SAKURAPASS PUBLICATION • VOLUME 2 • 2026–2027 MASTER WORKBOOK EDITION • FREE SAMPLE PREVIEW

VERIFIED AS-OF: 2026-10-28

VOLUME 2 • 7-CHAPTER FIELD MANUAL & WORKBOOK • FREE SAMPLE CHAPTER

Thriving in Japan: The Workplace, Culture & Society Integration Handbook

The Complete Field Manual & Workbook for Southeast Asian Workers: First 14 Days Civic Setup, 35+ Verbatim Workplace & Clinic Scripts, Tatemae vs. Honne Decoder, Item-by-Item Garbage & Bicycle Rules, Halal/Food Kanji, Pension Refund Guide & PR-Safe Compliance Log

KEY TOOLS, FRAMEWORKS & TEMPLATES INSIDE THE FULL EDITION:

- ✓ First 14 Days City Hall, Bank & SIM Setup + October 2026 Permanent Residence Compliance Rules
- ✓ 15 Verbatim Workplace Survival Scripts (Hou-Ren-Sou, Apologizing, Sick Leave & Shift Handovers)
- ✓ 12-Phrase Indirect No Dictionary (Tatemae vs. Honne) + 20 Clinic, Pharmacy & City Hall Dialogues
- ✓ Item-by-Item Garbage Sorting (Gomi) Encyclopedia & Strict Bicycle Laws That Affect Your Visa
- ✓ 20-Label Halal/Pork-Free Kanji Decoder + 5-Step ¥500k–¥900k Pension Lump-Sum Refund Protocol

SakuraPass Research & Advisory Team
Mandatory Reform Review: 2027-01-28 (Pre-2027-04-01 ESD/B1 Reforms)

Official Portal & Full Workbook Access:
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COMPLETE CURRICULUM & REFERENCE INDEX

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Book 2: Thriving in Japan — The Workplace, Culture & Society Integration Handbook

Research Cut-Off & Verification Date: October 28, 2026 **Target Audience:** Southeast Asian workers and professionals (Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, and across ASEAN) preparing for arrival or currently living and working in Japan.

> **Why Cultural & Civic Integration Now Affects Your Legal Future in Japan:**
> On **October 1, 2026**, the Immigration Services Agency of Japan (ISA) published its revised **Permanent Residence Guideline** (taking effect **April 1, 2027**, with certain public-charge and compliance provisions affecting pending cases). Alongside **B1-level Japanese** and spotless tax, health insurance, and pension records, the revised guideline explicitly evaluates a foreign resident's **understanding of Japanese systems and social rules**. Whether your goal is a smooth 5-year SSW(i) contract, promotion to supervisor under **SSW(ii)**, or eventual **Permanent Residence**, mastering Japan's unwritten workplace and neighborhood code is your greatest career advantage.

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Chapter 1: Your First 14 Days & The "PR-Safe" Civic Rulebook

The first two weeks after you land at Narita, Haneda, Kansai, Chubu, or Fukuoka Airport set the legal foundation for your entire stay in Japan. Missing a single deadline in Month 1 can create tax or insurance gaps that hurt your future visa renewal.

1.1 The Airport Landing Checklist (Day 1)

When the Immigration Inspector grants you *Landing Permission (Jōriku Kyoka)*:

- *Receive Your Residence Card (Zairyū Kādo): Issued immediately at major international airports (Narita, Haneda, Chubu, Kansai, New Chitose, Hiroshima, Fukuoka). If you land at a smaller regional airport, you will receive a stamp in your passport and your Residence Card will be mailed to your registered address after you visit the municipal office.* (Note: New Residence Card designs and optional combined My Number Card functionality began on **June 14, 2026**.)*
- *Verify Your Designation Sheet (Shiteisho / 指定書): **If you hold an** SSW(i) **or** SSW(ii)* visa, check the paper Designation Sheet stapled inside your passport. It lists your authorized accepting organization (employer) and industrial field. Never remove or lose this sheet.
- **Rule #1 of Daily Life in Japan:** Every mid- to long-term foreign resident aged 16 or older is **legally required by the Immigration Control Act to carry their original Residence Card on their person at all times** (a photo on your phone is not legally sufficient if stopped by a police officer for a routine bicycle check).

