

# **Kanagawa Startup Visa Program Application and Utilization Guide**

## **(Kanagawa Prefectural Government Program for Promotion of Business Startups by Foreign Entrepreneurs in National Strategic Special Zone)**

### **1. Objective of the program**

Kanagawa Startup Visa Program aims to strengthen international competitiveness of Kanagawa industries and develop international business hubs in the prefecture. In this program, Kanagawa Prefectural Government (hereafter referred to as “K.P.G.”) facilitates foreign entrepreneurs’ entry into Japan who satisfy the national government’s requirements for landing by confirming appropriateness and viability of their business plan, thus leading to promotion of business startups by foreign entrepreneurs in Kanagawa Prefecture.

### **2. Eligible persons**

Foreign nationals planning to launch a business in Kanagawa Prefecture

\*Those who presently live abroad, in principle. Foreign nationals who are already in Japan under other status of residence are not eligible.

### **3. Eligible businesses**

Businesses that can apply for the program are as below.

- a. ME-BYO\*/life sciences business (e.g. biotechnology, medical device)
- b. Energy business (e.g. energy creation, saving and storage)
- c. IT/robotics business (e.g. software, AI, IOT, ICT)
- d. Tourism business (e.g. promotion of inbound tourists, creation of tourist attractions)
- e. Other businesses specially recognized by Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture as having the potential to contribute to developing international competitiveness and international business hubs for Kanagawa industries.

\* “ME-BYO” is a concept created by K.P.G. that health condition cannot be rated as either good or poor, but changes continuously between being sick and being healthy.

\*For details of item e, please ask the Industry Promotion Division, K.P.G. (the section to receive the applications).

### **4. Flow of the program**

#### **(1) Application for Kanagawa Startup Visa Program**

##### **i. Documents to be submitted**

Please make all the following documents in Japanese and submit them to the Industry Promotion Division, K.P.G. Please refer to the entry examples and Q&A in making the documents.

- a. Application for Confirmation of Business Startup (Appended Form No. 1) Example
- b. Business Plan (Appended Form No. 1-2) Example
- c. Time Schedule (Appended Form No. 1-3) Example
- d. Resume of the Applicant (Appended Form No. 1-4)
- e. Written Oath (Appended Form No. 1-5)

- f. Document which clarifies where the applicant will be residing for six months after entry into Japan (e.g. photocopy of residential lease agreement, residential rent application form, or residence certificate in case staying in acquaintance's house)
- g. Document which clarifies that the applicant has funds for expenses of living in Japan for six months and returning to home country. (e.g. photocopy of bankbook that shows the present amount of saving)
- h. Photocopy of passport (pages of status items)

\*Forms a. to e. are downloadable.

## **ii. Persons who may submit the application documents**

Persons who fall under any of the below items may bring the documents to K.P.G. for submission.

- a. The applicant
- b. An employee of a public interest incorporated association or public interest incorporated foundation which is aimed to facilitate smooth acceptance of foreign nationals (currently, Japan Immigration Association), and who is recognized as appropriate by Regional Immigration Services Bureau Director
- c. An attorney or administrative scrivener who has notified to Regional Immigration Services Bureau Director that has jurisdiction over the location of the bar association or administrative scrivener association, which the attorney or administrative scrivener belongs to, through the association. When the applicant is outside of Japan, this shall be a person who has been entrusted (its employee, in case of a corporation) by the applicant with the opening of the office in Japan.

\*When the documents are submitted by a person described in b. or c., the person is requested to also bring documents to show his/her relationship with the applicant and explain that he/she is in the said position.

## **iii. Notes for Submission**

- Before submitting the application documents, please be sure to consult with K.P.G. We will confirm the content of the business plan and the present state of the applicant. Please directly come or send an e-mail using the below form to the Industry Promotion Division.
- Please bring and submit the documents directly or sent by post.
- If you would come to the Industry Promotion Division, please make an appointment. You may have to wait for a long time or not be able to meet with the staff in charge if you come without an appointment.

## **iv. Section to receive the documents**

New Industry Promotion Group, Industry Promotion Division  
Industry Department, Industry and Labor Bureau  
Kanagawa Prefectural Government

Address: 1 Nihon-odori, Naka-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, 231-8588

\*Near Nihon-odori Station on the Minatomirai Line

Form to e-mail: Please send inquiries from the following URL.

