

2 Acceptance of Refugees in Japan

The Government of Japan decided to accept Indo-Chinese refugees for settlement in Japan in 1978. The Coordination Council for Indo-Chinese Refugees and Displaced Persons was set up at the Cabinet Secretariat to move ahead on measures and policies for promotion of settlement. In November 1979, the government entrusted the work of settlement to the Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People (FWEAP), and the Refugee Assistance Headquarters (RHQ) was established under the Foundation. Japan has accepted more than 11,000 Indo-Chinese refugees. This project was ended in March 2006. Japan acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and established a refugee recognition system in 1982. The Ministry of Justice examines each application for refugee status in the light of the Refugee Convention. (Convention Refugees) In August 2002, it was decided with cabinet approval to grant assistance for settlement to Convention refugees as well. It was also decided that the task for settlement of the Convention Refugees was to be entrusted to RHQ. In December 2008, the Government of Japan decided by its cabinet approval to launch a resettlement pilot project. Based on the decision, Myanmar refugees from refugee camps in Thailand (18 families 86 persons) were accepted from 2010 to 2014. In January 2014, the Cabinet decided to accept Myanmar refugees from Malaysia after the five-year pilot program, and 6 families 19 persons were accepted as a third-country resettlement refugee in 2015. RHQ provided the Settlement Support Program to them.

●Indo-Chinese Refugees Settled in Japan (Acceptance ended on December 31, 2005) (Unit: person)

Vietnamese	8,656
Laotian	1,306
Cambodian	1,357
Total	11,319

●Applications for Refugee Status in Japan (Accumulated total as of December 31, 2015) (Unit: person)

Application	30,145
Approved	660
Granted Special Permission to Stay*	2,446

* "Granted Special Permission to Stay" is the number of people who were permitted to stay in Japan due to consideration on humanitarian grounds though they were not officially recognized as refugees.

●Acceptance of Myanmar Refugee Resettlement

2010	5families 27people	2011	4families 18people
2013	4families 18people	2014	5families 23people
2015	6families 19people		

👤 About RHQ 👤

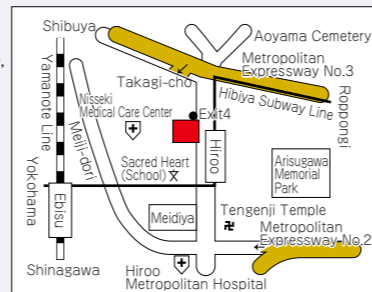
RHQ has carried out various projects for refugee assistance in the Head Office, the Kansai Branch and RHQ Support Center. The projects are contracted to RHQ and financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

●History of RHQ

1979	Project launched to promote settlement of Indo-Chinese refugees in Japan under commission from the government Resettlement Promotion Center opens in Himeji-shi, Hyogo
1980	Resettlement Promotion Center opens in Yamato-shi, Kanagawa
1982	Refugee Reception Center opens in Omura-shi, Nagasaki to start Temporary Protection Project
1983	International Refugee Assistance Center opens in Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo
1995	Omura Refugee Reception Center closed (Total number of residents: 7,965) Project for asylum seekers, Project on world's refugees, and Project for Enlightenment and Publicity start
1996	Himeji Resettlement Promotion Center closed (Total number of residents: 2,640) Kansai Branch opens in Kobe-shi, Hyogo
1998	Yamato Resettlement Promotion Center closed (Total number of residents: 2,641)
2003	Assistance for settlement to Convention refugees begins
2006	International Refugee Assistance Center closed (Total number of residents: 6,242) RHQ Support Center opens in Tokyo
2010	Settlement Support Program implemented for the resettled refugees. (Myanmar refugees, 5 families 27 people)
2011	Settlement Support Program implemented for the resettled refugees. (Myanmar refugees, 4 families 18 people)
2012	FWEAP certified as Public Interest Incorporated Foundation
2013	Settlement Support Program implemented for the resettled refugees. (Myanmar refugees, 4 families 18 people)
2014	Settlement Support Program implemented for the resettled refugees. (Myanmar refugees, 5 families 23 people)
2015	Settlement Support Program implemented for the resettled refugees. (Myanmar refugees, 6 families 19 people)

●Head Office

Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People Bldg, 2F. 5-1-27 Minamiazabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047
Tel : 81-3-3449-7011
Fax : 81-3-3449-7016/7017
Near Exit 4 of Hiroo station (H03), Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line

