

III. LAW ENFORCEMENT AT THE BORDER AGAINST ILLICIT DRUGS AND OTHER ILLEGAL ITEMS

1. Government Initiatives

(1) Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

In January 1997, the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse was established within the Cabinet to address the serious drug situation at that time. Through its annual meetings, the Headquarters was expected to ensure close cooperation among relevant administrative agencies in measures against drug abuse as well as to promote strict drug control, public awareness of drug abuse, and other comprehensive and active measures. In December 2008, however, the Headquarters was abolished with the aim of reorganizing overlapping meetings in which the Prime Minister and the Chief Cabinet Secretary were required to participate. Instead, the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse, presided over by the Minister of State for Measures against Drug Abuse, was determined to be held as necessary under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime. All matters decided by the Headquarters before its abolition were transferred to the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse.

Recognizing the need for medium- and long-term strategies for fighting drug abuse, the Headquarters decided on the Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in May 1998 and the New Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in July 2003. In view of the importance to eliminate the trafficking of illicit drugs by sea routes, the Headquarters also defined the Emergency Measures at the Border to Prevent Trafficking of Illicit Drugs in order to concentrate cooperation among the ministries and agencies concerned on the measures at the border, thus promoting comprehensive and aggressive measures. Although the measures taken according to the strategies worked well to some extent to reduce the number of persons accused of stimulant-related offenses, the number of repeat stimulant offenders increased. Unfortunately, the drug situation was still serious as evidenced by the youth abuse of cannabis and synthetic narcotics in tablet form such as MDMA and the deep involvement of criminal organizations in drug abuse offenses. For this reason, the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy was decided at the meeting of the Headquarters in August 2008.

(Note 1) Members of the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

- Chief: Minister of State for Measures against Drug Abuse,
- Deputy Chiefs: Chair of the National Public Safety Commission, Minister of Justice, Minister of Finance, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare, Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport
- Members: Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

(Note 2) Meetings in the past 5 years (including the meetings of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse)

- January 17, 1997 ○ Cabinet decision for establishment of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse
- January 21, 1997 ○ First meeting of headquarters members
- April 18, 1997 ○ Second meeting of headquarters members
- Outline on Promoting Measures against Illicit Drugs
- May 27, 1997 ○ Third meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1996
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1997
- May 26, 1998 ○ Fourth meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Urgent Countermeasures against Juvenile Drug Abuse problems
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1997
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1998
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- May 18, 1999 ○ Fifth meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1998
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1999
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- May 23, 2000 ○ 6th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 1999
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2000
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse

- June 1, 2001 ○ 7th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2000
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2001
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- May 31, 2002 ○ 8th meeting of headquarters members
- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2001
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse in Fiscal 2002
 - Progress Report on the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- July 29, 2003 ○ 9th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Adoption of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Adoption of Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- June 14, 2004 ○ 10th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- June 10, 2005 ○ 11th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- July 18, 2006 ○ 12th meeting of headquarters members
- Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- January 4, 2007 ○ 13th meeting of headquarters members

- Partial revision of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
- August 3, 2007 ○ 14th meeting of headquarters members
 - Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
- August 22, 2008 ○ 15th meeting of headquarters members
 - Follow-up of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse
 - Follow-up of the Urgent Border Control Measures for Interdiction of Illicit Drug Smuggling
 - Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy
- August 20, 2009 ○ First meeting of meeting members
 - Follow-up of the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy

(2) Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms

In September 1995, the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms was established within the Cabinet to address the serious firearm situation at that time. Through its annual meetings, the Headquarters was expected to ensure close cooperation among relevant administrative agencies in measures against firearms as well as to promote strict firearm control, public awareness of firearms, and other comprehensive and active measures. In December 2008, however, the Headquarters was abolished with the aim of reorganizing overlapping meetings in which the Prime Minister and the Chief Cabinet Secretary were required to participate. Instead, the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms, presided over by the Minister of State for Measures against Firearms, was determined to be held as necessary under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime. All matters decided by the Headquarters before its abolition were transferred to the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms.

The Headquarters had been drawing up and deciding on a roadmap each year to promote measures for controlling firearms in line with the Outline of Promoting Measures against Firearms adopted in December 1995. The First Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms, held in May 2009, decided on the Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2009 as a roadmap to promote measures for controlling firearms in accordance with the Outline.

