

March 31, 2006
Immigration Bureau of Japan

The guidelines set forth here show the criteria of “contributions to Japan” for permission for permanent residence. These guidelines have never been released to the public in the past but have been recently released within the allowable range at the moment. The guidelines are subject to revision in course of collecting opinions from relevant parties and deliberating any necessary deregulations, clarification and additional information release.

Guidelines for Contribution to Japan

The person satisfies any of the below-mentioned requirements and has stayed in Japan for more than five years without causing any problems in his/her social life.

1. Common to all fields

The person has been awarded a prize by an international organization, foreign government or any equivalent organization, with the prize being internationally evaluated as authoritative.

ex.) Nobel Prize, Fields Prize, The Pritzker Architecture Prize and Legion d'Honneur

The person has been given any of the following awards by Japanese government: National Honor Award, decoration, the Order of Culture, Medal of Honor (except the Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon and an award for the deceased given to a bereaved family) or the Japan Prize

The person spent more than three years or so for pursuing public-service activities as a committee member, etc. appointed or commissioned by the Japanese central government or a local government.

The person has made great contribution to the conservation or development of the society or local community in Japan through medical, educational and other vocational activities.

2. Diplomatic field

The person has been working in Japan as a member of a diplomatic mission or consular office of a foreign government and has rendered distinguished service contributing to the improvement of friendship or cultural exchanges between

Japan and his/her country.

The person has a career as a secretary-general, deputy secretary-general or a higher-level title holder of any equivalent managerial position of an international organization of which Japan is a member nation.

3. Economic or industrial field

The person has made contribution to the development of the Japanese economy or industry through his/her activities as an employee or management in a Japanese company whose stock is listed on the stock exchange or whose business scale is as large as those companies having listed stocks, and has been or had been engaged in the activities for more than three years in Japan.

The person has made contribution to the development of the Japanese economy or industry through his/her activities as a manager or equivalent title holder in a managerial position of a Japanese company whose stock is listed on the stock exchange or whose business scale is as large as those companies having listed stocks, and has been engaged in the activities for more than five years.

The person has made contribution to the industrial development of our country, and has been awarded a prize as a result of being selected from among nationwide candidates.

ex.) Grand Prize or Special Prize of Good Design Award (sponsored by Japan Industrial design Promotion Organization)

The person has made great contribution to Japan's agricultural, forestry, fishery, industrial, commercial or other business development through his/her activities as an engineer or technical expert having advanced or high-level expertise.

4. Culture or art field

The person has been awarded a prize which is widely evaluated as authoritative in the category of literature, fine art, motion pictures, music, theater art, entertainment or other cultural or artistic fields.

ex.) La Biennale di Venezia, Golden Lion, Prince Takamatsu Imperial Art Prize, Academy Awards, Awards at Cannes Film Festival, Awards at Venice Film Festival, and Awards at Berlin Film Festival

The person has made contribution to the development of Japanese culture through his/her activities for more than 3 years in Japan in a position of leadership in the category of literature, fine art, motion pictures, music, theater art, entertainment or other cultural or artistic field.

5. Education field

The person has made contribution to the improvement of the level of Japan's higher education through his/her activities as a full-time teacher or equivalent-to-fulltime professor, assistant professor or lecturer working for a Japanese university or any equivalent academic institution as defined under the School Education Law of Japan, and has been or had been engaged in the activities for more than three years in Japan.

6. Research field

The person has been recognized to have made distinguished achievements through his/her research activities and falls under any of the following:

The person's paper on the results of his/her research has been published in a scientific/technical journal, and has been referred to by two or more other researchers in their papers.

Two or more of the person's papers on the results of his/her research have been published in scientific journals as a result of selection through fair judgment.

Many of the person's papers on the results of his/her research have been published in authoritative scientific journals.

The person has been highly evaluated by a scientific society generally known as an authoritative organization, and has the experience of giving a lecture, etc.

7. Sports field

The person has won a high-level prize in a well-known international sports competition or other convention such as the Olympic Games, world championships, etc., or the person has made great contribution to such prize-winning achievement as a coach or instructor of such athletes and is pursuing instruction activities or promotion activities of that sport in Japan.

The person has won a high-level prize in an international sports competition or other convention, or the person has made great contribution to such prize-winning achievements as a coach or instructor of such athletes, and has spent more than three years in Japan pursuing sports instruction activities or sports promoting activities.

The person made great contribution to the promotion of sports in Japan.

8. Other fields

The person has contributed to the development of Japanese society in the field of public welfare, and won a prize as a result of selection from among nationwide candidates.

ex.) **One More Life Workers' Volunteering Award**, awards for persons who are recognized to have made contributions to the society

The person made great contribution to Japanese society or welfare through his/her public-service activities.

Note for application

If you think you satisfy any of the above-mentioned requirements and apply for permission for permanent residence, please use the form in the next page and fill it out in a way to clarify the specific contents of your contribution and submit the form together with reference materials on the contribution.

