in New York. Messrs. Solberg and Murai share offices in Osaka and work together on many matters. They may be reached at solberg@gaiben.com.