

# Concerning the Project to Improve the Translations of Japanese Laws and Regulations

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June, 2024

Judicial System Department of the Minister's  
Secretariat in the Ministry of Justice

## **This Project is Positioned as a Top Priority Policy of the Government**

- ✓ **Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform for fiscal 2024 ('Big Boned' Policy) (June 2024: Cabinet Decision)**
  - “Based on the Action Plan for Attracting Human and Financial Resources from Overseas... efforts will be conducted to publicize these activities overseas, and follow-up activities will be conducted regarding these efforts.”
  - “To undertake activities such as vitalizing the close public-private collaboration in international arbitration, which includes raising the degree of recognition among arbitration organizations, cultivating personnel involved in international judicial affairs, and promoting the translation of laws and regulations.”
- ✓ **Action Plan for Attracting Human and Financial Resources from Overseas (Decision by the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan on April 26, 2023)**

“The government will further accelerate the process of translating Japanese laws and regulations into foreign languages by establishing a new translation system that makes use of AI during the current fiscal year and fully introducing it in FY 2024. With this, the government aims to reduce the average number of days required from when a law is promulgated (or amended) until an English translation is made available to 1/3 or less of current levels during 2024 (this was approximately 1,160 days on average from FY 2017 to FY 2021). The government will also actively publicize these efforts internationally.”

## This Project is Positioned as a Top Priority Policy of the Government

### ✓ **Intellectual Property Strategic Program 2024** (June 2024: Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters)

“In the activity to translate laws and regulations, through the utilization of AI translation and the introduction of a faster and more efficient operational scheme that includes the AI translation function, the provision of high quality information translated into English will be expanded and accelerated, and information regarding laws and regulations related to the intellectual property field will be actively disseminated.”

### ✓ **Follow-up on the Growth Strategy, etc.** (June 2023: Cabinet Decision)

“In order to provide translations of Japanese laws and regulations, AI translation will be rapidly introduced, to advance efforts to achieve the publication of over 1000 laws by Fiscal Year 2025.”

### ✓ **Strategy for Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in Japan** (June 2021: Adopted by the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan)

“With priority\* placed on the objectives for new translations of laws and regulations and the needs of foreign investors, the Project to Improve the Translations of Japanese Laws and Regulations, which consists of accelerating the translation process by utilizing machine translation, will be promoted.”

\*Looking toward foreign direct investment in Japan, English translation of laws and regulations has been positioned as a matter to be advanced with high priority (May 2022)

### ✓ **“Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2025” Addendum** (June 2023: adopted by the Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating to Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation)

## Activities Conducted in Response to Important Requests from Private Sector Members (1)

### (1) To Strive to Have Over 1000 Laws and Regulations Translated into English by Fiscal Year 2025

- In **Fiscal Year 2023, 164 laws and regulations were published\*** (130 laws and regulations, 34 outlines).

- (In Fiscal Year 2021, 81 laws and regulations, in Fiscal Year 2022, 127 laws and regulations)



**Another 628 Laws and Regulations Will Need to be Translated to Meet the Objective**

### (2) Increase the Number of Laws and Regulations Included in the Translation Improvement Plan

- From Fiscal Year 2022, concerning laws and regulations that have requested by the members of the Public-Private Council that fall under areas that have been prioritized for translation, in addition to establishing a basic rule that they should be included in the Translation Improvement Plan, from Fiscal Year 2023, surveys will be taken of persons from outside of the members of the Public-Private Council as well in order to assess needs for the translation of additional laws and regulations, and efforts such as sharing this information among the various ministries and agencies will be conducted.



