

THE JAPANESE LAW TRANSLATION PROJECT

January 2021

The Ministry of Justice



Positioning of the Project as a Vitrally Important Government Policy (1)

- ✓ **Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2020 (The Basic Policies) (July 2020 Cabinet Decision)**
“The government will enhance its international arbitration and other such dispute resolution procedures and improve access to foreign language translations of Japanese laws and regulations by advancing the adoption of ICT and use of AI in the field of justice.”

- ✓ **Growth Strategy Follow-Up (July 2020 Cabinet Decision)**
“The government will work to improve the speed at which laws and regulations are translated into foreign languages (including through the use of machine translation) and to improve the functions of the website on which those translated texts are published.”

- ✓ **Decision by the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan**
Policy Package for Promoting Foreign Direct Investment into Japan to Make Japan a Global Hub
(May 2016)
With the aim of encouraging foreign direct investment in Japan, the decision:
 - (1) establishes a system of review to maintain a high-level of quality;
 - (2) sets a goal for an additional 500 laws and regulations at minimum to be translated into foreign languages and released by fiscal 2020.**Program to Intensively Attract Foreign Direct Investment into Various Regions of Japan (April 2019)**
“The government will consider measures to fundamentally accelerate the translation of laws and regulations into foreign languages, such as using artificial intelligence, as well as considering a system for releasing translations that are more geared toward users.”

Positioning of the Project as a Vitrally Important Government Policy (2)

- ✓ **Decision by the Economic Cooperation Infrastructure Strategy Committee**
 - ***Overseas Development Strategy for Infrastructure Systems 2025*** (December 2020)

“Preparing high quality English translations of Japanese laws and regulations that are related to business[...] and publicizing this kind of English translation overseas[...] will establish an informational infrastructure to serve as the basis for Japanese enterprises to strengthen their international competitiveness.”

- ✓ **Decision by the Intellectual Property Strategy Advancement Headquarters**
 - ***Strategy for Promoting Intellectual Property 2020*** (May 2020)

“To expand the release of high-quality English translations of Japanese laws and regulations and related information (such as outlines of amendments to the law) in fields where there is high demand, such as intellectual property, the government will promote the development of a system for prompt translation (this includes looking into the use of machine translation) and the development of a highly user-friendly environment that is capable of publicizing information internationally more effectively and proactively.”

Measures to Address Private-Sector Council Members' Special Requests/Remarks (1)

- (1) To respond to the amendment of laws by releasing translations in a timely fashion:
- The MOJ is **looking into producing the first drafts of translations** itself for amendments to high-demand laws and regulations, in order to contribute to their timely release.
 - **On the day that the May 2020 partial amendment of the GJB Act was promulgated, the MOJ released an English translation of the GJB Act reflecting the enacted amendments.**
 - In April of 2020, the MOJ expanded the scope of its translated outlines, and other Ministries' outlines are now included.

The MOJ has released translated outlines of requested legislation, such as the partial amendment of the Foreign Exchange Act and the partial amendment of the Personal Information Protection Act.

Measures to Address Private-Sector Council Members' Special Requests/Remarks (2)

(2) To resolve problem areas in the translation of the latest versions of the laws and regulations to be released:

- The MOJ is working with the relevant Ministries and Agencies to **have the Translation Development Plan include laws and regulations that there have been calls to translate.**
- The MOJ is looking into **producing the first drafts of translations** itself for high-demand laws and regulations.

Measures to Address Private-Sector Council Members' Special Requests/Remarks (3)

(3) To enhance the functions of the Japanese Law Translation website

- **In 2021, the MOJ plans to replace the existing website in order to fundamentally strengthen the search functions and enhance the user interface in terms of things such as a screen display for use on smart phones and tablets.**

Use of AI

- The MOJ is looking into the possibility of introducing AI translation into the translation process*, from the perspective of speeding up the translation of laws and regulations.

→ **The MOJ used AI translation to translate an actual law (the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism) and made a substantive examination of this **.**

* It is envisioned that AI would be used at the time the governing Ministry or Agency prepares the first-draft translation of a law or regulation.

** A native English speaker working for the Japanese Law Translation Section reviewed the text that the AI translation produced, checking for things such as the accuracy of the translation and grammatical errors.

