

## LEGAL TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING COUNTRY FACTSHEET

### JAPAN

Country (region):	JAPAN
<b>STATUS OF LEGAL TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS</b>	
How is legal translation/ interpreting organised in your country (region)? (Please provide brief description)	Organized by translation/interpreting agencies and by the courts directly
Do you have sworn translators/interpreters in your country(region)?	Sworn? What I can tell you is this: Generally, all interpreters in Japan are qualified via interview and testing by a court body which usually includes a judge and a clerk before appearing on the court roster. Interpreters generally prepare translations (Japanese into foreign language) of affidavits, indictment documents, so on. So, there is no sworn qualification, per se. Interpreters usually do not have a translation qualification, so one must trust the translation that is performed by the interpreter.
If yes:	
Is the profession of sworn translator/interpreter regulated by law? (If yes, please can you provide the text)?	No.
What are the admission criteria to become a sworn translator/ interpreter?	As put above, a meeting with judge and clerk. Before this meeting, typically you must sit at a hearing in a courtroom with interpretation, and an essay on your impressions must be written and submitted. At the meeting with judge and clerk, sight translation is usually requested, and questions are asked included ethics, your background, and how you would handle specific instances typical in a courtroom. There is no interpreting test.
Is authorisation granted for life or is there a mandatory renewal process for certification?	No renewal process. So, life, per se. There is a workshop on interpreting and ethics that is recommended that we attend, held in the summer time. (I am an instructor.) Workshops come in beginner, intermediate, and advanced level. Advanced level has not been held in years.
What is the scope of services offered by sworn translators/interpreters?	Translation and interpreting in and for the court room for both defense lawyer and prosecution, at detention center and prison, so on.
Do you have any special official requirements for a sworn translation (such as special paper, seal, esignature, hologram, notary certification etc.)?	None, for the reason above.
Do you have any special requirements for a sworn interpreter (wearing court badge etc.)?	Only a completion of the testing, described above.

Other relevant information or comments regarding the profession of a sworn translators/interpreters:	Please ask, if anything is unclear.
If not:	
What is the status of translators of official documents?	There is no status declaration or official descriptor, per se.
What is the status of court interpreters?	Perhaps, status is not clear as a term to me. A reference or example of "status" may help how I address this question.
What are the entry requirements to practice the profession?	Schooling and experience.
Are legal translators/interpreters certified in your country (region)? If yes, are they certified by state authorities / courts/ agencies/ associations?	Certification such as an exam is not available for court interpreting.
Are translations of legal documents accompanied by a certification of some sort? Does it state the name/qualifications of the translator?	There is no certification requirement or practice, unless the authority to which a particular translation will be submitted required notarization and/or apostille.
Other relevant information regarding the profession of LITs:	
REGISTER(S)	
Do you have register(s) of legal translators/interpreters in your country (region)?	Register/roster, yes. This is not a public database.
If yes, is it a national register?	It is a national database for all of Japan.
Who keeps it? How is it organised? Is it available online?	This is kept by the courts.
TENDERING OF TRANSLATION/INTERPRETING SERVICE	
How are court translating and interpreting assignments administered in your country (region) (through agency or individual translators and interpreters who are hired directly)?	Always through and by the court, unless an interpreter cannot be found for the particular date or for that language. Interpreters can be hired directly or via a translation agency.
Are there tendering procedures regarding the provision of translating and interpreting services through private agencies in your country (region)?	Yes, for detention centers and prisons. (My company has tendering qualification, and we have never seen any tenders for interpreters for the court room, which brings me to think that tenders for detention centers/prison and for the courtroom are separated in Japan.)

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)	
How is CPD training for LITs organised?	Generally, in the summer time. (see above comment)
Is CPD mandatory? If yes, what is the legal basis?	Not mandatory but highly recommended.
ASSOCIATIONS OF TRANSLATORS/INTERPRETERS	
How many translator/interpreter associations operate in your country (region)?	For legal/court only? Old associations or newer? Loosely organized or properly organized with a charter and so on? This question is too broad to answer.
What basic functions does your association provide for LITs (advice, support training, etc.)?	Advice, support, training, etc... Then, almost none. Small bodies are/were organizing workshop, but for Chinese-Japanese interpreters only. So, in short, these services are spotty in Japan for LITs.
CODE OF ETHICS AND/OR PRACTICE	
Do you follow a code of ethics and/or a code of practice?	Yes.
If yes, please give a brief description of the code (or append the text).	Japan follows the Buddhist principle that people are innately good. As such, there is no code; ethics are reviewed at the time of your interview with judge and clerk; no other/further validation of your ethics is performed in Japan. The only written code is the oath that we take when entering as interpreter into a proceeding in a courtroom before we offer our interpreting services.
ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Other useful information or comments you would like to share:	
Country factsheet filled-in by:	<i>JAITS and AIIC (Andrew MIGITA-MEEHAN)</i>