**The Number\* of Laws and Regulations Included in the Translation Improvement Plan Have Increased**

\* Fiscal Year 2022: 133, Fiscal Year 2023: 176, Fiscal Year 2024: 181

## Activities Conducted in Response to Important Requests from Private Sector Members (2)

### (3) Full-scale Introduction of Machine Translation (AI Translation)

- In Fiscal Year 2023, the planning/development of a translation system for laws and regulations utilizing AI was conducted
  - Using the translation engine developed by the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) as the base, in addition to training the system by including the published English data on the Japan Law Translation Database System, the system is customized to produce output in a format and layout conforming to the rules for translation of laws and regulations.
  - To respond to the relevant method used to create the English draft of the laws and regulations subject to translation, multiple translation functions are installed.
- From December 2023 to March 2024, experimental introduction was conducted within the Ministry of Justice.
  - There have been examples such as the creation of an English draft translation within a few weeks from the decision to translate a law or regulation, and the time required to create a draft English translation has been reduced

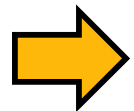


**Full-scale Introduction** Within the government  
Will Start From **April 2024**

## Activities Conducted in Response to Important Requests from Private Sector Members (3)

### (4) Establishment of a Quality Examination System to Respond to the Increase in English Draft Translations

- To strengthen the personnel structure in order to promptly publish high quality English translations of laws and regulations, **1 native advisor and 1 coordinator for laws and regulations will be added**



**In Fiscal Year 2024, a personnel structure consisting of 6 native advisors and 6 coordinators for laws and regulations will be operated**

- In Fiscal Year 2024, from the standpoint of rationalizing and increasing the efficiency of the quality examination process, **a new operational scheme has been introduced**

