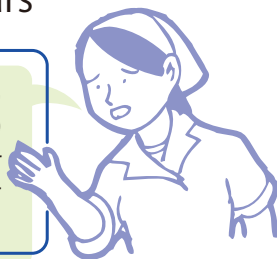


Q1

● Low Wages, Working Long Hours

Although I work long hours every day from 9:00 in the morning to 10:00 at night, including overtime work, I am paid about ¥50,000 after tax monthly for my salary, and an additional ¥400 an hour for overtime. Under such circumstances, I can't pay off my debt for what I paid to come to Japan. What should I do?



A

Under the present legal system, the labor law is applied to technical intern trainees, who are therefore guaranteed to be paid minimum wage. In fact, though, unreasonably high dormitory fees or utilities costs are sometimes deducted from the wage, and so the amount that is actually paid is significantly low. In many cases, overtime is not properly paid. In this case, you can file an appeal for the proper amount for unpaid wages. However, since technical intern trainees have many difficulties in appealing directly to the Labor Standards Inspection Office in person, supporters must cooperate with them and prepare carefully to make an appeal.



Q2

● Exploitation of Sending Organizations

I paid about ¥1,000,000 as a deposit to a sending organization in my country which mediated my coming to Japan. I also signed a document which says that I must pay ¥5,000,000 as a penalty if I return to my country without finishing my three-year term. However, after I came to Japan, the type of business or wage was different from what I was explained. Under such circumstances, I can't pay off the money I borrowed in my country. What should I do?



A

The contract between sending organizations and technical intern trainees is subject to the legal system on the side of sending organizations, therefore it is difficult in Japan to provide relief for technical intern trainees and it has become a major issue in the Technical Intern Training Program. However, there are remedies if there are violations of laws in Japan such as being forced to work in a business which is different from what was planned in technical intern training or being unpaid the proper wages. Also, it may be possible to stay in Japan by changing the organization implementing technical intern training, so persistence in seeking a solution can help.



● Forced Return

Q3

I complained about employment conditions to my employers and supervising organization, and the next day, my employer told me, "You're fired! I will send you back to your country right away." What should I do?

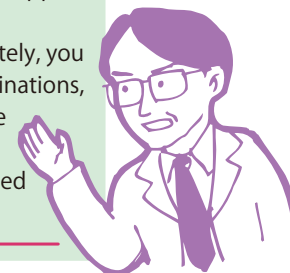


A

Sometimes technical intern trainees are forced to return to their country immediately if they file a complaint with their employer or it comes to the employer's attention that they have pursued a remedy through external organizations. To prevent forced return, you need to prepare carefully.

If you are being forced to return, you must contact specialized support organizations or relief organizations immediately.

If you are taken to the airport before you can respond appropriately, you must tell the Immigration officials who conduct departure examinations, "This is a forced return and I do not agree to it. I want to continue the Technical Intern Training Program at another implementing organization." There is a possibility that this might stop your forced return.



● Points to note

- Precisely because technical intern trainees have various difficulties in appealing directly by themselves, supporters need to cooperate with them and prepare carefully.
- The Catholic Commission of Japan for Migrants, Refugees and People on the Move provides a list of specialized support organizations in the community on its web page. Please contact the Catholic organizations listed on the back.

