

June 10, 2022

Dear COSIT participants,

The Japanese borders reopened on 10 June 2022 for visitors, given certain conditions. So, we can now say with confidence that COSIT 2022 will take place in Kobe in September, and we—the Organizers—can finally welcome you to Japan for COSIT!

With the current border regulations all COSIT 2022 participants need to obtain a **short-term business visa** to enter Japan. Below we explain the steps necessary to obtain this visa, starting with a formal invitation procedure by the Japanese conference hosts. At the time of writing, **all visitors** need to apply for a short-term visa to enter Japan (https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html).

Application Information :

- **Visit the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs visa information page** (https://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/index.html).
- **Find the heading “1. Visa Application Procedures” and first category “Short-Term Stay”, select your country/region** (i.e., China, Russia, CIS countries, Georgia, Philippines, Viet Nam, or Other Nationalities). Other Nationalities include any country not separately named, including the US.
- **Find the category “for Single Entry Visa” and see information for “Short-Term Business Affairs, etc.”** which is the category we shall use for COSIT attendees and accompanying persons.

Two-Step Application Procedure:

1. Provide information to the COSIT hosts, so that we can include you in the invited attendee list for the short-term business visa. The COSIT hosts will register you in the *Entrants, Returnees Follow-up System* (EFRS) to receive a certificate for your visa application. To prepare this EFRS certificate, **the COSIT hosts will need to collect your personal information in a secure web form here:**

<https://limesurvey.geo.tuwien.ac.at/index.php/851538?lang=en>

Please fill in the above secure web form now.

Once the ERFS is issued to the COSIT hosts, they will email it to you.

**Note added on 1 July 2022:*

Entering your data in the ERFS system requires that you are a registered COSIT participant. So, first, please finish your registration and make a payment from the conference website: <http://cosit2022.iniad.org/registration.html>

2. Next, you must apply for a visa for yourself from your country of residence.

Include the EFRS certificate obtained from the COSIT hosts, together with all other documents necessary for your individual visa application, at the embassy/consulate-general **in your own country or your current country of residence**. Any questions you have about your visa application can only be answered by the embassy/consulate in your country.

With your visa application, you need to include information and/or documents that are prepared by the COSIT hosts (e.g., an invitation letter). The COSIT hosts will provide you with these sensitive information and documents when they send an ERFS certificate to you (in step 1 above).

Please start this process as soon as possible as it may take several weeks to get visas.

It is possible that visa regulations may change again before the start of the conference. Please monitor **the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs visa information page to get the latest updates** (https://www.mofa.go.jp/ca/fna/page4e_001053.html).

Thank you again very much for your continued interest, support, and patience, and we very much look forward to having a wonderful conference in Kobe in September.

Best wishes,

The COSIT 2022 Team