Use of AI

■ Translation Sample

- See page 11

■ Overview of Examination Results

- ◎ A first-draft translation was output in a matter of minutes.
- There were basically no grammatical errors.
- △ In part, in instances such as when the Japanese text was difficult to understand, the AI translation resulted in a translation that differed in substance from the Japanese original.

From the perspective of ensuring the quality of the translation, it is essential for the text to be proofread by a human being.

→ **Considering how AI can be used in these operations in light of the results of this examination is a task that lies ahead.**

Use of AI

■ Act on the Prevention of Recidivism

第十四条 国は、国を当事者の一方とする契約で国以外の者のする工事の完成若しくは作業その他の役務の給付又は物品の納入に対し国が対価の支払をすべきものを締結するに当たって予算の適正な使用に留意しつつ**協力雇用主**（犯罪をした者等の自立及び社会復帰に協力することを目的として、犯罪をした者等を雇用し、又は雇用しようとする事業主をいう。第二十三条において同じ。）**の受注の機会の増大**を図るよう配慮すること、**犯罪をした者等**の国による雇用の推進その他犯罪をした者等の就業の機会の確保及び就業の継続を図るために必要な施策を講ずるものとする。

ACTUAL TRANSLATION PRODUCED USING AI

Article 14 In concluding a contract to which the State is one of the parties, in which the State is to pay consideration for the completion of construction, the delivery of work and other services by a person other than the State, or the delivery of goods, the State shall **cooperate with the employer** (meaning an employer who employs or intends to employ a person who has committed a crime, for the purpose of cooperating with the self-reliance of such person and the rehabilitation), while paying attention to the proper use of the budget. The same shall apply in Article 23.) The State shall take necessary measures to secure employment opportunities and continue to work for **persons who have committed crimes, etc.**, such as giving consideration to increasing opportunities for receiving orders, promoting the employment of such persons by the State.

Use of AI

■ Complicated grammatical structures in the Japanese text sometimes result in inaccurate translations

(1) The text of the Article has "協力雇用主(略)の受注の機会の増大" [increase the opportunity for cooperating employers (...) to receive orders] as a single phrase.

The AI translation reads "the State shall cooperate with the employer"

→ The AI software did not recognize "協力雇用主" [cooperating employer] as a noun, deciding that it meant "雇用主と協力する" [cooperate with the employer].

Because what was produced was a translation of "雇用主と協力する" [cooperate with the employer], a phrase that does not appear in the original, it is unclear *whose* opportunities to receive orders are to be increased.

(SAMPLE) LITERAL TRANSLATION INTO JAPANESE OF THE AI TRANSLATION

国は、国を当事者の一方とする契約で、工事の完成、国以外の者のする作業その他の役務の給付又は物品の納入に対し国が対価の支払をすべきものを締結するに当たっては、(予算の適正な使用に留意しつつ雇用主(犯罪をした者の自立及び当該更生に協力することを目的として、当該者を雇用し、又は雇用しようとする事業主をいう。第二十三条において同じでなければならない。)と協力しなければならない。国は、注文を受ける機会の増大を図るよう検討すること、犯罪をした者等の国による雇用の推進等のため、(国が)就業の機会を確保して継続的な取組を実施するために必要な施策を講ずるものとする。

(2) The text of the Article reads "犯罪をした者等" [persons who have committed crimes and other such persons], but the translation reads "persons who have committed crimes, etc.", which means "犯罪等をした者" [persons who have committed crimes and taken other such actions].

Use of AI

TRANSLATION CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ON THE JAPANESE LAW TRANSLATION DATABASE SYSTEM WEBSITE