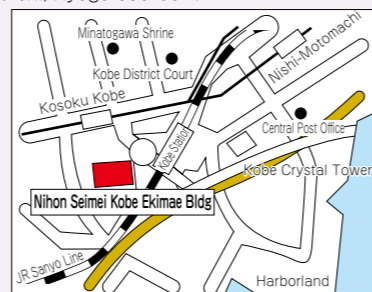


●Kansai Branch

JR Koube station Bldg. 11F, 2-1-18 Nakamachidori, Chuo-ku, Kobe-shi, Hyogo 650-0027
Tel : 81-78-361-1700
Fax : 81-78-361-1323



In front of JR Koube station



●RHQ Support Center

Poste Restante, Shinjuku kita Post Office, Shinjuku-ku Tokyo 169-8799
Tel : 81-3-5292-2144 Fax : 81-3-5292-2043 Issued in Oct 2016

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE HEADQUARTERS (RHQ)



● One out of every 113 persons in the world is a refugee.

2016
Refugee Assistance Headquarters
Foundation for the Welfare and Education of the Asian People
<http://www.rhq.gr.jp/>

1 Who are Refugees?

The Convention*1 Relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as "any person who...owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

As of December 31, 2015, there are approximately 65.3 million refugees including internally displaced persons and "persons of concern" to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*2. In addition, many other people have been forced to evacuate their homes. Countries including Japan, under the leadership of UNHCR, have been carrying out international protections and support activities for them.

*1 The definition of the legal protections and the status of refugees is stipulated in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. Japan acceded to both of them in 1981.

*2 According to the United Nations estimates, the world population in 2015 is 7.349 billion. It is calculated that one in every 113 persons in the world is a refugee.

◀Who are Indo-Chinese Refugees?▶

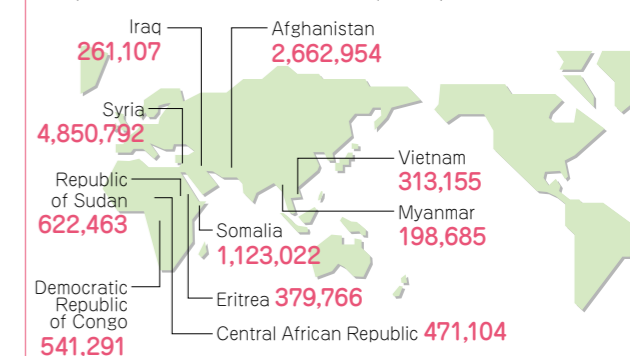
Indo-Chinese Refugees are people who fled abroad by boats (boat people) or to neighboring countries by land (land people) to avoid the political disturbance and internal wars from three Indo-Chinese countries; Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia after the end of the wars in 1975. Approximately 1.3 million Indo-Chinese refugees have resettled in countries such as the United States, Australia, Canada and Japan via refugee camps in the Asian regions or as boat people.

◀Who are Resettled Refugees?▶

Resettled refugees are people who resettle from the country of first asylum to a third country, which agrees to accept those refugees.

●Major countries of origin of refugees in the world

(As of December 31, 2015, Unit: person) < UNHCR data >



3 The Work of RHQ

Projects to Promote Settlement

👤 Settlement Support Program 👤

We offer settlement support program for Convention Refugees, their families and the resettled refugees such as Japanese language education course at RHQ Support Center in Tokyo.

Courses to be offered

For Convention Refugees and their families

- **Six-month course (the first term-the second term) :**
5 days per week (Mon.-Fri. 9:30~15:50)
- **One-year course :**
5 days per week (Mon.-Fri. 18:30~20:55)

(The course schedule may vary due to changes in the curriculum.)

For Resettled Refugees

- **Six-month course :**
6 days per week
(Mon.-Fri. 9:30~15:50, Sat. 9:30~12:10)

A. Japanese Language Education Course

572 units (1 unit = 45 minutes)

Japanese language education focusing on basic communication skills such as reading, writing, listening and speaking is provided.

B. Guidance for Japanese Life

120 units (1 unit = 45 minutes)

Knowledge of social systems in Japan, such as social insurance system, taxation system, etc. is provided.

C. Vocational Counseling Service

Career Counseling and Employment Assistance are provided to those who look for a job by job counselors as the services provided by public employment offices.



Japanese Class

👤 Aftercare Service 👤

Counseling Services for Daily Life

Indo-Chinese and Convention refugees who have status of residence and settled in Japan are eligible to attend school or to work. However, many encounter difficulties due to the unfamiliar environment or insufficient Japanese language abilities. We provide counseling services at the Head Office, the Kansai Branch and the following desks give advice to refugees on various problems such as housing, medical care, education or family unification to support settlement of refugees in Japan. The refugee counseling desks are available at Yokohama-shi and Atsugi-shi in Kanagawa, Yao-shi in Osaka, Himeji-shi in Hyogo, and Nagoya-shi in Aichi, where a number of refugees settled.