1.2 The Mandatory 14-Day Municipal Office (*Shiyakusho / Kuyakusho*) Checklist

Within **14 days of moving into your dormitory or apartment**, you (accompanied by your employer or Registered Support Organization under Mandatory Support Duty #5) must visit your local City Hall (*Shiyakusho*), Ward Office (*Kuyakusho*), or Town Hall (*Yakuba*):

Procedure	Japanese Term	Why It Is Legally Critical
1. Moving-In Notification	転入届 (*Tennyū Todoke*) / 住民登録	Prints your official address on the back of your Residence Card. Failing to register within 14 days can result in a fine of up to ¥200,000 and status revocation.
2. My Number Notification	マイナンバー (*Mai Nanbā*)	Your 12-digit Social Security and Tax Number. Required by your employer for payroll taxes and required by banks to open an account or send overseas remittances.
3. Health Insurance & Pension Check	健康保険・厚生年金 (*Shakai Hoken*)	Full-time company employees are enrolled by their employer in *Employees' Health Insurance & Employees' Pension (Shakai Hoken)**. If there is any gap between employment periods, you must enroll in** National Health Insurance (Kokumin Kenkō Hoken) **and** National Pension (Kokumin Nenkin)* at City Hall.
4. Moving-Out Notification (Before Changing Cities or Leaving Japan)	転出届 (*Tenshutsu Todoke*)	Whenever you move to another municipality—or before you leave Japan permanently—you **must** file a Moving-Out Notification at City Hall first.

1.3 Opening Your Japanese Bank Account, Mobile SIM & Personal Seal (*Hanko*)

In your first week after City Hall registration, you will set up three daily-life essentials:

1. *Japanese Bank Account (*Ginkō Kōza*):*

- *Japan Post Bank (*Yūcho Ginkō / *ゆうちょ銀行*): **The most foreigner-friendly bank in Japan with ATMs in every post office and FamilyMart across rural and urban areas. Requires your** Residence Card **(with registered address on the back),** Passport**,** Employee ID / Employment Contract*, and phone number.
- **Seven Bank / SBI Shinsei Bank / SMBC / MUFG:** Great secondary options with English/multilingual mobile apps.
- *Strict Anti-Fraud Warning: *Never sell, lend, or give your bank book (*Tsūchō*) or ATM cash card to anyone when you leave Japan! Selling a bank account is a serious crime in Japan (*Furikome Sagi* money-laundering law) that permanently bars you from re-entering Japan.

1. *Low-Cost Mobile SIM (*Kakuyasu SIM / *MVNO*):*

- Avoid expensive 2-year major carrier shop contracts costing ¥8,000+/month. Choose foreigner-friendly low-cost carriers like **Rakuten Mobile, LINEMO, ahamo, IIJmio, Sakura Mobile, or GTN Mobile** (~¥1,500–¥3,200/month for 20GB–30GB).

1. *Personal Name Stamp (*Hanko / Inkan / *印鑑*):*

- While many offices now accept signatures, having a simple Katakana or Romaji *Mitome-in* stamp (¥1,000–¥2,000 at Don Quijote or a *Hanko* shop) makes signing apartment leases and payroll forms effortless.

1.4 The "Golden Rule" for Future SSW(ii) Upgrades & Permanent Residence

Under both current ISA examination rules and the **2026-10-01 revised Permanent Residence guideline** (effective **2027-04-01**), Immigration examines not only *whether* your taxes, health insurance, and pension are paid, but **whether every single payment was made on or before the due date**.

- **Salary Deduction (*Tokubetsu Chōshū*) Is Safest: When your employer deducts Health Insurance, Pension, Income Tax, and Residence Tax (*Jūminzei*) directly from your paycheck, your payment record is automatically on time.
- **Beware the "Job-Change Bill Trap" (*Futsū Chōshū*): If you ever change employers or take unpaid leave, your local city hall or pension office will mail paper payment slips (*Nōfusho*) to your mailbox, payable at any convenience store (7-Eleven, Lawson, FamilyMart). Pay every paper slip before the printed deadline (*Nōkigen*) and keep the stamped paper receipt for 5 years!** Even one late convenience-store payment can reset your eligibility clock for Permanent Residence.
- **Dependent Tax Rules for Overseas Remittances:** If you claim tax deductions for supporting parents or family members in your home country (*Fuyō Kōjo*), you must provide **official individual bank/remittance transfer records showing money sent to each specific dependent** (cash carried by hand or pooled transfers to one sibling for the whole family are not accepted by Japanese tax offices).

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END OF FREE SAMPLE PREVIEW • FULL EDITION LOCKED

Unlock All Remaining Modules, Sector Glossaries & Printable Worksheets

You have read the Free Sample Preview (Module 1 / Chapter 1) of *Thriving in Japan: The Workplace, Culture & Society Integration Handbook*. Unlock the full edition (**$9.99**) or the Complete 2-Book Bundle ($14.99) for instant access to all remaining chapters:

- **Chapter 2: Cracking the Japanese Workplace Code (How to Be Valued & Promoted)**
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