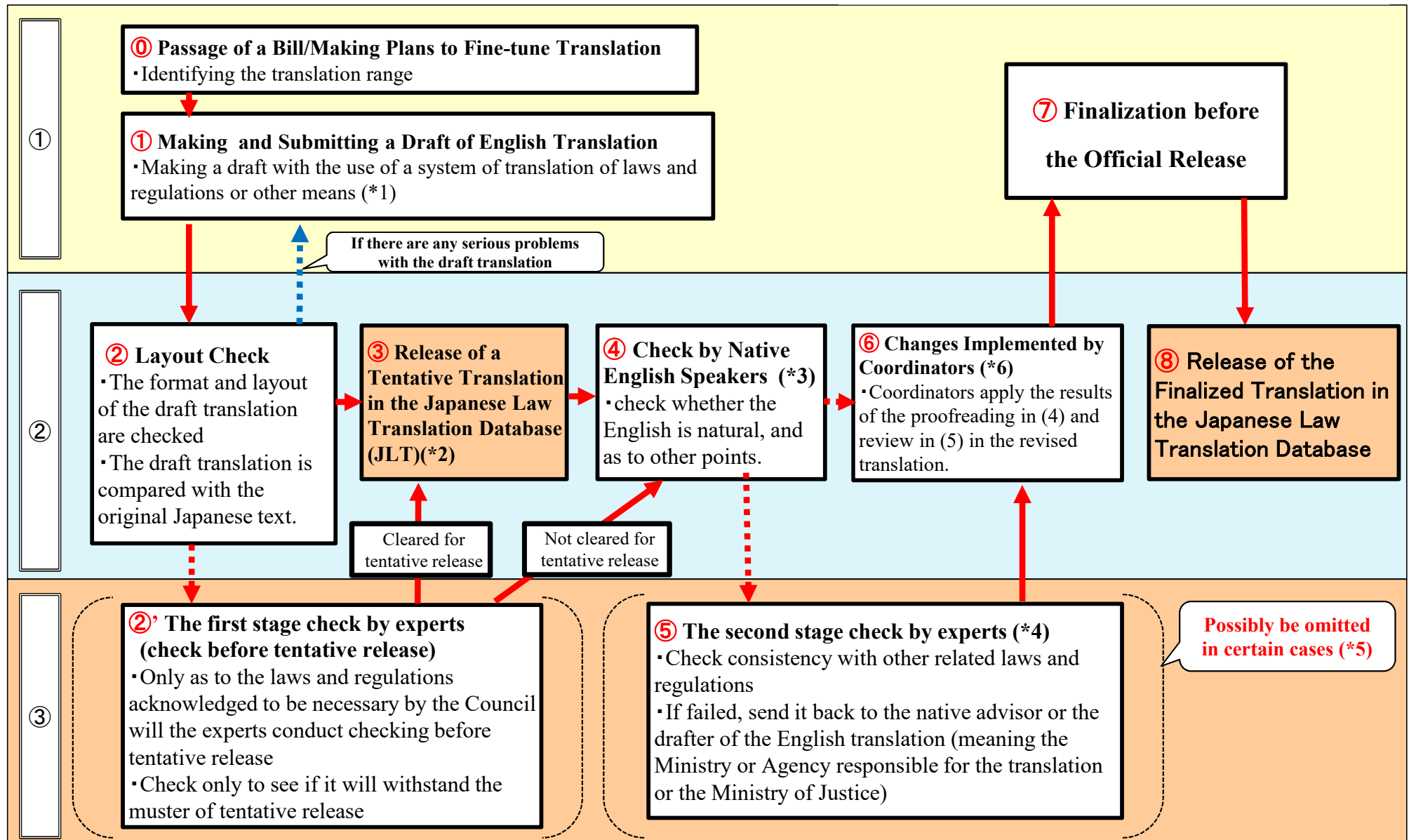


- For the **portion of the laws and regulations** for which the current level of quality can be maintained even without being checked by experts, **it will be possible to eliminate the second stage check**
- A scheme will be introduced in which **The Ministry of Justice assumes the role of English draft creation**

Etc.

# New operational work flow

- ① The Ministry or Agency responsible for translating laws and regulations
- ② The Ministry of Justice (Judiciary and Legislation Department)
- ③ The Ministry of Justice's Japanese Law Translation Council



\* 1. The translation system for laws and regulations is a system of English translation of laws and regulations with the use of AI. Parts of the laws and regulations may be translated by the Ministry of Justice with the use of its translation system for laws and regulations on behalf of the competent Ministry or Agency  
 \* 2. Omitted if the Ministry of Justice makes a draft of English translation on behalf of the competent Ministry or Agency  
 \* 3. Native English speaker: A person who is from an English-speaking country, whose native language is English, and who is knowledgeable about both Japanese law and Anglo-American law.

\* 4. Expert: A member of the Japanese Law Translation Council. The Council is composed of academics, attorneys, and registered foreign lawyers  
 \* 5. Possibly be omitted if the contents changed are to remain merely perfunctory  
 \* 6. Coordinator: A person who is from Japan, whose native language is Japanese, and who is knowledgeable about Japanese law and the English language.