<http://www.pref.kanagawa.jp/docs/sr4/startup-visa/startup-visa.html>

Opening hours: 9:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 17:00, Monday through Friday

\*Excluding national holidays of Japan and days when K.P.G. is closed.

## **(2) Confirmation of Business Plan**

Upon hearing opinions of persons who have insights into business management, K.P.G. will confirm whether the content of the business plan satisfies the requirements specified in Items (a) to (d), Paragraph 1, Article 22 of the Order for Enforcement of Act on National Strategic Special Zone (hereafter referred to as “Enforcement Order”).

Specific points for confirmation

- Business content
- Business operation area and location of the office
- Specific plan before start of the business operation
- Business scale and fund for startup
- Location of residence, fund for living, etc.

When the applicant is found to be part of anti-social forces or have relations with anti-social forces, the application is not accepted. If it is found after acceptance of the application, its effect shall be rescinded retroactively.

## **(3) Issuance of Certificate of Confirmation of Business Startup**

When K.P.G. considers that the submitted application documents are appropriate, it will issue Certificate of Confirmation of Business Startup (Appended Form No. 2). K.P.G. will contact the address entered in the application form for notification. Please come to the office below to receive the Certificate of Confirmation, also we can send it by post.

Location of issuance:

New Industry Promotion Group, Industry Promotion Division

Industry Department, Industry and Labor Bureau

Kanagawa Prefectural Government

Opening hours: 9:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 17:00, Monday through Friday

\*Excluding national holidays of Japan

When it is found that the application documents are incomplete or do not fulfill part of the requirements, Governor of Kanagawa Prefecture will issue (send by post) Notification on the Result of Confirmation of Business Startup to inform that the Certificate is not issued.

## **(4) Application for the Status of Residence (Business Manager)**

When Certificate of Confirmation of Business Startup is issued, the applicant needs to apply to Yokohama District Immigration Office, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, for issuance of Certificate of Eligibility for Status of Residence within three months following the

issuance of the Certificate of Confirmation.

For details of the procedures, please directly contact Yokohama District Immigration Office, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau.

Business and Employment and Permanent Residence Inspection Department  
Yokohama District Immigration Office, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau  
Address: 10-7 Torihama-cho, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama City  
Kanagawa Prefecture, 236-0002  
Phone: 045-769-1721  
Open hours: 9:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday  
\*Excluding national holidays of Japan

#### **(5) Activities to Launch a Business**

The applicant who obtained the status of residence (Business Manager) may engage in activities to launch a business during the six-month period of stay upon submitting Notification of Landing (Form No. 7) to K.P.G. within five days following the entry into Japan.

During the period, the applicant may have interviews with K.P.G., at least once in every two months, to be asked about progress of the business plan. The applicant may also be requested to submit documents\* to clarify the state of progress.

\*Office lease agreement, employment contract, bankbook of the applicant, contract with the client, etc.

If the applicant wishes to seek advice in launching a business, we will introduce various organizations offering support for business startup in Kanagawa. Please contact the Industry Promotion Division, K.P.G.

#### **(6) Extension of Period of Stay**

In order to keep staying in Japan following the six months of period of stay granted by the Startup Visa Program and continue the business, the applicant is required to take procedures for renewal of the status of residence (Business Manager) at Yokohama District Immigration Office, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, before the end of the six-month period.

In case it becomes difficult to continue business startup, or the application for extension of the status of residence (Business Manager) is not approved during the six-month period, the applicant will have to return to his/her home country. The applicant is requested to set apart the expenses for return (the amount equivalent to that of one-way air ticket to his/her country) separately from business fund.

### **5. Change in Application**

When a change occurs in the contents of the application such as address or contact details of the applicant, after applying for Kanagawa Startup Visa Program, the applicant is required to submit the following documents to the Industry Promotion Division without delay.

- a. Notification of Change (Form No. 1-6)
- b. Document to clarify the change (e.g. updated version of the document submitted at the time of application)

## **6. Cancellation of Confirmation of Business Startup**

When the applicant who received Certificate of Confirmation of Business Startup falls under any of the below items, the issuance may be cancelled.

- a. When it becomes clear that the applicant received the Confirmation by false statement or other fraudulent act or submitting documents with false entry.
- b. When the applicant fails to comply with K.P.G.'s request for necessary responses, such as explanation and submission of a document, without good reason, in confirming the progress of the Business Plan.

In case Certificate of Confirmation of Business Startup is cancelled, the applicant shall return the Certificate to K.P.G. without delay.