



## **Foreign tourists/Short term workers in South Korea will be banned to obtain driver's license from 2020**

Shor-term foreign visitors/workers will soon be banned to apply for a driver's license test in South Korea. Exact date of this revised law's enforcement will be released soon. PFR will update you again when its date is confirmed.

<b>Obtaining a Driver's License in South Korea for Short-term tourist/workers</b>	
<b>As of Now</b>	<b>Soon in 2020</b>
No restrictions.	Short-term visitors/workers without Alien Registration Card (ARC) who is staying less than 90 days will be banned to apply/obtain a local driver's license.  Obtaining driver's license will be allowed for ARC holders only.

Legislative process for this revised Road Traffic Act has been almost completed at the National Assembly's plenary session.

This legal revision has been strongly pushed as many foreign tourists have relatively easily obtained a Korean driver's license after taking intensive driving courses and have caused many traffic accidents in other third countries.

Some European countries have complained about increase of traffic accidents in their countries involving Chinese nationals with Korean driver's license. For similar reasons, the Chinese government has also asked to restrict its license issuance to Chinese tourists strongly.

Many Chinese nationals have obtained their driver's license in South Korea so far because mandatory training hours in China is about 63 hours whereas in South Korea it is 13 hours only. In addition, South Korean driver's license holders can drive in Europe, United States, and in China together with the international license issued by Korean driver's license.

A total of 5,977 Korean driver's licenses have been issued to short-term foreign visitors from January until November 2019. Most of them (5,389 people; 90.2%) were Chinese nationals. This figure excluded registered Chinese nationals who got a driver's license here in South Korea.



Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team:



**Jennifer Choi**

[Jennifer.choi@peoplefirstrelo.com](mailto:Jennifer.choi@peoplefirstrelo.com)

+82 10 8673 3344

Relocation Manager / Partner

People First Relocation, South Korea