

MOJ enforces Automatic Extension of Stay for Registered Aliens to prevent community spread of COVID-19

- The Ministry of Justice (Minister Choo, Mi Ae) has announced that the Period of Stay of some 136,000 Registered Aliens and Overseas Korean (F-4) residents will be collectively extended to April 30, 2020 as part of its effort to contain the community spread of COVID-19.
- The extension measure comes to minimize in-person visits to a jurisdictional immigration office to extend a period of stay, amid escalating concerns over the community transmission of the virus as the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 is rapidly surging in the nation.
 - ※ The National Alert Level for COVID-19 has been raised from 'Alert' to 'Grave', its highest response level, as of February 23, 2020.
- The Automatic Extension of Stay is expected to significantly reduce the volume of visits to local immigration (branch) offices across the nation given that individual applications to extend a period of stay account for more than 30% (2,559 on daily average with a total of 632,264 cases processed in 2019) of the whole applications filed by foreign residents in the country.

○ This MOJ measure will be particularly effective in stemming the spread of coronavirus in local communities by allowing residents to avoid unnecessary travel by public transportation in that it requires more than a 2-hour travel to immigration offices in some cases of regions.

□ Under the measure, the expiry date of all legitimate* foreign residents (including Overseas Korean (F-4) residents) whose period of stay expires between February 24 and April 29, 2020 will be automatically extended to April 30, 2020 with no additional applications or paperwork.

* The measure only applies to those legally staying in the Republic of Korea, excluding illegal/missing immigrants.

※ Those who have already applied for Permission to Extend Period of Stay either by visit or online are excluded from the measure. (Normal Period of Stay to be granted based on review criteria)

○ EPS workers (E-9) and Maritime Crews (E-10) are, however, excluded from the measure above as they are required to obtain approval from relevant ministries to extend their stay. Also, those with Hotel/Entertainment (E-6-2), Work and Visit (H-2), Family Members (F-1-11), and Parents of Marriage Migrants (F-1-5) status will have his/her period of stay extended within the relevant maximum period as stipulated in the laws and regulations of the Republic of Korea.

※ Using **e-Application services** at www.hikorea.go.kr, or filing group applications through employers is highly recommended for EPS workers (E-9) and Maritime Crews (E-10).

- ☐ Further details on the implementation will be posted on the website of HiKorea (www.hikorea.go.kr) in due time and inquiries regarding the measure can be addressed at **1345**, the Immigration Contact Center, **with no need to visit local immigration offices.**