

Pension



Pension (年金 ねんきん Nenkin)

The national pension system is a program which collects a fixed annual payment to help individuals and families in the event that an individual passes away or becomes unable to work due to old age or injury.

1. National Pension (国民年金 こくみんねんきん Kokumin Nenkin)

All citizens between the ages of 20 and 59 and living in Japan must participate in the basic national pension program. (This does not include foreign nationals who are exempt from participating by international treaty.) Entrance paperwork is handled at the city hall or ward office. Payment methods include paying through automatic withdrawal from financial accounts or paying cash at any financial institution or convenience store. For company employees, public employees, and educators, all entrance paperwork is conducted by the workplace, and there is no need to make additional payments.

2. Employee's Pension/Mutual Pension

(厚生年金/共済年金 こうせいねんきん きょうさいねんきん Kousei Nenkin/Kyousai Nenkin)

In addition to the inclusive national pension, those working at private companies must pay into an employee pension, and those working in the public sector or as educators must pay into the mutual pension fund. All entrance paperwork is conducted by the workplace, and funds paid into these pensions are taken directly from employees' salaries.

◆ Receiving Pension (年金の受給 ねんきん じゆきゆう Nenkin no Jukyuu)

Pension is paid out to citizens aged 65 and older, to those who cannot work due to disability, and to families of those who die suddenly. The amount paid out is conditionally tied to the amount of insurance paid in.

◆ Lump-sum Refund (脱退一時金 だつたいいちじきん Dattai Ichijikin)

Foreign citizens who paid into the national pension and an employee pension or the mutual pension for more than six months may apply for a lump-sum refund within two years of leaving Japan. For more detailed information, please check with the Japan Pension Service.

Japan Pension Service (日本年金機構 にほんねんきんきこう Nihon Nenkin Kikou)

URL: <http://www.nenkin.go.jp/n/www/index.html>

(Website in English/ Japanese; Pamphlets Available in English/ Chinese/ Portuguese/ Spanish/ Korean/ Tagalog/ Russian/ Indonesian/ Thai/ Vietnamese)