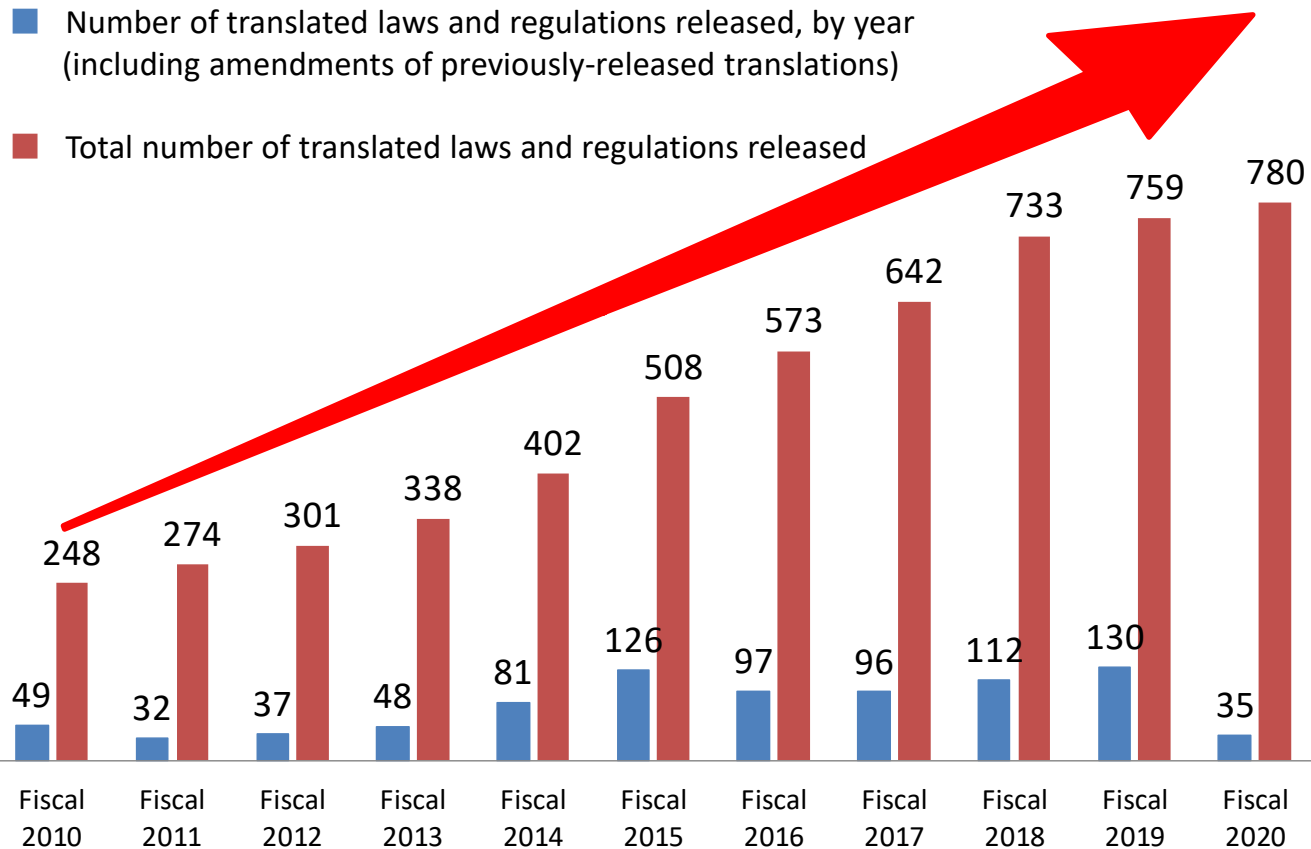
Article 14 In entering into a contract to which the State is a party that will require the State to pay consideration for the completion of a construction project, work on a construction project, or other provision of services by a person other than the State, or for the delivery of goods by a person other than the State, the State is to give consideration to increasing the opportunity for cooperating employers (meaning employers that employ or seek to employ persons who have committed offenses for the purpose of cooperating in their self-reliance and reintegration into society; the same applies in Article 23) to receive orders while keeping in mind the proper use of the budget; and is to implement the necessary initiatives to advance the employment of persons who have committed offenses by the State and otherwise ensure employment opportunities for persons who have committed offenses and continue their work.

ACTUAL TRANSLATION PRODUCED USING AI

Article 14 In concluding a contract to which the State is one of the parties, in which the State is to pay consideration for the completion of construction, the delivery of work and other services by a person other than the State, or the delivery of goods, the State shall cooperate with the employer (meaning an employer who employs or intends to employ a person who has committed a crime, for the purpose of cooperating with the self-reliance of such person and the rehabilitation), while paying attention to the proper use of the budget. The same shall apply in Article 23.) The State shall take necessary measures to secure employment opportunities and continue to work for persons who have committed crimes, etc., such as giving consideration to increasing opportunities for receiving orders, promoting the employment of such persons by the State.

