



THE NEW JAPANESE IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY OF FOREIGN OVERSEAS PERFORMING ARTISTS

Effective 15 March 2005, the Japanese government will enforce its reforms on the standards of eligibility for the entry of foreign entertainers under Ministerial Ordinance (Immigration and Refugee Recognition Law No. 7, Article 1, Sec. 2) issued on 15 February 2005.

Performing artists like, stage actors, **singers, dancers, musicians**, must comply with either of the two (2) requirements:

1. The applicant for entertainer visa has spent a minimum of two (2) years at foreign educational institution, studying subjects relevant to the type of performance in which he/she will engage; or
2. The applicant must have a minimum of two (2) years experience outside Japan in the type of performance in which he/she will engage.

Exempted from the new law are foreign entertainers who shall record a CD in a recording company in Japan, those invited by the national or local government to perform, or those entertainers who receiving ¥ 5,000,000 or more a day.

The implementation of the ordinance is not retroactive. Foreign entertainers who will use their Certificate of Eligibility (COE) before 14 March 2005, those who have been issued visas or COEs before the same date but will enter Japan after 15 March 2005, and those who have applied for COE before the date but which will be issued after 15 March 2005, could still enter Japan using the old standard.