

The Current Status and Future Policies of the Initiative to Translate Japanese Laws and Regulations

January 2026

Judicial System Department, Minister's Secretariat,
Ministry of Justice

AGENDA ITEM 1

Status of the Japanese Law Translation Project and
Responses to the Special Requests/Remarks from the
Private-Sector Council Members

Status of the Initiative as a Top Priority Policy of the Government

- ✓ **Basic Policies on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2025 ('Big-Boned' Policy)**
(June 2025: Cabinet Decision)
 - “Actively promote the use of United Nations Standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending, promote international arbitration, develop international legal human resources, and **accelerate translation of Japanese laws and regulations into foreign languages.**”
- ✓ **Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2030**
(December 2024: Adopted by the Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating to Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation)
 - “Toward creating an environment that enables to create business projects easily, the government will work on..., and **promoting translation of laws and regulations into a foreign language.**”

Status of the Initiative as a Top Priority Policy of the Government

- ✓ **Program for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan 2025**
(June 2025 : Decision by the Council for Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment in Japan)

“The government will expedite the translation of Japanese laws and regulations into English, focusing on areas requested by foreign companies and investors. By utilizing AI translation systems, the government aims to reduce the time required from the promulgation of laws to the publication of their English translations, which was previously more than two and a half years, to within one year for all laws and regulations in the priority areas for translation promulgated after the ‘Liaison Conference of the Relevant Ministries and Agencies for Developing a Foundation for Promoting Translation of Japanese Laws and Regulations into Foreign Languages’ held in March 2025.”

- ✓ **Intellectual Property Strategic Program 2025**
(June 2025: Decision by the Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters)

“Regarding efforts to translate laws and regulations into foreign languages, by actively utilizing AI technology for legal translation and smoothly operating a more efficient work scheme based on this technology, the provision of high-quality English translations will be expanded and accelerated, leading to the active overseas dissemination of English translations of laws and regulations related to intellectual property fields.”

Initiatives Conducted in Response to Priority Requests from Private Sector Members

(1) (From FY 2021) Aim at publishing English translations of over 1,000 laws and regulations (at least 600 laws and regulations) by FY 2026.

○ In FY 2025 (as of the end of December 2025), the number of published translations was **134** (laws and regulations: 108, outlines: 26).

* In FY 2021, 81 laws and regulations, in FY 2022, 127 laws and regulations, in FY 2023, 164 laws and regulations, and in FY 2024, 210 laws and regulations were published.

 **284 more translations to achieve the target of 1,000 translated laws and regulations (target of 600 achieved)**

*Until now, 10% of the laws on the e-Gov website have been translated.

(2) Aim to publish laws and regulations in fields for which translation should be prioritized within one year after their promulgation or amendment, in principle.

○ In FY 2025 (as of the end of December 2025), the number of published translations within one year was 9.

* In FY 2024, 12 laws and regulations were published.

 **Largely unchanged**

Initiatives Conducted in Response to Priority Requests from Private Sector Members

The Usage Status of the Translation System for Laws and Regulations and Substitute Draft Creation of English Translations by the Ministry of Justice

- 264 laws and regulations have been published in the period from April 2024 until the end of December 2025.

The number of laws and regulations using the Translation System for Laws and Regulations is 71 (This includes laws translated through the substitute draft creation of English translations by the Ministry of Justice).

The number of laws and regulations using the substitute draft creation of English translations by the Ministry of Justice is 39*.

*Substitute draft creation uses the Translation System for Laws and Regulations.

- **The usage rate of the Translation System for Laws and Regulations is approximately 20%. When the Translation System for Laws and Regulations is used the period until publication is reduced by approximately 2 months.**



Aim to improve the rate of usage of the Translation System for Laws and Regulations

Initiatives Conducted in Response to Priority Requests from Private Sector Members

(3) Quality assurance of translated laws and regulations after the introduction of the Translation System for Laws and Regulations Utilizing AI

- To strengthen personnel structure in order to promptly publish high quality English translations of laws and regulations, **1 native advisor and 1 coordinator for checking laws and regulations have been added from 2024.**



An examination system composed of 6 native advisors and 6 coordinators for checking laws and regulations.

- After utilization of the Translation System for Laws and Regulations, conduct feedback, and examine/review words and terms that should be used as data for machine learning.



To further improve translation accuracy, and reduce time to publication, the Translation System for Laws and Regulations is scheduled to be renewed from FY 2028.