(Note 1) Members of the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms

Chief:	Minister of State for Measures against Firearms
Deputy Chiefs:	Chair of the National Public Safety Commission
Members:	Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary Cabinet Public Relations Secretary Director-General for Policy Planning of Cabinet Office (Policy of Convivial Society) Director-General of Community Safety Bureau of National Police Agency Director-General of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of National Police Agency Chief of Organized Crime Department of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of National Police Agency Director-General of Minister's Secretariat of Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications Director-General of the Criminal Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Justice Director-General of Immigration Bureau of Ministry of Justice Consul General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of the Customs and Tariff Bureau of Ministry of Finance Deputy Director-General of Fisheries Agency Director-General of Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Director-General of Policy Bureau of Ministry of Land,
Infrastructure and Transport

Vice Commandant of Japan Coast Guard

Director-General of Nature Conservation Bureau of Ministry of the
Environment

(Note 2) Meetings(including the meetings of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms)

- September 19, 1995 ○ Cabinet decision for establishment of the Firearms Control Headquarters
- September 28, 1995 ○ First meeting of headquarters members
- December 19, 1995 ○ Second meeting of headquarters members
 - Adoption of the Outline on Promoting Measures against Firearms
 - Adoption of Action Plan for Prevention of Promotion of Publicity Activities
- May 7, 1997 ○ Third meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1996
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1997
- April 30, 1998 ○ Fourth meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures Against Firearms in Fiscal 1997
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1998
- April 27, 1999 ○ Fifth meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1998
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1999
- April 28, 2000 ○ 6th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 1999
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2000
- April 20, 2001 ○ 7th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation

- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2000
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2001
- April 26, 2002
- 8th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2001
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2002
- April 25, 2003
- 9th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2002
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2003
- April 27, 2004
- 10th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2003
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2004
- April 26, 2005
- 11th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Recent Firearms Situation
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2004
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2005
- May 25, 2006
- 12th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2005
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2006
 - Report on Progress of Efforts by Ministries and Agencies
- April 25, 2007
- 13th meeting of headquarters members

- Regarding the shooting of the mayor of Nagasaki and shootings in Tokyo and Kanagawa
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2006
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2007
 - Report on Progress of Efforts by Ministries and Agencies
- May 18, 2007
- First meeting of the project team to study further measures against firearms
 - Regarding the study for the one-step-forward measures
- June 25, 2007
- Second meeting of the project team to study further measures against firearms
 - Regarding further measure plans to prevent firearms crimes
- May 1, 2008
- 14th meeting of headquarters members
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2007
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2008
 - Report on Progress of Efforts by Ministries and Agencies
- April 22, 2009
- First meeting of meeting members
 - Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2008
 - Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2009
 - Report on Progress of Efforts by Ministries and Agencies

(3) Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime

Considering the current situation where juvenile and heinous crimes occur frequently among the people's daily lives, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime was held. The first meeting of the Ministerial Meeting was held in September 2003. The Prime Minister presided over this Meeting, composed of all the Cabinet ministers. The Meeting has the mission to take effective, comprehensive and active measures in close cooperation among the ministries and other governmental agencies concerned with activities against smuggling, in order to restore Japan as "the safest country in the world."

In December 2003, the Ministerial Meeting adopted the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime ("Old Plan") in order to remove public concern about the security situation, halt the worsening crime situation, and get through the crisis of public security. Since then, the Ministerial Meeting has steadily been implementing various measures in cooperation with the people, business operators and local governments.

As a result of unified efforts made by the people and the national government in connection with the Old Plan, the public security of Japan has been improving significantly, as shown by a decrease in the number of juveniles accused of criminal offenses and in the number of illegal foreign residents. However, the people have not recognized this improvement yet because of new security threats such as bank transfer frauds and random killings. In response to this situation, the Ministerial Meeting held in June 2008 developed the Action Plan 2008 for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime in order to reduce more crimes, untangle public concern about the security situation, and achieve the genuine restoration of public security within 5 years. Based on this Plan, steady efforts are being made to implement measures to achieve this goal.

