Japan
Association for Simplification of International Trade
PROcedures

J A S T P R O

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ABOUT JASTPRO

1. Historical Background

Based on the Recommendation No. 4 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) entitled “National Trade Facilitation Bodies” dated on 4 December 1974, in which it encouraged the establishment of national organisations, or other suitable means, for the implementation of recommendations on the facilitation of international trade procedures, the Japan Association for Simplification of International Trade Procedures, JASTROPO in short, was thus established as evolved from the “1971 Committee on the standardization of the trade-related documentation”, under the auspices of the then Ministries of Finance, Trade and Industry, and Transport.

Since then, the JASTPRO has undertaken a series of trade-facilitation-related activities in and out of Japan as a sole agency registered by the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT), and a core member of the Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT) consisted of 20 countries and areas. On 1 April 2013 JASTPRO changed its legal status to a General Incorporated Association.

2. Executives

The decision-making body of the JASTPRO consists of 11 Board of Directors, 2 Auditors and 13 Councillors.

Chairman: Mr. Ken KOBAYASHI, Chairman, Japan Foreign Trade Council
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Tadaaki NAITO, Chairman, Japanese Shipowner’s Association
Executive Director: Mr. Masahiro KIKUKAWA, JASTPRO Secretariat

3. Main Activities

JASTPRO has enlarged its founding missions to (i) cope up with the increased international trade; (ii) simplify trade-related procedures in Japan; and (iii) contribute to the further efficiency of trade-related work. Its permanent functions are:

(1) Cooperation and coordination with organisations for simplification of trade-related procedures, such as dissemination of the UN/CEFACT standards and maintenance of the standard messages.
(2) Issuance and maintenance of the Registered Standard Code for Importer/Exporter of Japan (JASTPRO Code)

(3) Research on and dissemination of the simplification of trade-related procedures, such as:

FY 2020: Research on non-preferential rules of origin applied in the European Union, Japan and the United States (on-going programme)

FY 2019: Research on further utilisation of Economic Partnership Agreements related to preferential rules of origin procedures
Research on the electronic processing of transaction by international trade in the South and South West Asia

FY 2018: Research on and dissemination of information concerning further utilization of economic partnership agreements in the field of rules of origin procedures

FY 2017: Research on the electronic processing of transaction by international trade in the Central and South Americas and the Caribbean

FY 2016: Research on the economic unions in the African region and its development of the electronic processing
UN/CEFACT is a subsidiary, intergovernmental body of the UNECE which serves as a focal point within the United Nations Economic and Social Council for trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards. It has global membership and its members are experts from intergovernmental organizations, individual countries' authorities and also from the business community.

UN/CEFACT is mandated to develop a programme of work of global relevance to achieve improved worldwide coordination and cooperation in the areas of trade facilitation and electronic business, covering both commercial and government business processes that can foster growth in international trade and related services. It encourages close collaboration between governments and private business to secure the interoperability for the exchange of information between the public and private sector.

UN/CEFACT and its predecessor have developed such instruments as:

- The UN Layout Key for Trade Documents, which is the foundation for the EU's Single Administrative Document (SAD);
- UN/EDIFACT, the international standard for electronic data interchange;
- Numerous trade facilitation recommendations;
- Core Component Library, containing syntax-neutral and technology-independent building blocks that can be used for data modeling; or
- XML schemas providing a series of coherent, consistent and normalised syntax solutions that are aligned with domain reference models for publication.
- UN/LOCODE, identifying of unique local place in each country for foreign trade

UN/CEFACT supports activities dedicated to improving the ability of business, trade and administrative organizations, from developed, developing and transition economies, to exchange products and relevant services effectively. Its principal focus is on facilitating national and international transactions, through the simplification and harmonization of processes, procedures and information flows, and so contributing to the growth of global commerce.

**JASTPRO’S CONTRIBUTION TO UN/CEFACT**

JASTPRO has actively participated in various UN/CEFACT activities as acting head of
delegation in collaboration with relevant ministries through the periodic meetings with experts, organisations, etc. Such activities include the registration of the United Nations Code for Trade and Transport Locations (UN/LOCODE), which is a five-character code system that provides a coded representation for the names of ports, airports, inland clearance depots, inland freight terminals and other transport related locations which are used for the movement of goods for trade. For example Narita Airport is registered as “JPNRT” and Shinjuku-ku in Tokyo as “JPSXO”. Recently Kanuma-city in Tochigi Prefecture was registered as “JPKTC”.

