

April 23, 2020

Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka
Visa & Consular section

GUIDE LINES FOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
(FOR CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY AND RESIDENCE CARD
RENEWAL APPLICANTS)

Based on the increased number of frequent telephone inquiries during the curfew period, on various issues related to the Certificate of Eligibility and visa and other Immigration matters please follow the instructions given below for your understanding.

Summary of important links:

For information related to New Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19) from Immigration Services Agency please refer the below link of the Immigration Services of Japan

http://www.moj.go.jp/EN/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/m_nyuukokukanri_01_00003.html

For Information on extension for the period of acceptance for residency applications:

<http://www.moj.go.jp/content/001316300.pdf>

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Please read below notice sent on March 10, 2020, regarding the period of validity of the Certificate of Eligibility in relation to the effects of the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

March 10, 2020
Immigration Services Agency of Japan

**Regarding the period of validity of the Certificate of Eligibility
in relation to the effects of the spread of the coronavirus disease(COVID-19)**

In light of the various circumstances associated with the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Certificate of Eligibility that is normally valid for 3 months will be treated as valid for “6 months” for the time being.

With this treatment, you will be able to use the Certificate of Eligibility of within six months for visa applications (see note) and landing applications.

Note. It is necessary to apply for a visa at a diplomatic mission abroad.

If you intend to use a Certificate of Eligibility for which 3 months or more have passed since its issuance, at the time of applying for the issuance of a visa at the diplomatic mission abroad, you will be required to submit a document in which the accepting organization, etc. has stated that, “We will continue acceptance in the form of the contents of the activities given at the time of the application for the issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility”.

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Below is the provisional English translation of the original Japanese document sent by the Immigration Agency of Japan on various issues on the handling instructions of an expired Certificate of Eligibility and related questions.

Q and A about the instructions on the handling of expired Eligibility Certificates due to the effects of the spread of the Novel Coronavirus on March 11, 2020 by COE Division, Immigration Bureau.

Q: Why this kind of instructions are given

A: Due to the effects of the spread of the Novel Coronavirus assuming that within the validity period (03 months from the date of issuance) COE holders are unable to arrive in Japan and depending on the facts of extending its validity up to 06 months to facilitate the Immigration procedures.

Q: Date of operation

A: This is in operation effective from March 10, (Tuesday)

Q: Are these instructions applicable to all foreign nationals

A: These instructions shall be considered for only those who had already decided to arrive in Japan, but due to the effects of the Novel Coronavirus disease were unable to land in Japan, within the 03 months validity period of the Eligibility certificates, and further

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the accepting organization has sent its willingness to accept the applicant based on the same contents given at the time of the application for the issuance of the COE.

Q: How should the accepting organization's say "we are willing to accept the applicant on the same contents given on the activities at the time of the application for the issuance of the COE" . What is the method of confirmation for it.

A: At the time of applying for the visa should submit a written document from the accepting organization saying "we are willing to accept the applicant on the same contents given on the activities at the time of the application for the issuance of the COE".

Q: Is there a fixed form to be used for the accepting organisation's written document

A: Not specified

Q: Are these instructions considered for those whose Eligibility Certificates are expired at the time of applying for the issuance of a visa

A: Yes. Considered.

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Q: Are the same instructions considered for those whose Eligibility Certificates are expired while the Eligibility Certificate is inside the Embassy

A: Yes. Considered.

Q: In case when only the Certificate of Eligibility is valid and the issued visa is expired is it possible to enter to Japan.

A: According to the Immigration Act No:7, section 1 of 01, it is stated that the stamped visa on the passport should be a valid one. If the validity period of the visa is expired it is not allowed to enter Japan.

It is required to re-obtain a visa at a Japanese Embassy or a Consulate stationed at the country. Applicants should resubmit all the required documents including the acceptance letter with the visa fee.

Q: When applying for the landing permission is it a must that the Certificate of Eligibility should be valid

A: The Certificate of Eligibility should be a valid one.