(Note 1) Members of Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime

Chief:	Prime Minister
Members:	All the Cabinet Ministers

(Note 2) Meetings

- September 2, 2003 ○ Oral consent of the Cabinet on the establishment of the "Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime"
- September 5, 2003 ○ First meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- December 18, 2003 ○ Second meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Adoption of Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
- June 22, 2004 ○ Third meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Adoption of Action Plan for the Measures to Be Taken at Ministries and Agencies

- December 14, 2004 ○ Fourth meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Adoption of Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
 - Adoption of Action Plan for Measures against Trafficking of Human Beings
- June 28, 2005 ○ 5th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
(14th joint meeting with the Headquarters of Urban Renewal Project)
- Safe and Secure Town Planning
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Establishment of the Immigration Control Systems Based on Biometrics
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- December 20, 2005 ○ Sixth meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning
 - Efforts on Protection of Children from Crimes
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- June 20, 2006 ○ 7th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
(Third joint meeting with the Headquarters of Promoting Juvenile Fostering)
- Juvenile Issues
 - Measures against Organized Crime Groups
 - Issues on Prevention of Recommitment of Crime
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- December 19, 2006 ○ 8th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Efforts on Protection of Children from Crimes and Saving of Children from Delinquency

- Progress of Discussions by the Working Team (Progress of Measures against Crimes)
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism
- July 3, 2007
- 9th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - General items concerning Fostering Juveniles and Measures against Crime
 - Measures against Organized Crime Groups
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning
- December 21, 2007
- 10th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Progress of Discussions Concerning Measures against Crime and Working Team
 - Measures against Firearms and Organized Crime Groups
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning
- June 16, 2008
- 11th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Progress of Measures against Crimes taken so far and future challenges
 - Follow-up of the Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
 - Follow-up of the Nationwide Campaign for the Safe and Secure Town Planning
- December 22, 2008
- 11th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Action Plan 2008 for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
- June 26, 2009
- 13th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Progress of Measures against Crime and Progress of Discussions by Relevant Headquarters

- December 22, 2009 ○ 14th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
- Adoption of 2009 Action Plan to combat Trafficking in Persons (Draft) and Progress of Measures against Crime
 - Promotion of Measures for Elimination of Child Pornography

2. Law Enforcement by Japan Customs

The volume of objectives for Customs control, such as passengers entering Japan and import cargo, is growing steadily. At the same time, modus operandi used by smugglers is getting increasingly devious and crafty. Japan Customs, with its limited resources, is taking various measures in order to meet these challenges and to conduct effective and efficient law enforcement at the border in recent years.

