

# Comments: Japanese Measures for Admission of Ukrainians

In the Context of Japanese Immigration Law  
and Policy

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# Outline of My Comments

- Current Measures taken by Japanese Government relating to Admission of Ukrainians
- Observations on these Measures
- Some Remarks In Light of Historical Precedents



# Current Measures taken by Japanese Government relating to Admission of Ukrainians



# Chronology of Japanese Measures

- 24<sup>th</sup> February: Russian Aggression on Ukraine
- 28<sup>th</sup> February: PM Office: Announcement of governmental measures  
(<https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/headline/ukraine2022/index.html>) Including "Permitting extension of period of residence for Ukrainians who so wish"
- [1 March?:] Immigration Service Agency: "Measures for Ukrainian residents in Japan"  
(<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/content/001369000.pdf>)
- 5 March: Embassy of Japan in Ukraine: "Visa application by Ukrainian evacuees in neighboring countries" ([https://www.ua.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/11\\_000001\\_00178.html](https://www.ua.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00178.html))



# (1) Consideration of Extension of Period of Stay for Ukrainian Residents

- Actual number and status of Ukrainian residents (as of June 2021):

Total sum*	"Permanent resident"	"Spouse or child" of Japanese national"	E/S HIS	"Long term resident"	"De-pendent"	Others
1860	941	286	192	140	96	205

- "2[ISAJ] will make appropriate decisions on residence permits for Ukrainian residents [...], so that they can continue to remain in Japan"
- Excluding "diplomat", "short stay" and persons in irregular situation

## (2) Non-refoulement of even Ukrainians against whom writ of deportation is issued

- Not available for exact number of Ukrainians in irregular situation. Certainly less than 1,000 and probably less than 100
- No commitment of regularization
- “Even those who have been issued a written deportation order will not be deported against their will”



### (3) Issuing of visa for short stay to Ukrainian evacuees who have surety

“For those leaving Ukraine, it is possible to apply for a Japanese visa at the relevant embassies of Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary and other European countries.

- Those who have relatives or acquaintances in Japan -

Documents required for application: visa application, photo, plane ticket, letter of guarantee to be written by a relative or acquaintance in Japan.

[...]

- Those who have no relatives or acquaintances in Japan -

Please consult the relevant embassy in your country of residence.”

# Observations on these Measures





# Cf. Measures for Admission of Myanmareses after the Coup in Feb. 2021

- Myanmar residents

Provided the status “Designated activities”

With work permit, but without national treatment in social security or welfare

Cf. “Long term resident” to be issued for recognized refugees

- Not covers all residents in irregular situation
- No special measure for issuing visas



# Cf. Number and Status of Myanmar Residents in Japan (as of June 2021)

Total sum	"Technical Intern Training"	"E/S HIS"	"Designated activities"	"Students"	"Permanent resident"	"Long term resident"	Others
35,692	13,967	6,076	3,874	3,421	2,465	2,384	17,472

# Characteristics of Ukraine Measures

- No commitment even for extension of period of stay
  - Probably a kind of delay of the inevitable
- commitment of non-refoulement
  - Potentially leads to recognition of status of structural refugees (Cf. Syrian “refugees”)
- Issuing of visa for evacuees
  - Potentially leads to commitment for burden-sharing for refugee admission
- [In sum] Minimum and slow, but some tension vis-à-vis the current restrictive policy of admission of displaced persons



# Final Remarks from Historical Perspectives





# Toward Establishment of Policy of Admission of Displace Persons by Humanitarian Considerations

- How far do we go beyond dichotomy between enemies and friends?

Cf. Treatment of American deserters during the Vietnamese War / Admission to some extent of Indochinese “refugees”

- How far can we make decoupling humanitarian reliefs from considerations on the level of *jus ad bellum*?

Cf. Afghan “refugees” after the September 11 attack and American War on terror in 2001



Thank you for your attention!

