



June 25, 2013

Exemption of Visas for Nationals of the Kingdom of Thailand

1. In celebration of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the Government of Japan has decided that from July 1, nationals of the Kingdom of Thailand in possession of ordinary e-passports (passports with IC chips with store biometric information including a digital image of the passport photograph) who wish to enter Japan for a period not exceeding 15 days for short-term stay will be made exempt from the visa requirements. The further development of Japan-Thailand exchange is expected as a result of the exemption of visa requirements, including increases in the number of tourists from Thailand who visit Japan and the enhancement of the ease of business transactions between the two countries.
2. However, those entering Japan with intentions other than those noted above; or in other words, those who wish to stay in Japan for short-term stay of over 15 days or who wish to stay for purposes such as work, will be required to obtain visas in advance. In addition, this visa exemption applies only to those with an ordinary e-passport. Nationals of the Kingdom of Thailand who do not hold an ordinary e-passport continue to be required to obtain a visa.
3. Furthermore, please note that any visa fees or processing fees collected before this measure will not be refunded.