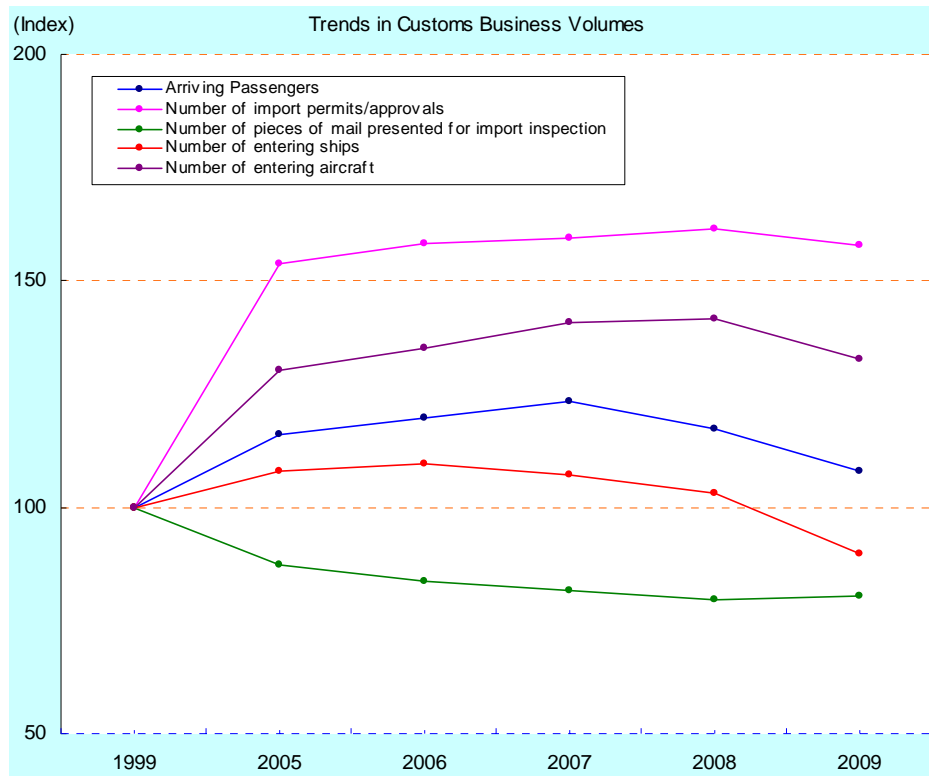
Object of Control (Indicator)		1999 (10 years ago)	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Passengers		2,146	2,491	2,570	2,649	2,520	2,316
(Arriving passengers)	10,000 people	(100.0)	(116.1)	(119.8)	(123.4)	(117.4)	(107.9)
Commercial cargoes		1,109	1,704	1,753	1,767	1,789	1,752
(Import permits/approvals)	10,000 cases	(100.0)	(153.7)	(158.1)	(159.3)	(161.3)	(158.0)
International mail		12,088	10,545	10,123	9,851	9,642	9,734
(Pieces of mail presented for import inspection)	10,000 pieces	(100.0)	(87.2)	(83.7)	(81.5)	(79.8)	(80.5)
Ships		12.6	13.6	13.8	13.5	13.0	11.3
(Entering ships)	10,000 ships	(100.0)	(107.9)	(109.5)	(107.1)	(103.2)	(89.7)
Aircraft		12.3	16.0	16.6	17.3	17.4	16.3
(Entering aircraft)	10,000 aircraft	(100.0)	(130.1)	(135.0)	(140.7)	(141.5)	(132.5)

Notes 1. The numbers of arriving passengers derive from the Annual Report on Statistics on Legal Migrants published by the Ministry of Justice.
(Data of 2009 are preliminary.)

2. Number of import permits/approvals and pieces of mail presented for import inspection are checked by the Customs Clearance Division of the Japan Customs.

3. Number of entering ships and aircraft are checked by the Enforcement Division of the Japan Customs.

4. The figures in parentheses on the bottom are indexes with 1999 given as 100. (This applies hereafter.)



(1) Consolidation of Organization for Enforcement

a. Consolidation of an organization for consistent enforcement in distribution

For improving the effectiveness and efficiency of consistent cargo control in physical distribution related to import and export clearance, the organization for enforcement and inspection at the Enforcement Division of each Customs were centralized and risk management is conducted by using prior information. In this way, Customs is better able to handle goods harmful to society and terrorism-related materials.

b. Consolidation of an organization for wide-area enforcement

The Customs Surveillance and Control Center was established at Yokohama Customs to cope with organized and large-scale smuggling cases. Providing support and coordination to each customs office, the Office conducts intensive wide-area enforcement activities against ships and crew members involving two or more jurisdictions.

(2) Reinforcement of the Collection and Analysis of Information on Smuggling

a. Introduction of intelligence-related posts

The post of Customs Manager Intelligence (to handle smuggling intelligence) was established in each Customs, while the post of Chief Executive Customs Manager Intelligence was established in Tokyo Customs. At the center of the organization, these officers comprehensively manage and analyze smuggling-related information received from domestic law enforcement authorities (such as the Police and Coast Guard), foreign customs and other sources, making every effort to conduct effective intelligence analysis.

b. Strengthened cooperation with trade circles for better information collection

Customs has concluded Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), aimed, inter alia, at ensuring greater cooperation in the prevention of smuggling, with organizations related to vessels, aircraft, commercial cargo and others; this is done to ensure effective enforcement against smuggling:

(a) Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance:

Japanese Shipowners Association,
Scheduled Airlines Association of Japan,
Japan Customs Brokers Association,
Japan Air Cargo Forwarders Association,
Japan Foreign Steamship Association and
Japan Fisheries Association


