



# Immigration News Highlights

2023-45, 7 November 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](#)

[Europe and Africa](#)



## Americas

### United States

#### [DHS to Supplement H-2B Cap with Nearly 65,000 Additional Visas for FY 2024](#)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in consultation with the Department of Labor, announced that it expects to make an additional 64,716 H-2B temporary nonagricultural worker visas available for FY2024, on top of the congressionally mandated 66,000 H-2B visas that are available each fiscal year.

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## Asia Pacific

### Bahrain

#### [Bahrain offers online visa applications for Pakistani nationals](#)

Bahrain's Ministry of Interior, Nationality, Passport, and Residence Affairs has unveiled an efficient and convenient online visa application system for Pakistani nationals, offering three distinct types of visit visas.

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## China

### [Tourists from China and Kazakhstan to enjoy mutual visa-free entries](#)

The government of China announced that with effect from 10 November 2023, Chinese and Kazakh nationals will be allowed to stay in each other's country for no more than 30 days for single crossing and stay 90 days as part of a 180-day visa-free period. It grants visa exemption for citizens of both countries covering private affairs, tourism, medical treatment, international transportation, transit, and business purposes.

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## Egypt

### [Egypt Unveils New Citizenship by Investment Rules](#)

Egypt announced the expansion of the citizenship by investment program, allowing applicants to acquire properties not just from government projects, as was the tradition, but also from private property developers and individual owners. This widening of eligibility criteria creates fresh possibilities for those aspiring to secure Egyptian citizenship through real estate investments.

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## Hong Kong

### [Hong Kong Extends Multiple-Entry Visas for Foreign Workers for up to 2 Years](#)

Hong Kong Chief Executive has announced that foreign staff working for companies registered in Hong Kong can apply for multiple-entry visas on the mainland with a duration of two years or more through the China Immigration Service Centre.

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## India

### [India and Italy signed the Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement](#)

India and Italy signed the Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to enable seamless movement of workers, students, and professionals after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a comprehensive and productive meeting with his counterpart Antonio Tajani.

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## Israel

### [Population Immigration and Border Authority \(PIBA\) extends visa validity period](#)

Due to the current security situation in Israel, PIBA has extended the period of validity of all valid visas held by foreigners in Israel, which are due to expire in the coming three months. The visas have been extended until 8 February 2024.

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## Japan

### [The Japan eVISA system adds new countries](#)

Japan eVISA has been made available to residents of Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, US, and Vietnam.

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## New Zealand

### [New Zealand announces changes to its Accredited Employer Work Visa \(AEWV\)](#)

New Zealand has announced significant changes to its Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) category affecting both accredited employers and foreign workers looking for jobs in the country. These changes aim to ensure fair treatment of migrants and streamline the visa application process.

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## Oman

### [Oman Suspends Issuance of New Visas to Citizens of Bangladesh](#)

Oman has decided to end the practice of converting tourist and visitor visas to work visas for individuals of all nationalities and suspending the issuance of all new visas to Bangladeshi citizens. The new policy became effective on 31 October 2023.

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## Saudi Arabia

### [Saudi Arabia launches 2nd phase of electronic business visit visa to cover all countries](#)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with the Ministry of Investment, launched the second phase of issuing electronic business visit visas titled "Visiting Investor." The second phase of the business visit visa will cover the rest of the countries of the world, not included in the earlier list.

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## Thailand

### [Thailand announces temporary visa exemption to Russian citizens](#)

Thailand has announced that holders of Russian passports or travel documents will be entitled to a tourist visa exemption for a 90-day stay in Thailand.

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## Europe and Africa

### Czech Republic

#### [Short term visa approved](#)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs about the changes in counting of the days of the authorized stay within the Schengen area following the amendment of the Schengen Border Code. The reference period of 180 days within which the foreigner can spend for up to 90 days in the Schengen area will be looked at backwards from each day of the stay (i.e., the calculation of stay will be done within 180 days preceding each day of stay).

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## Portugal

### Portugal's AIMA to Process Golden Visa Applications

The Portugal Government has created a new immigration authority known as Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA) assuming control of the authorities of SEF Immigration and Borders service. The AIMA Agency started its operations in October 2023, dissolving the SEF, as a part of restructuring immigration policy with smooth transition.

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## South Africa

### Sierra Leone and South Africa Agree on Visa Waiver for Holders of a Diplomatic, Service Passport

In furthering the diplomatic ties between the two countries, Sierra Leone and South Africa have agreed on a visa waiver for holders of Diplomatic and Service passports in both countries.

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## United Kingdom

### Qatari nationals can apply for an ETA

Qatari nationals can apply for an ETA which will be necessary for travel or transit through the United Kingdom for such nationals from 15 November 2023. The scheme is set to incrementally expand to other nationalities throughout 2024.

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