# Statistical Documents

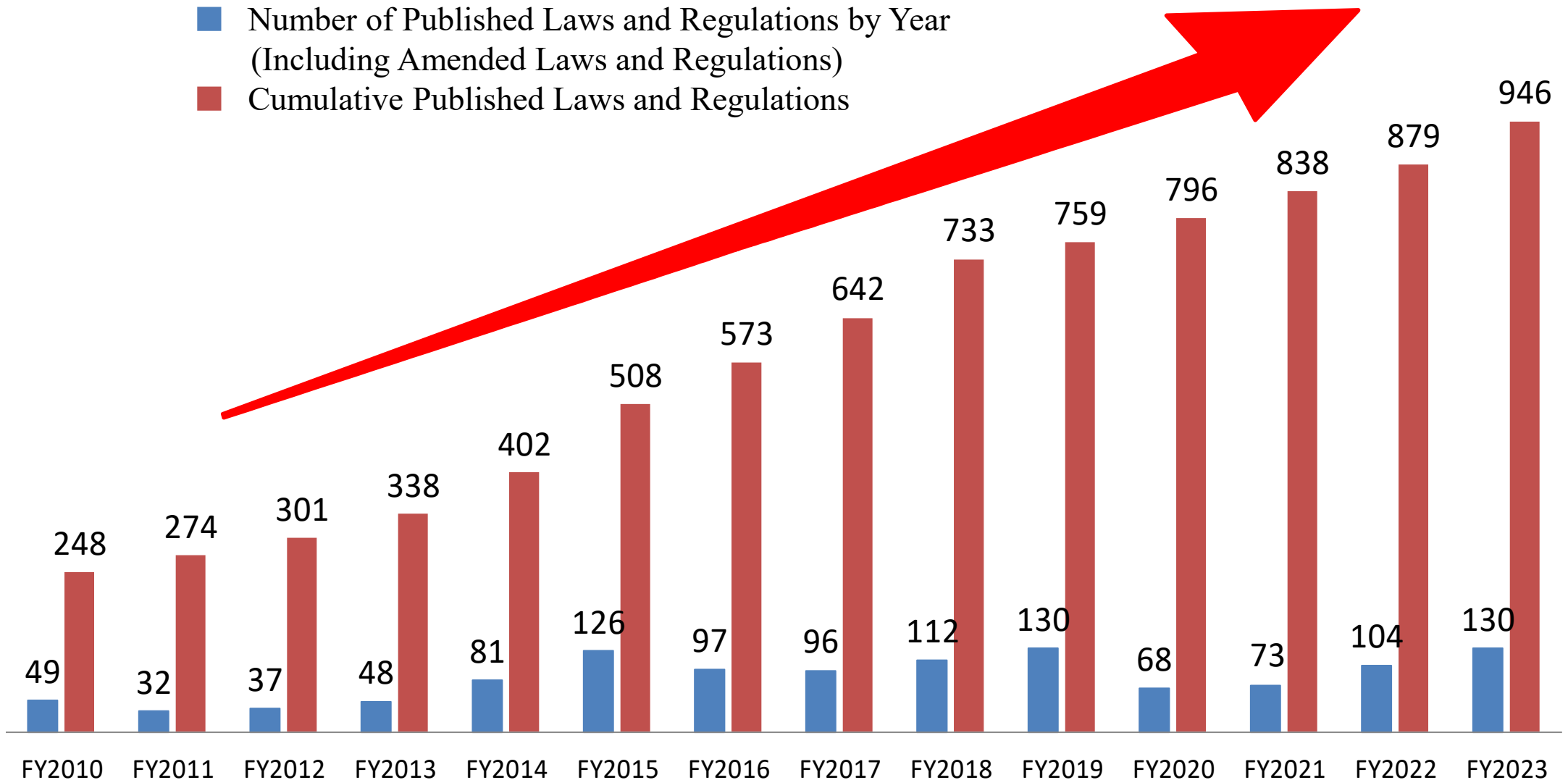
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# The Japan Law Translation Database System

## Number of Published Laws and Regulations

- Number of Published Laws and Regulations by Year  
(Including Amended Laws and Regulations)
- Cumulative Published Laws and Regulations



(Figures at the end of March 2024)

# The Japan Law Translation Database System

## Translations of Japanese Laws and Regulations (Current Status 1)

### The Top 10 Laws and Regulations in Terms of Access

The Top 10 Laws and Regulations in Terms of Access From 2009 (The start of system operation) Until the End of May 2024

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

The Top 10 Laws and Regulations in Terms of Access From June 2023 to the End of May 2024

1	Companies Act (Part I, Part II, Part III and Part IV)
2	Act on the Protection of Personal Information
3	Civil Code (Part I, Part II and Part III)
4	Penal Code
5	Financial Instruments and Exchange Act
6	The Constitution of Japan
7	Labor Standards Act
8	Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy and Safety of Products Including Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices
9	Patent Act
10	Industrial Safety and Health Act

# The Japan Law Translation Database System

## Translations of Japanese Laws and Regulations (Current Status 2)

### The Top 20 Countries/Regions in Terms of Access

1	Japan	40.6%
2	China	16.4%
3	The United States of America	13.8%
4	Germany	2.4%
5	England	1.8%
6	Singapore	1.7%
7	Iran	1.6%
8	Belgium	1.6%
9	India	1.3%
10	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China	1.2%

11	Australia	1.2%
12	Taiwan	1.0%
13	Philippines	0.9%
14	Vietnam	0.9%
15	Canada	0.9%
16	The Netherlands	0.9%
17	France	0.8%
18	Korea	0.8%
19	Thailand	0.6%
20	Indonesia	0.5%

⇒ Access from **over 100 countries and regions** worldwide

\*Ranking of countries and regions and calculated based on the numbers of website visits  
(Figures at the end of May 2024)