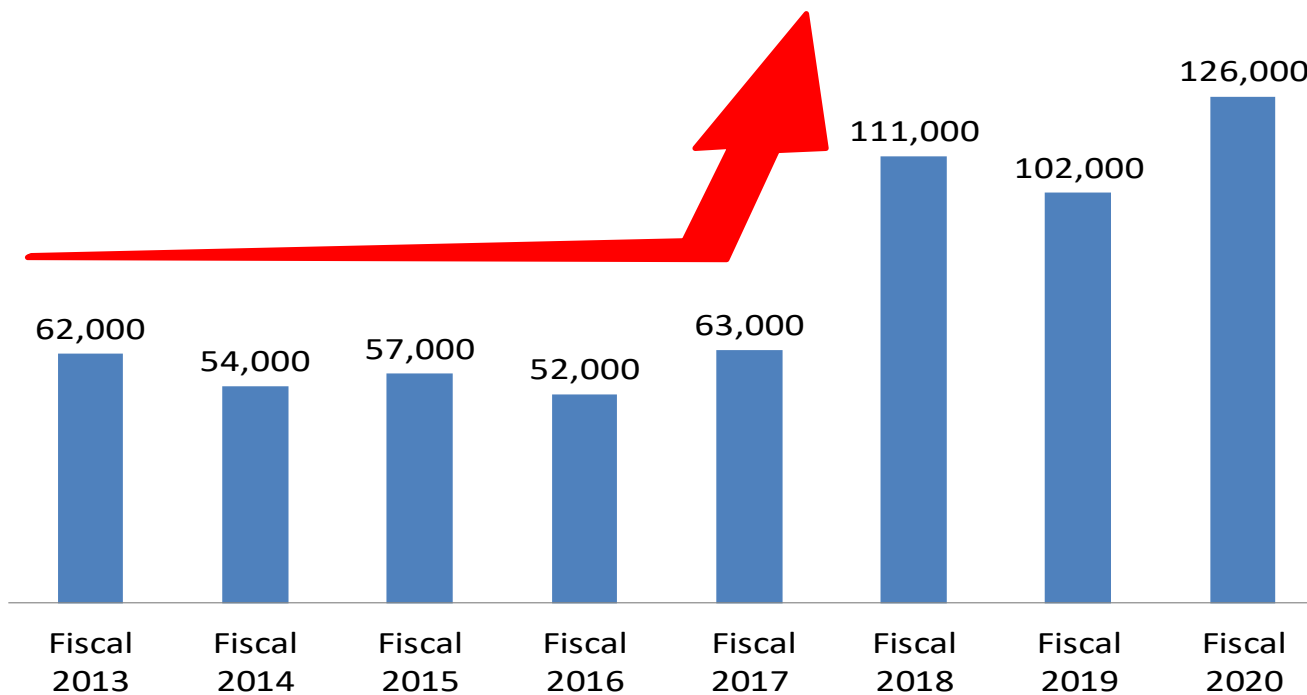
COMPILATION OF DATA

Japan Law Translation Database System Number of Translated Laws and Regulations Released