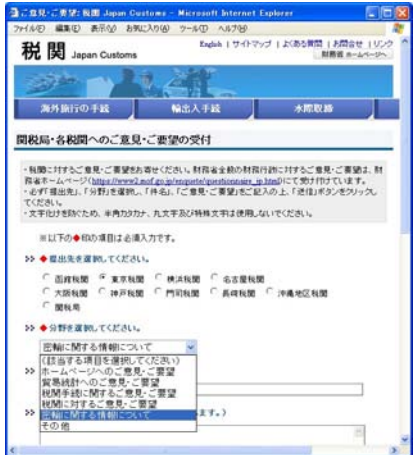
(6 organizations in total)

(b) Each regional Customs: Associations of transportation services and travel agencies under the jurisdiction of each regional customs, fishery cooperatives, etc.

(29 organizations in total)

c. Reporting means available from the public

Ongoing efforts to gather information from public throughout the nation include the opening of a single toll-free telephone number accessible 24 hours a day, from everywhere across the nation, the distribution of leaflets, and public relations activities such as law enforcement countermeasures at the border by Customs through Customs websites, Customs public relation videos, etc. Starting from May 2007, the information can be sent via the Internet.

Leaflet (for general people)	CUSTOMS WEBSITE
 <p>* In addition, materials for port related organizations, fishery cooperatives, logistics companies and warehouse companies have been made and distributed.</p>	
<p>SMUGGLING - DIAL: (24 hours a day: toll-free)</p> <p>0120-461-961</p> <p>(Call Customs, Ministry of Finance for information on smuggling.)</p>	<p>CUSTOMS WEBSITE</p> <p>http://www.customs.go.jp/english/index.htm</p>

d. Utilization of the Information System

The Customs Intelligence Database System (CIS) – a computerized system capable of sorting out and managing various information such as Customs clearance for exports and imports as well as ship entries and departures – has been introduced at Customs offices throughout the nation. Through the improvement and reinforcement of the system for intelligence analysis, processing and management, intensive and efficient control of smuggling is being carried out at the border.

(3) Effective Use of Enforcement Equipment

a. Utilization of X-ray inspection equipment

X-ray equipment both mobile and fixed have been installed at major regional Customs offices and have demonstrated great performance in detecting goods harmful to society such as illicit drugs concealed skillfully in cargo and other goods.

In addition to ordinary X-ray equipment for cargos, large-scale X-ray equipment for containerized cargoes capable of inspecting containers without unloading them from trailers, and mobile backscattered X-ray equipment for inspecting heavy items and lengthy cargoes, have been installed in principal ports across the country since February 2001 and March 2006, respectively.



b. Utilization of Customs' patrol boat

Large-size patrol boats and wide-area patrol boats, stationed at major customs offices, have been engaged in monitoring across a wide range of waters to prevent activities such as on-the-sea trafficking of illicit drugs and firearms, and smuggling at local ports or closed ports.

For reinforcing smuggling control on the Sea of Japan side, a large-size patrol boat was deployed at Sakai Port in March 2009.



c. Utilization of Drug Detector Dogs

Drug Detector Dogs (Aggressive Dogs) were introduced in 1979 to cope with increasing numbers of drug smuggling cases.

In addition, passive dogs have been deployed and effectively used for the control of illicit drugs in baggage inspection stations of major airports since their introduction in 1993.

While "aggressive dogs" send alert signals to their handlers by scratching baggage, "passive dogs" are trained to send alert signals to their handlers by their sitting motion when they scent illicit drugs hidden on or around them.



d. Introduction of Port Monitoring Camera Systems

Since March 1996, highly sensitive monitoring cameras with night vision have been installed at major sea ports to tighten controls over vessels, movement of goods and persons at the port areas.

(4) Closer Cooperation with Relevant Agencies

a. Enforcement through cooperation with relevant agencies

With the aim of imposing effective controls at the border, Customs, the Police, the Coast Guard and other organizations are working in close cooperation, each making full use of its own information, organizational resources, jurisdiction and experience.

