

Resident Registration System in Korea

Sep 23, 2014

Sang-Kyum Kim

(Prof. Dr. Jur., Dongguk Univ.)

1. Significance of Resident Registration System

- Concept
 - Resident Registration System is to identify personal status in the national community
 - Granting unique identification for the possibility of identity person
 - The system that is for mandatory possessing certificates by registering residents based on their housing unit to Nation and issuing certificates
 - The system that is monitoring changes in residence movements
- Legitimacy of Resident Registration System
 - Article 2, Clause 1 of Constitution: Nationality in the Republic of Korea shall be prescribed by Act.

- Freedom and rights of citizens may be restricted by Act only when necessary for national security, maintenance of law and order or for public welfare (Article 37, Clause 2 of Constitution): Resident Registration
- In order for nation to protect resident's freedom, right and propriety, it is necessary to identify resident's status and their rights
- The function and system of Resident Registration System
 - To protect residents by registering residents based on their housing unit
 - By granting resident registration numbers upon birth in accordance with Resident Registration Act, it has the function of personal identification
 - According to article 24, clause 1 of Resident Registration Act, National Identity Card issues identification cards in order to check personal identification

2. History of Resident Registration System

- The era of non existing Resident Registration System
 - Local governments started issuing certificate of resident of their province since 1949(Seoul Metropolitan City Citizen Card)
 - According to regulation of local government after 1954, it is institutionalized (ex. Regulation for Issuing Seoul Metropolitan City Citizen Card)
- The era after enacting Resident Registration Act
 - In 1962 when Resident Registration Act was enacted, residents have mandatory rights to report themselves, when they dwell for more than 30 days in certain places and addresses
 - In 1968 when Resident Registration Act was revised, unique identification numbers(12 digits) and national identity cards were issued for the first time in Korea (Under 18 years old)
 - In 1975, National Identity (NID) Card were issued to residents who over the age of 17 years and the numbers were changed to 13 digits
 - In 2009, Resident Registration Data center was established, enabling residents to issue the cards by proxy

3. Contents of Resident Registration System

- Outline of RRS
 - Institutions: Mayor (Seoul and Metropolitan City Mayors excluded)•Governor•Head of Gu (Act. Clause 2)
 - Supervisory Institution: Minister of Ministry of Security and Public Administration (Act. Clause 3)
 - Expenditure for RRS affairs will be covered by the city of town where residents live (Act. Clause 5)
 - RRS Recipients: Residents dwell for more than 30 days in certain places and addresses (Act. Clause 6)
 - The duty for Mayor•Governmer• Head of Gu to make, record and preserve resident registration papers의 (Act. Clause 7)
 - The principle of reporting for resident registration(Act. Clause 8)
 - Reporting issues: Name, gender, birth date, relation to householders (Act. Clause 10)
 - Changes in Residence: Obligator for registration must report moving-in notifications between 14 days from the day of moving-in(Clause 16)

- Resident Registration System (Act. Article 7, Clause)
 - Resident Registration Numbers are given to each resident upon his/her birth as Personal Identification Number, which belongs to Universal Identification Number
 - Characteristics of RRN: No overlapped recipients (Uniqueness) , Function to identify an individual person (Personal Nature), No changes in lifetime but exceptional cases (Lifetime)
 - Function of RRN: Unique Identification Function, Certification Function for Resident's Identity through quotation on the papers, Linkage Function that integrates various data
 - RRN had legal grounds based on Resident Registration Law revised in 2001 and it is 13 digit numbers representing birth of date, gender and region
 - Current RRN reveal BOD, ages, original ancestry, genders, the first places of issuing RRN and possibilities of counterfeit numbers without requesting any information

- Resident Registration System (Act. Clause 24–28)
 - National Identity Cards are issued to residents with above 17 ages who are on the list of Resident Registration in districts under jurisdiction after their requests
 - Resident Registration Data Center of Ministry of Security and Public Administration issued NID cards after receiving requests from Mayor •Governor• Head of Gu
 - Name, photos, RRN, address, issuance date and resident registration institutions on the front side of NID cards and fingerprints on the back side of them
 - In regards to blood types, it can be added upon resident's request in accordance with Presidential Decree (Article 14, Clause)
 - Government, local, public, social institutions and corporations can utilize NID cards to identify individual person in order to carry out their business
 - For resident's convenience, driving licenses and passports has the same function for personal identification as NID cards since July in 2004

4. Operating Challenges in Resident Registration System

- Challenges in collecting RRN and its utilization
 - RRN can be used for various ways as personal information on the cards is exposed without resident's willingness and RRN has the function of personal identification
 - RRN used only for administrative reasons in the past is now excessively collected and utilized in public and private sector
 - Private sectors were banned to collect RRN in accordance with Personal Information Act revised in 2013
- Challenges in NID cards
 - Personal information on the cards can be exposed in the case of lost
 - Excessive Utilization in public and private sectors to identify personal status
 - Counterfeit and Falsification of NID cards

5. Next Era of Resident Registration System

- Current Current RRS enables us to identify residence history, which contributes to improving administrative efficiency and resident's convenience, securing social order
- RRN and NID cards are crucial systems to identify individual persons
- To prevent personal information leakage, legal systems should be made in order to make dualized system that has Resident Management and Personal Unique Numbers
- E-National Identity Cards are being considered to resolve information exposure problems arises from current NID cards
- Resident Registration System should be continuously developed in order to prevent personal information leakage and improve efficiency in residents management administration