As shown in the organizational chart above, the UN/CEFACT Japan Committee (JEC) is supported by the JEC Steering Committee to which JASTPRO functions as a secretariat. Under the Steering Committee, there exists three permanent committee/working groups, i.e., Japan Committee for UN/CEFACT Standards (JUS), UN/CEFACT Travel, Tourism and Leisure Japan Working Group (TT&L) and Supply Chain Information Platform Study Group (SIPS); these bodies discuss and make a series of reports for simplification and facilitation of trade-related procedures.

**STANDARD CODE FOR EXPORTER/IMPORTER OF JAPAN (JASTPRO CODE)**

1. **JASTPRO CODE IN BRIEF**
- JASTPRO Code identifies the importer or exporter who utilize Japan’s single window entitled “Nippon Automated Cargo and Port consolidated System”, which is the system for online processing of procedures taken with customs and other relevant administrative authorities or related private-sector services for arriving/departing ships and aircraft or import/export cargo.

- Once JASTPRO code is issued and registered by the NACCS system, those who joined the system, i.e., importers/exporters, Customs, quarantines, immigration, port authorities, Customs brokers, shipping brokers, NVOCC, shipping companies, shipping agents, warehouse operators, container yard operators, banks, airlines, consolidators, etc. are enabled to identify themselves by the Code.

- JASTPRO Code has been used for the purposes of the Customs clearance, cargo management, bill of lading, payment of Customs duties, etc.

- The registered JASTPRO Code is valid for three years and extendable. The registration certificate can be issued either in Japanese or English, upon request (with a minimum certification fee).

2. Corporate Number (National Tax Agency)

- In 2017, corporate enterprises are required to use the Corporate Number issued by the National Tax Agency for the purposes of Customs clearance. Although JASTPRO Code is not a mandatory procedural requirement, JASTPRO Code holders are not obliged to key-in the corporate number each time of the Customs clearance since the JASTPRO provides its Code holders with the automatic transposition service which connect from the JASTPRO Code to the Corporate Number.
RESEARCH ON AND DISSEMINATION OF THE SIMPLIFICATION OF TRADE-RELATED PROCEDURES

1. JASTPRO Seminar

JASTPRO has been organising a series of seminars for traders focusing on the timely topics on the trade facilitation and simplification of trade-related procedures.

Feb. 2020: Seminar on Preferential Origin Procedures in Commemoration of the First Anniversary of the EU/Japan EPA (about 500 participants in Tokyo/ Osaka)

In commemoration of the first anniversary of the EU/Japan EPA, two seminars were held in Tokyo and Osaka (4 and 6 February, respectively) co-hosted by JASTPRO, Japan Tariff Association, Japan Customs Brokers Association, and the EU Delegation to Japan. High-level officials of the Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan, and the Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD), European Commission delivered presentations and answered the questions. After the seminars, the Q & A paper duly authorised by both administrations has been published on the JASTPRO website.

Mr. M. Kikukawa, JASTPRO Speaker: Mr. Jean-Michel GRAVE, TAXUD
Executive Director Speaker: Mr. Albert Hendriks, TAXUD

Co-hosts and officials of TAXUD in front of flags Speaker: Mr. Kentaro SAKAI, Ministry of Finance
Speaker: Naoki IDA, Ministry of Finance

Soon after the implementation of the EU/Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (1 February 2019), the European guidance papers and its practices were briefly explained by a Head of Unit, DG TAXUDE, European Commission and a Director, JASTPRO.

Sep. 2018: Seminar on Mega EPAs co-hosted by Hitachi Solutions (about 80 participants)
July 2018: Seminar on EU Trade Remedies and BREXIT (about 100 participants)
Feb. 2018: Seminar on Mega EPAs (about 150 participants)

2. Publication of Essays/Theses on Rules of Origin

An essay and thesis in part are published monthly on the JASTPRO website. Main viewers are government officials, traders, manufacturers.

3. Assistance for Public Sector and Supporters

JASTPRO sends its expert to technical assistance activities organised by the World Customs Organization (WCO) or Japan International Cooperation Agency, or associations or enterprises supporting JASTPRO for training their staff or disseminating the latest information on the Economic Partnership Agreement and its rules of origin.

JASTPRO also send its experts to give lectures for a graduate course of Aoyama-Gakuin University sponsored by the WCO.