



Immigration News Highlights

2023-31, 1 August 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

[USCIS will conduct second random selection from previously submitted FY 2024 H-1B cap registrations](#)

USCIS conducted a random selection process for the fiscal year 2024 H-1B cap, which included beneficiaries eligible for the advanced degree exemption. Individuals with selected registrations will receive a selection notice through their myUSCIS accounts, providing information on when and where to file their H-1B petitions.

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Asia Pacific

Indonesia

[Indonesia announces 10-year visa policy for foreigners](#)

The Immigration Agency of Indonesia has announced that starting from July 2023, they will be implementing the "golden visa" policy, which will allow foreign companies and citizens who invest in the country to obtain special visa privileges.

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Malaysia

Malaysia offers longer visa-free time to Hong Kong passport-holders

The Government of Malaysia announced that Hong Kong passport-holders can stay in Malaysia for 90 days unlike the previous 30 without a visa. The decision to extend the stay period for Hong Kong passport-holders in Malaysia to 90 days without a visa can be seen as a reciprocal gesture, as Malaysians currently have the privilege of 90-day visa-free travel to Hong Kong.

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Oman

Entry visa exemption for some segments of Omanis travelling to South Korea

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Oman issued a circular stating that specific groups of Omanis are now exempt from the requirement of applying for entry visas when traveling to the Republic of Korea.

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Philippines

Philippines to start trial operation of e-visa system with China

The Philippine Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that it will commence a trial operation of the electronic visa system with China starting from 24 August 2023. This new system aims to streamline the visa application process between the two countries.

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Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia expanding e-visa system to 12 countries including Turkey, Lebanon, and Pakistan

The Government of Saudi Arabia announced that the expansion of its e-visa system to include 12 additional countries, bringing the total number of countries eligible for e-visas to 19. With this new system, travelers visiting Saudi Arabia will no longer need to have a visa sticker placed on their passports.

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Singapore

Enhanced Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) available soon

The Ministry of Manpower of Singapore announced that from 1 August 2023, employers and employment agents will have access to an improved SAT that helps value the qualifications of individuals applying for Employment Pass or S Pass.

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Taiwan

Taiwan provides faster immigration clearance for Singaporeans

The Government of Taiwan has announced that Singaporean citizens visiting Taiwan will have the privilege of using the automated immigration clearance system, known as e-gates, at the island's airports. This allows for faster and more efficient immigration clearance for Singaporean travelers entering Taiwan.

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Europe and Africa

Czech Republic

Czech Republic launches e-gate clearance system for Taiwan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Czech Republic has introduced an automatic immigration clearance system, also known as e-gate, for Taiwanese passport holders. The Czech Republic has become Taiwan's ninth e-gate partner worldwide through a reciprocal program.

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European Union

European Union announces new visa requirement to enter the country

The European Union has declared that non-EU citizens will be required to obtain a visa before entering the EU from 2024, thus, impacting millions of individuals. The European Union (EU) has justified the implementation of the new visa requirement as a measure to enhance security and strengthen border control.

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France

France announces plans to welcome 30,000 Indian students by 2030

The Government of France announced that it has set a goal of attracting 30,000 Indian students by the year 2030. This initiative aims to strengthen the bond between the two countries and promote educational opportunities for Indian students in France. The French authorities have proposed a plan where 15-30 public universities will be encouraged to invest in new programs and courses. These initiatives are expected to become financially self-sustainable within two to three years.

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Portugal

Foreigners in Portugal whose residence permits expire by 30 September 2023 can renew them automatically

The Government of Portugal have made an announcement stating that all foreigners whose residence permits are set to expire by September 30th will now be able to renew them automatically. The Foreigners and Borders Service has clarified that approximately 84,000 individuals from other countries have residence permits expiring by the end of September.

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Spain

Foreigners who spend over 6 months outside the country will no longer have their permits revoked

The Spanish Government announced that foreigners who possess temporary residence permits in the country will no longer be subjected to the strict regulations that were previously in place, even if they spend more than six months outside of Spain's territory.

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United Kingdom

Smoother travel for families through the UK borders this summer

The UK Government announced that from 24 July 2023, children who are 10 years old or older will have the option to use eGates at 15 air and rail ports in the UK. This will make it more convenient for families to travel.

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