

Special Requests/Remarks from the Private-Sector Council Members
(Fiscal 2020)

We ask that the relevant ministries and agencies address the following three points in particular, as important issues to prioritize for the Japanese Law Translation Project.

1. Making the translations of at least 600 new laws, regulations, and outlines available to the public by the end of fiscal 2025

The government previously set the target of making the English-language translations of at least 500 laws and regulations available to the public over the period from 2015 until the end of fiscal 2020. For the next five-year period, it should increase the target for the number of translated laws, regulations, and outlines of legislation that it will make available by at least 100 (for a target of at least 600 such documents), in order to further increase the speed at which Japanese laws are translated into foreign languages.

Moreover, the number 600 given here is being set as the absolute minimum target to be achieved; we plan to call for further revisions to the target in parallel with things such as technological advances and the extent to which the task is progressing.

The government should approach the translation of Japanese laws into foreign languages with this in mind.

2. Fields that should be the focus for translation

As there is a limit to the resources that the government allocates to

translating Japanese laws into foreign languages, the fields in which there is a particularly high need should be where the task of translating these begins. As such, we private-sector members of the council would like to request that there be a focus on making English translations available for laws and regulations in the following fields:

- those in fields related to foreign direct investment (e.g., financial law and legislation in fields related to digitization)
- those in the field of intellectual property
- those connected with foundational legislation in the field of civil affairs (e.g., the Code of Civil Procedure and the Bankruptcy Act)
- those in fields that concern foreign nationals residing in Japan (e.g., taxes, pensions, consumer laws, and labor laws)

3. Improving the framework for translating Japanese laws into foreign languages

Translating legislation requires accuracy; no matter how far technology develops, the work that people do is essential. Because of this, we should arrange for an adequate framework of human resources to speed up the translation of Japanese laws into foreign languages.

Additionally, the technology for machine translation (AI translation) has shown astonishing progress in recent times. The government should continue to move forward with looking into how to make use of machine translation (AI translation) from the perspective of speeding up the translation of Japanese laws into foreign languages.