



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-22, 30 May 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](#)

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## Americas

### Brazil

#### Stricter immigration controls for seafarers entering Brazil now in force

The Brazilian immigration authority previously accepted a "seaman's book" as a valid seafarer's identity document and a travel document for temporary visa exemption. This book is usually issued under ILO Convention 108. From 1 May 2023, all seafarers arriving in Brazil by plane or vessel must have an ILO C185 SID. Seafarers who do not have an ILO C185 SID, either because their country of citizenship has not ratified the convention or they have not renewed their existing SID, can enter the country with a passport.

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### Canada

#### Canada increases median hourly wages for employers hiring temporary foreign workers

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), the federal ministry responsible for the labor market has updated the list of median hourly earnings utilized by firms when recruiting foreign nationals under the Temporary Foreign Worker Programme (TFWP). The revised list will go into effect on 31 May 2023.

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## Canada

### [Canada to start accepting PTE Academic test for Student Direct Stream applications](#)

Canada will begin accepting the PTE Academic on 10 August 2023 for all SDS (Student Direct Stream) applicants. This clearance comes in response to the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) earlier this year validation of PTE Core as evidence of English language competency for Canadian citizenship or permanent residency.

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## Canada

### [New arrangement expands work opportunities for Canadian and South Korean youth](#)

The Minister of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship emphasized the signing of a new Canada-South Korea Youth Mobility Arrangement on 23 May 2023. Through International Experience Canada (IEC) or its South Korean counterpart, young people from the two nations will have additional possibilities when applying for international jobs and travel opportunities in each other's respective countries.

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## Canada

### [New open work permits among changes to Canada family reunification immigration](#)

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship announced new measures to strengthen family reunification such as a new open work permit for spousal and family class applicants, open work permit extensions for permit holders whose permits expire between 1 August and the end of 2023, quicker temporary resident visa (TRV) processing times for spouse applicants etc.

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## United States

### [United States change visa reciprocity standards for Libyans](#)

U.S. Embassy in Libya announced on 24 May 2023 a change in the visa reciprocity standards for certain Libyan and U.S. visas. The visa fees have been standardized as part of this reciprocity update, and there are no longer any fees for Libyan nationals. According to the announcement, students from both nations who are eligible for a student visa will now be given multiple-entry visas that are valid for one year instead of the single-entry visa that was previously given out.

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**Asia Pacific**

**Hong Kong**

### [Hong Kong requires visa applicants to declare criminal records](#)

The Immigration Department of Hong Kong announced on 24 May 2023 that the visa applicants will be required to declare any previous criminal records from 19 June 2023 onwards, as part of the government's new and expanded measures about assessing entry applications.

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### **India**

#### [India and Australia seal new migration and mobility deal](#)

India and Australia on 24 May 2023, signed a migration partnership agreement to make it simpler for professionals, academics, and students to reside, work, and study in each other's nations. The agreement was signed during the Indian prime minister's visit to Australia. The terms of reference for an India-Australia hydrogen task force were also finalized by both nations. This task force will report to the ministerial dialogue on the potential for the two nations in relation to green hydrogen.

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### **Thailand**

#### [TAT and Visa sign MoU to boost tourists spending in Thailand](#)

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Visa have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to encourage Visa cardholders from abroad to spend more money when visiting in Thailand. The MoU, which was signed on 26 May 2023, emphasizes the annual Amazing Thailand Grand Sale and Thailand's health and wellness tourist experiences. TAT and Visa have been key partners since 1998.

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### **Vietnam**

#### [With Vietnam E- visa-Online application, Hungarian citizens can apply for Vietnam E-visa](#)

The Government of Vietnam has announced that Hungarian nationals can submit an online visa application to visit the nation. It is now simpler and more straightforward for Hungarian travelers to apply for a visa, and it is anticipated to increase travel between the two nations. Hungarian nationals who want to go to Vietnam can take advantage of our visa application services by visiting Vietnam E-visa website.

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### **Vietnam**

#### [Vietnam seeks Japanese visa exemption for its nationals](#)

The Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam has urged the Japanese government to support Vietnamese expats living in the country. He wants Vietnam to be given priority in the US\$75 billion programme for the development of high-quality infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region and the US\$10 billion Asia Energy Transformation initiative. He was looking for greater earning official development assistance from Japan for future generations.

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## Europe and Africa

### Hungary

#### Hungary implements strict measures for hiring foreign workers

The State Secretary of Hungary announced that the draft legislation for guest workers doesn't aim to tone down the large influx of job seekers to Hungary but rather support the domestic workforce and create new employment opportunities. Targeting those who are actively looking for work, those between the ages of 25 and 65, young mothers, as well as the underemployed, the government is committed to providing domestic workers to meet the growing demand for labor.

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### Kenya

#### Kenya to scrap visa fees for Africa traders

The President of Kenya has announced plans to abolish visa restrictions for African citizens going to Kenya for business as a step to removing obstacles to intra-Africa commerce. The statement given on 29 May 2023 was a continuation of Kenya's strategy for the integration of Africa.

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