Counseling Desks

	Place	Hours	Nearest Station	Contact
TOKYO-KANAGAWA	RHQ Head Office	Mon.-Fri. 9:30 -17:00	Exit 4, Hiroo Station (H03), Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line	TEL 0120-090091 (toll-free counseling line for Refugees) TEL 0120-925357 (toll-free counseling line for Asylum Seekers) TEL 03-3449-7029 (for Asylum Seekers) TEL 03-3449-7049 (Inquiry counter of Refugee) FAX 03-3449-7016
	Izumi Ward Office, Yokohama City	Fri. 9:00-16:00	In front of Izumi Chu-o Station, Sotetsu Line	TEL 045-801-3738 FAX 045-801-3738
	Ken-o Region Administration Center, Kanagawa	Wed. 9:00-16:00	15 min. on foot from Hon-Atsugi Station, Odakyu Line	TEL 046-223-0709 FAX 046-223-0709
HYOGO-OSAKA-AICHI	RHQ Kansai Branch	Mon.-Fri. 9:30 -17:00	In front of JR Koube Station, 11F, JR Koube Station Bldg.	TEL 0120-090091 (toll-free counseling line) TEL 078-361-1720 FAX 078-361-1323
	Osaka Yao City Office	2nd & 4th Wed. 10:00-16:00 (By Appointment Only)	5 min. on foot from Kintetsu Yao Station	TEL 0120-090091 (toll-free counseling line) *same as RHQ counseling line for Refugees
	Hyogo Prefecture Himeji City Office	2nd & 4th Tue. 10:00-16:00	By bus from JR Himeji St, get off at Shiyakusho-Mae	TEL 0792-21-2759
	Nagoya International Center	Thu. 10:00-12:00 13:00-16:00	7 min. on foot from JR Nagoya Station	TEL 0120-090091 (toll-free counseling line)

Note: Counseling Desks are closed on national holidays and New Year holidays (Dec.29-Jan.3).

Assistance by the Local Settlement Supporters

In the Resettlement Pilot Project, RHQ places Local Settlement Supporters in cooperation with the municipalities where the refugees resettled. The Local Settlement Supporters provide daily-life support and facilitate local integration of the refugees.

Support for Community Activities

We support community activities of settled refugees to help ease anxieties they experience in an unfamiliar culture, and to enable them to live their independent lives. These include assistance to preserve their ethnic culture, exchange with Japanese local communities, publish community newsletters, etc. We also assist the refugees to develop their own community and activities. We publish "Handbook for life in Japan" in Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, English, Burmese and Karen as a living guidance for settled refugees. We also provide "Education and Training Grant" (financial assistance of single-sum payment) to settled refugees and their family members who are admitted to schools, including universities, high schools, junior high schools, and elementary schools in Japan.

Support for Japanese Language Education

In order to support continuous learning of Japanese language of refugees settled in local communities, we provide the Japanese language education materials which we developed. We also support activities and give advice on management of local Japanese language volunteer groups teaching Japanese language to settled refugees. At the Head Office and the Kansai Branch, Japanese language education counselors provide advice on Japanese language education to settled refugees, and also to volunteer groups, local schools and employers of refugees.



Japanese language education materials developed by RHQ (Dictionaries of Japanese - Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, and Burmese)

Counseling Service for Employment

It is sometimes difficult for refugees to find a job due to language difficulties etc. The vocational counseling services are available by job counselors at the Head Office, Kansai Branch and RHQ Support Center. After refugees find a job, we try to maintain close communications with the employers by visiting workplaces, providing consultation, etc. We hold meetings with related administrative agencies and the employers to promote refugees employment.

Project for Refegee Applicants

We provide refugee applicants with financial assistance for living expenses, rent of accommodation, and/or medical expenses. These supports are provided for the applicants who are recognized as facing financial difficulties based on an investigation by RHQ. We also operate ESFRA (Emergency Shelter for Refugee Applicants). Advice for daily life is offered as well.



A Room of ESFRA (one example)

Project for Enlightenment and Publicity

We hold seminars and lectures which are related to refugee issues. The aim of these activities is to deepen the understanding of general public, to foster specialists and volunteers for refugee issues and to develop partnership with NGOs in the field of refugee assistance.



"Workshop refugee" in June - in July