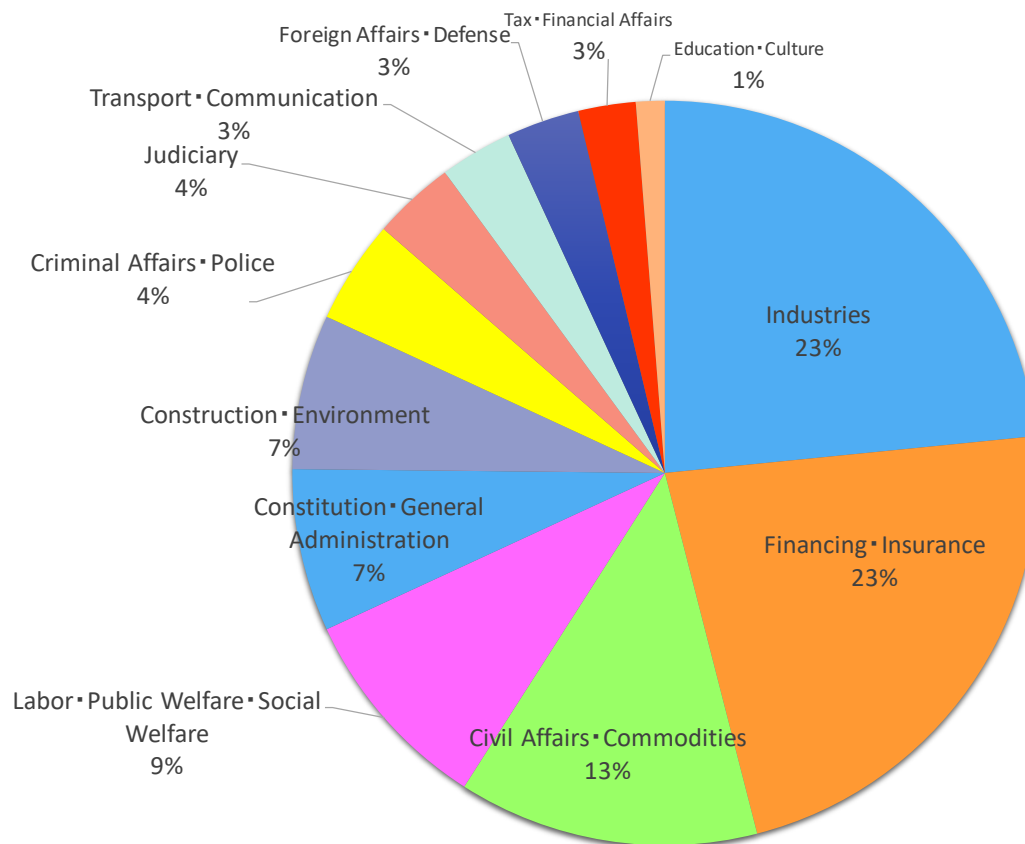
* The numbers for Fiscal 2020 are the figures as of the end of September.

Average Number of Site Visits Per Day to the Japanese Law Translation Database System



* The numbers for Fiscal 2020 are the figures as of the end of September.

Japanese Law Translation Database System Translated Laws and Regulations Released by Field



One law may fall under multiple fields. Notices and notifications are not included.
* These numbers are the figures as of the end of September 2020.

Japanese Law Translation Database System

A Current Picture of the Translation of Laws and Regulations into Foreign Languages (1)

Top 10 Accessed Laws and Regulations

Top 10 laws and regulations accessed from the beginning of operation until the end of September 2020

1	Companies Act (Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV)
2	Commodity Derivatives Act
3	Banking Act
4	Companies Act (Part V, Part VI, Part VII and Part VIII)
5	Civil Code (Part I, Part II and Part III)
6	Civil Rehabilitation Act
7	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise Cooperatives Act
8	Act on Special Measures Concerning Taxation (Limited to the provisions related to nonresidents and foreign corporations)
9	Act on Prohibition of Private Monopolization and Maintenance of Fair Trade
10	Patent Act

Top 10 laws and regulations accessed from October 2019 to the end of September 2020

1	Companies Act (Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV)
2	Financial Instruments and Exchange Act
3	Regulation for Enforcement of the Insurance Business Act (Part I through Part II ChapterV)
4	Regulation for Enforcement of the Insurance Business Act (Part II Chapter VI through Part V)
5	Civil Code (Part I, Part II and Part III)
6	Regulation for Enforcement of the Money Lending Business Act
7	Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act
8	Regulations for Enforcement of the Certified Public Accountants Act
9	Banking Act
10	Cabinet Office Order on Financial Instruments Business

Japanese Law Translation Database System
A Current Picture of the Translation of Laws and Regulations into
Foreign Languages (2)

Access Rankings of the Top 20 Countries and Regions

1	Japan	85.1%	11	France	0.5%
2	China	1.4%	12	Singapore	0.4%
3	Germany	1.3%	13	Poland	0.4%
4	Brazil	1.1%	14	Canada	0.4%
5	Thailand	1.0%	15	Mexico	0.3%
6	Australia	0.9%	16	United Kingdom	0.3%
7	Russia	0.8%	17	Taiwan	0.3%
8	Italy	0.6%	18	Indonesia	0.3%
9	United States	0.6%	19	Netherlands	0.3%
10	India	0.5%	20	Turkey	0.2%

⇒ Accessed from over **from over 86 countries and regions**

* The ratios of countries and regions are calculated by using the domains.

* These figures are as of the end of September 2020.