In more specific terms, Customs is conducting joint training and joint operations together with the Police and the Coast Guard across the country.



b. Holding of Law Enforcement Meeting on Measures against Smuggling

The Customs and Tariff Bureau of the Ministry of Finance organizes Law Enforcement Meetings on Measures against Smuggling to strengthen the cooperation with the ministries and agencies concerned and promote the exchange of information needed to interdict smuggling cases. Thus, information exchange is promoted at the national level. Regional Customs offices also organize regional law enforcement meetings on smuggling with the law enforcement authorities concerned to promote information exchange at the regional level.

(5) Promotion of International Information Exchange

a. Promotion of information exchange with foreign Customs administrations

As the only contact point of Japan Customs for information exchange with foreign customs administrations, the International Intelligence Office has been established in Tokyo Customs. In order to facilitate information exchange, Japan Customs improved rules for information provision to foreign customs administrations based on the tariff reform in March 1998 and concluded with various foreign countries the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement that includes provisions for information exchange concerning the smuggling of illicit drugs and so on. (See "Present Condition of the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement.")

Using international networks for information exchange, such as the ones managed by the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) for Asia and the Pacific, Japan Customs exchanges smuggling-related information and intelligence with foreign customs administrations and other law enforcement authorities.

Note: The RILO is the base for the WCO's regional projects, which has been established for the purpose of promoting exchange of information on illicit drugs, etc. among Customs administrations in the region and improving the intelligence analysis on the trends of smuggling in the region.

The RILO for Asia and the Pacific, in which Japan Customs administration has a membership, was established in Hong Kong as the first RILO of the world in December 1987. Japan Customs hosted the RILO for Asia and the Pacific (located in Tokyo Customs) for the five years from January 1999 and has actively participated in the RILO project with many contributions. The RILO for Asia and the Pacific, whose office was relocated to China (within Beijing Customs Office) in January 2004, analyzes trends in smuggling within the region based on the reports from participant countries and regions on the interdicted cases of smuggling of illicit drugs and related objects, distributes the results to participating countries and other organizations, and facilitate exchange of information between customs administrations in these countries.

b. Information exchange under Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements

Customs is actively working to conclude Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements that require increased information exchange with the source and transit countries of illicit drugs and firearms.

Customs is also committed to increasing information exchange through Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements already concluded.

Note: Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements provide the customs authorities of Japan and foreign countries a legal framework for mutual assistance including information exchange. This framework helps both customs authorities properly execute their respective laws and regulations, realize prompt customs clearance, and effectively police their borders for illicit drugs, firearms, and other socially harmful goods, as well as goods infringing intellectual property rights.

- EPAs (Note 1)
Singapore (November 2002), Malaysia (July 2006),
Thailand (November 2007), Indonesia (July 2008),
Brunei (July 2008), Philippines (December 2008),
Switzerland (September 2009), Vietnam (October 2009)
- Intergovernmental Agreements
United States (June 1997), South Korea (December 2004),
China (April 2006), EC (February 2008), Russia (May 2009)
Italy (signed in December 2009), Netherlands (March 2010) (Note 2)
- Cooperative Arrangements between Customs Administrations
Australia (June 2003), NZ (April 2004), Canada (June 2005),
Hong Kong (January 2008), Macao (September 2008)

(Note 1) Containing provisions for customs mutual assistance.

(Note 2) Italy have not entered into force yet.

The month and year in parentheses indicates the year of enactment or signing

(as of June 2010)

c. Collecting smuggling-related information through the dispatch of officers

Customs officers are sent to the countries and regions that are likely to be sources for illicit drugs, etc. smuggled into Japan to collect information on smuggling and establish mutual cooperative relations with the foreign Customs administrations. In addition, Japan Customs dispatches officers specialized in intelligence analysis to the countries and regions which are tackling offenses related to illicit drug smuggling to exchange views on the analysis of intelligence on source countries of smuggling, etc.

d. Participation in international conferences

Japan Customs is actively taking part in international conferences, such as the Enforcement Committee of the WCO and WCO/RILO for Asia and the Pacific Contact Points Meetings, to exchange opinions and information on control of illicit drugs with various countries.

(6) Technical Cooperation in the Field of Customs Enforcement

Japan Customs has been providing developing countries with technical cooperation, including training for their customs officers in order to improve the capacity of their customs authorities to control smuggling at the border, such as the capability to collect and analyze information on illicit drug smuggling and so on.