



Immigration News Highlights

2023-16, 18 April 2023



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below. [Click here to find all issues of the Immigration News Highlights on the GMS Flash Alert: Immigration page.](#)

[Americas](#)

[Asia Pacific](#)

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Americas

United States

[Visa Bulletin For May 2023 released](#)

The May Visa Bulletin from the US State Department shows advancement for China EB-3 but no movement for other China or India categories under Final Action Dates and Filing Dates. All other nations under EB-2 will retrogress under Final Action Dates, and all other countries under EB-3 will no longer be current under Final Action Dates and Dates for Filing.

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United States

[Adjustment of status filing charts from the May Visa Bulletin](#)

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services indicated that for the month of May 2023, they would use the State Department's Final Action Dates schedule according to the May Visa Bulletin to evaluate the eligibility of applicants for adjustment of status.

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Asia Pacific



Hong Kong

[Further enhancements to appointment booking arrangements for identity cards application](#)

The immigration authorities of Hing Kong released an updated version of the booking system followed for identification card applications. At four designated Registration of Persons offices, people between the ages of 11 and 18 years, who already possess a Hong Kong identification card can make appointments for replacement cards during extended service hours.

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Japan

[Japan to launch new visa track for skilled foreigners](#)

The Japanese Immigration Services Agency announced launch of a new, easier procedure for issuing professional visas to highly qualified foreign workers in an effort to draw in foreign talent. The government will provide visas to foreign applicants and give preferential treatment for individuals meeting specified requirements, such as possessing a master's degree and an annual salary of JPY20 million (USD151,000).

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New Zealand

[Thirty two health sector jobs added to green list residency pathway](#)

The Kiwi authorities announced the addition of 32 new health sector jobs to the Straight to Residence pathway of the Green List. The measure was taken to better equip the country's health system by mitigating the worker shortage in the sector.

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Philippines

[e-Travel System rolled out](#)

The government of Philippines will now require an increased number of travelers to register on their e-Travel System before entering or leaving the nation. For incoming foreign travelers, the deadline for registration is set at 72 hours before arrival. Those exiting the country must register a minimum of 72 hours, but no more than 3 hours prior to their scheduled departure.

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Qatar

[All business and tourist visas to be processed on Hayya portal](#)

The government of Qatar announced the expansion of the Hayya portal, launched specifically for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, to now process applications for business and tourist visas. The platform unifies the visa application process for GCC and non-GCC members, and also provides further services like maps and transportation options to assists incoming foreigners.

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Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia reveals temporary work visa system](#)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has established introduced a temporary work visa programme that allows businesses to issue visas that are valid for three months from the date of entry and can be renewed for an additional three months. Several eligibility criteria have been prescribed for companies to be able to participate in the programme.

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United Arab Emirates

[Multiple entry permit now available to finish Golden Visa application procedures](#)

The government of the United Arab Emirates announced the launch of a multi-entry permit for foreigners who wish to visit the country to complete the procedures for the UAE Golden Visa. Interested individuals will be required to apply for the permit on the website for the same. The service is available for only specified categories of investors and professionals.

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Europe and Africa

France

[Foreign nationals can now apply for visas electronically](#)

The government of France has increased the number of foreign nationals who can electronically submit their visa applications using its online filing system. Applications for residence permits temporary one-year cards, multi-annual cards, resident cards and related cards for Algerians can now be submitted on the website.

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Malta

[Malta to offer residency to third-country entrepreneurs through startup residence scheme](#)

The government of Malta aims to attract foreigners to the nation through the through the new Startup Residence Scheme which allows entrepreneurs from third countries to obtain residency in Malta. The programme will grant residence permit with a validity of three years to co-founders and core employees along with their immediate family members. The permit can be renewed for an extended period of five years.

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Portugal

[Government backs down on Golden Visa rules](#)

The Portuguese golden visa applications shall remain open until new laws for the same are in place in the country. The visa will still come to an end, but individuals can still register for the same, as opposed to the previous notice released about the registration cut-offs date being 16 February 2023.

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United Kingdom

[EU tourists subject to a tax when travelling to UK's Manchester](#)

Tourists from the European Union, travelling to Manchester in the United Kingdom would be required to pay a “City Visitor Charge”. They will be subject to a fee of EUR1.14 per night room for staying in accommodation establishments in the city.

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Thomas Wolf
Head of KPMG’s Global
Immigration Network
T: +49 30 530 199-300
E: twolf@kpmg-law.com

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