

LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

JAPAN

TRANSLATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION INTO ENGLISH

There is one publication series and one website that provide translations of major Japanese laws and regulations. The print publication is published by a private company and the website is run by the Japanese government. Both sources of translation are regarded as reliable, but neither is official. Both sources continue to translate new laws and regulations and update previous translations, but not on a regular basis.

I. Official Publications

All official laws and regulations are published in Japanese by *Kanpō*:

- KANPŌ [Official Gazette] (1883–), LC Call No. KNX7 .J37.

II. Court Reporters

Selected cases are currently reported in print media by courts and private publishers:

- SAIKŌ SAIBANSHO HANREI SHŪ [DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT] (1947–), LC Call No. KNX18.A35 J37.
- KAITEI SAIBAN GEPPŌ [FAMILY COURT MONTHLY REPORT] (1949–), LC Call No. KNX536.3.K38.
- HANREI TAIMUZU (1948–), LC Call No. KNX19.A35 H36, offers selected cases from district, appellate, and Supreme courts.
- HANREI JIHŌ (1953–), LC Call No. KNX19.A35 H355, offers selected cases from district, appellate, and Supreme courts.
- RŌDŌ HANREI [LABOR CASES] (1967–), LC Call No. KNX1266.3 R628.

III. Translations of Laws

During the Allied Occupation after the Second World War, an English version of the Official Gazette was published in Japan.¹ The General Headquarters, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers ordered the Japanese government to publish new laws and regulations in both English and Japanese:

¹ *About EHS*, EHS, http://www.ehs.or.jp/about/about_en.html (last visited Feb. 29, 2012).

- OFFICIAL GAZETTE (1946–1953), LC Call No. KNX7 .J372.

Until the government recently started to translate laws into English, a private company, Eibun-Horei-Sha (EHS) provided the only systematic translation of various laws and major Cabinet orders:

- EHS LAW BULLETIN SERIES (1956–), LC Call No. KNX12 .J35.

The Japanese government started discussing translating laws into English in 2003,² and the Cabinet took its first steps in starting a website to post English translations of laws and regulations in 2006.³ In 2009, the Ministry of Justice took over the website:⁴

- *Japanese Law Translation*, MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, <http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/>.

IV. Translations of Court Decisions

The Supreme Court maintains a database of translations of selected cases on its website:

- *Judgments of the Supreme Court*, SUPREME COURT OF JAPAN, <http://www.courts.go.jp/english/judgments/index.html>.

V. Online Resources

- *Hōrei kensaku* [*Law and Regulation Search*], E-GOV, <http://law.e-gov.go.jp/cgi-bin/idxsearch.cgi> (in Japanese). The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications maintains this online database of laws and regulations.
- HOUKO, <http://www.houko.com/> (in Japanese). Subscription is required to see laws and regulations after 1997.
- *Saibanrei jōhō* [*Court Decisions Information*], COURTS IN JAPAN, http://www.courts.go.jp/search/jhsp0010?action_id=first&hanreiSrchKbn=01

² Hōrei no gaikokugo yaku ni kansuru giron tō no jōkyō [Situation of Discussions Concerning Translations of Laws and Regulations], Hōrei gaikokugo yaku • jisshi suishin kentō kaigi [Committee on Translation of Laws and Regulations and Its Promotion] (Feb. 2, 2005), <http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/hourei/kentou/dai1/1siryou1.pdf> (last visited Feb. 29, 2012).

³ STUDY COUNCIL FOR PROMOTING TRANSLATION OF JAPANESE LAWS AND REGULATIONS INTO FOREIGN LANGUAGES, FINAL REPORT 12 (Mar. 23, 2006), Cabinet Secretariat, <http://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/hourei/report.pdf>.

⁴ *About This Site: Promoting the Translation of Japanese Laws and Regulations into Foreign Languages*, JAPANESE LAW TRANSLATION, http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/index/about_this_site/?re=02 (last visited Feb. 29, 2012).

- (in Japanese). This website provides selected court decisions of the Supreme Court and lower courts.

Prepared by Sayuri Umeda
Senior Foreign Law Specialist
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