AGENDA ITEM 2

Advancement of the Japanese Law Translation Project In
and After 2027

Current Status of Japanese Law Translation Efforts

Fundamental Premise: Scope of Legal Translation

- a. Laws and regulations posted on e-Gov website for which English translations have not been prepared and therefore cannot be published on JLT (referred to below as ‘laws and regulations not yet posted on JLT’).**
- b. Laws and regulations amended after publication on JLT for which English translations of the amended sections have not yet been completed (referred to below as ‘amended laws and regulations not yet translated’).**
- c. Outlines of laws and regulations**

Current Status of Japanese Law Translation Efforts

- 1. Regarding the prioritization of translations**
- 2. Current status of the number of laws and regulations translated into English compared to the total number of existing laws and regulations**
- 3. Translation quality and shortening of translation period**

Current Status of Japanese Law Translation Efforts

1 Regarding the Prioritization of Translations

Points Indicated and Requested at Previous Meetings by Private Sector Members

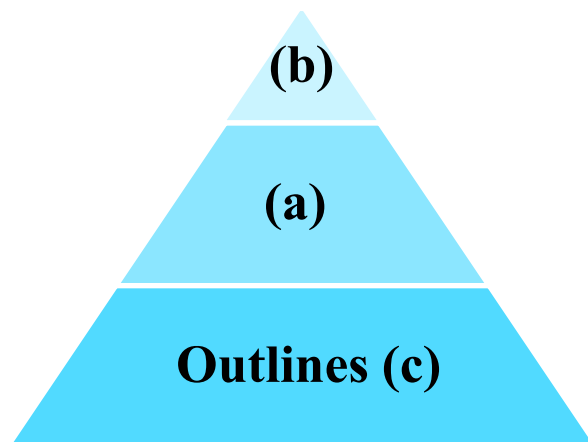
- **We request a prompt publication of (a) the laws and regulations not yet posted on JLT or (b) amended laws and regulations not yet translated requiring priority translation.**
- **We request that amended laws and regulations not yet translated (b) be prioritized.**

[Reference] Laws and regulations to be included in the translation improvement plan

FY2024 Out of a total of 208 laws and regulations: 5 published within one year from the promulgation (of which 1 falls under (b))

FY2025 (as of Dec.) Out of a total of 234 laws and regulations: 2 published within one year from the promulgation (of which 1 falls under (b))

Order of
Priority



▼ Legal field in which translation should be prioritized

- laws and regulations related to the fields involved in direct investment in Japan (laws and regulations related to finance and digital technology, etc.)
- laws and regulations related to intellectual property
- laws and regulations related to basic acts in the civil field (Company Act, Civil Code, laws and regulations related to civil procedures)
- laws and regulations related to fields concerning foreigners living in Japan (tax, pension, consumer law, labor law, etc.)

Current Status of Japanese Law Translation Efforts

2 Current Status of the Number of Laws and Regulations Translated into English Compared to the Total Number of Existing Laws and Regulations

Points Indicated and Requested at Previous Meetings by Private Sector Members

- It is expected that the **demand for translation of various laws and regulations will further grow** in the future since the scale of international transactions is not only increasing but also definitely diversifying.
- We would like for all **translations of laws** to be periodically and continuously updated.
- Creating an AI translation platform that **automatically translates and updates all laws and regulations of Japan** on a continuous basis should be considered.

▼ Percentage of Laws and Regulations Posted on the e-Gov.

Website (as of the end of Dec. 2025)

Those translated into English (as of the end of Dec. 2025) (approx. 11%)

English translation not published

■ Translated into Eng. ■ Eng. translation not published



Currently, only about **11% of the laws and regulations** posted on the e-Gov. site **have been translated into English.**

[Reference]

Total no. of laws and regulations: approx. 8,950

No. of laws and regulations translated into English: approx. 1,030

Current Status of Japanese Law Translation Efforts

3 Translation Quality and Reduction of Translation Time

Points Indicated and Requested at Previous Meetings by Private Sector Members

- It is important to publish translations of laws and regulations **in a speedy and timely manner.**
- According to the results of the user questionnaire, **there is room for improvement of AI translations in terms of quality and functionality.** We expect to see improvement in their quality through repeated technical modifications.
- While the shortening of the period required to prepare original drafts of translations of laws and regulations increases the number of translated laws and regulations, if the quality of translation declines, adverse effects of mistranslation are anticipated. We would like to create a **quality inspection system that appropriately balances speed and accuracy.**

Current Status of Japanese Law Translation Efforts

3 Translation Quality and Reduction of Translation Time

Current Workflow



Among the processes in the workflow chart, the **Translation System for Laws and Regulations** is used for the **preparation of an English translation draft**.

To ensure quality, English translation drafts submitted by competent ministries are reviewed by **native advisors, legal experts, and coordinators** (approximately 200 drafts per year).

To ensure the quality and accuracy of translations while shortening translation time, **it is essential to maintain an adequate quality control framework and enhance the translation system and processes.**

Future Action Plan Based on the Current Situation (Draft)

FY2026 → Efforts to address the 3 priority requests identified in FY2024 (i.e., the publication of at least 1,000 English translations of laws and regulations, the prompt publication of translated laws and regulations in priority fields, and the assurance of translation quality) will be continued.

Initiatives from FY2027 Onward (Draft)

- ① Prompt publication of translations of priority laws and regulations**
- ② Review of the numerical targets established in FY2022**
- ③ Translation of all laws and regulations posted on the e-Gov website**
- ④ Improvement of the translation system and processes, including the quality control framework, with the goal of increasing the number of high-quality translations of laws and regulations**