

To Foreigners Registered as Residents in Japan: Information on the Individual Number(My Number)

Starting in January 2016, Social Security and Tax Number (also called Individual Number or “My Number”) is used in the fields of social security, tax and disaster response.

1. What is the Individual Number?

Individual Number (nicknamed “My Number”) is 12-digit numbers assigned to individuals living in Japan under the Social Security and Tax Number System. It is used in the fields of social security, tax and disaster response. The System serves as social infrastructure to increase administrative transparency, bring greater convenience to the public, and create a fair and just society.

Foreigners registered as residents in Japan (medium-term residents, special permanent residents, etc.) will also receive their Individual Number.

2. Notification of your Individual Number

- ◆ If you are registered as a resident in Japan, your Individual Number is printed on the notification card that you receive from the municipal office of your registered address. (The notification card will never expire. Do not throw away your notification card. You must keep it securely.)
- ◆ Foreigners who enter Japan with a medium- to long-term resident status will receive their Individual Number at the time of resident registration.

3. When to use the Individual Number

- ◆ You will present your Individual Number to the tax office for tax procedures, such as when filing your tax return for 2016 and beyond.
- ◆ You will present your Individual Number to your employer for use for tax and social security procedures.
- ◆ You will present your Individual Number to securities firms and insurance companies for tax procedures.
- ◆ You will present your Individual Number to your municipal office to receive welfare benefits and for procedures under the National Health Insurance and Nursing Care Insurance programs.
- ◆ You will present your Individual Number to the bank or post office when sending or receiving money to or from other countries.

Note: In the above procedures, the organization handling your Individual Number will prevent identity fraud by confirming (1) the validity of the number and (2) the identity of the holder.

Since the notification card can only prove the number, you will need to present your personal ID (e.g., residence card, special permanent resident certificate).

4. What is an Individual Number Card (My Number Card)?

- ◆ This card proves both your Individual Number and identity in any procedures related to the Individual Number. It also serves as your official ID card.

- ◆ You can apply for an Individual Number Card. Several application options are available, such as returning by mail an application form (received with your notification card) with a photo of your face attached, or applying online via a PC or smartphone. The first issuance of the Card is free of charge.
- ◆ Once you have applied for an Individual Number Card, you will receive a postcard stating that your Card is ready for issuance. You can pick up your Card at the municipal office by bringing (1) this postcard, (2) your notification card, and (3) your personal ID (residence card, etc.). You need to set a personal identification number at the time of issuance.
- ◆ Your Individual Number Card is valid until the tenth birthday after the issuance if you are 20 years or older, or until the fifth birthday if you are under 20 years old. Note that the expiration date may vary depending on your residency period or other conditions.
- ◆ The Card is embedded with an IC chip, which can store an electronic certificate used for online tax returns and other procedures.
- ◆ In some municipalities, the Card may be used to receive public services (e.g., public library services, issuance of seal registration certificates) or to obtain a copy of your residence certificate at a convenience store.
- ◆ The IC chip will contain your name, address, Individual Number, and other information printed on the face of the Card. No highly sensitive personal information, such as your income, will be recorded.
- ◆ Even after receiving the Individual Number Card, you will still need to keep your residence card, special permanent resident certificate, etc.

5. Precautions in handling the Individual Number

- ◆ When the address or other information stated in the notification card or the Individual Number Card needs to be updated, please contact the municipal office.
- ◆ No one is allowed to use or collect Individual Numbers unless permitted by law. When someone asks you your Individual Number, be sure to check who will use it and for what purpose.
- ◆ Any person who illegitimately obtains others' Individual Numbers will be punished.
- ◆ Do not carelessly tell your Individual Number to others, especially in suspicious telephone calls.

6. Inquiries about the Individual Number

- ◆ Toll-free numbers, available in English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish and Portuguese
0120-0178-26 Inquiries about the Social Security and Tax Number System
0120-0178-27 Inquiries about the notification card and Individual Number Card
 9:30–20:00 weekdays, 9:30–17:30 weekends and national holidays (closed on year-end/New Year holidays)
 - For emergency suspension of your Individual Number Card due to loss or theft, call 0120-0178-27, available 24/7.
- ◆ Information on the Individual Number is available in multiple languages on the following websites:
 - Cabinet Secretariat: <http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/bangoseido/>
 - J-LIS: <https://www.kojinbango-card.go.jp/>



Everyone is assigned a unique Individual Number. Please carefully handle yours!