Resident Registration System in Korea

Sep 23, 2014

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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 identity personal status
  - Counterfeit and Falsification of NID cards
5. Next Era of Resident Registration System

- 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.