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 before its abolition by the Headquarters 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, the New Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in July 2003, the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy in August 2008 and Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy Acceleration Plan; thus promoting comprehensive and aggressive measures. While the implementation of these strategies and measures is delivering some level of results, examination of the drug situation as a whole shows that arrests for stimulant-related crimes are rising, and reoffending rates reached a new record level for the first time in 15 years. Thus, the situation remains harsh, prompting the decision in August 2013 to adopt the "Fourth Five-year Strategy for Drug Abuse Prevention".

In addition, in July 2014, there was no end to crimes and serious traffic accidents resulting in death caused by abusers of designer drugs and, as this became a grave social problem, based on the instructions of the Prime Minister, Emergency Measures in order to eradicate the abuse of designer drugs was compiled at the meeting.

(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 (including the meetings of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse)

Prevent Drug Abuse)					
September 19, 2014	0	the 11th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		Follow-up of emergency measures in order to eradicate the abuse of New Psychoactive Substances			
August 7, 2014	0	the 10th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		 Emergency measures in order to eradicate that abuse of New Psychoactive Substances 			
July 18, 2014	0	the 9th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		Emergency measures in order to eradicate the abuse of so-called legal drugs			
July 8, 2014	0	the 8th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		• Appropriate response to new drugs such as those sold as legal herbs, etc.			
June 19, 2014	0	the 7th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		Follow-up of the Four Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy			
August 7, 2013	0	the 6th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		Follow-up of the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy			
		 Abuse Prevention Strategy for Drugs Sold while Labeled as Legal Herbs 			
August 30, 2012	0	the 5th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		 Follow-up of the Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy Acceleration Plan 			
		Abuse Prevention Strategy for Drugs Sold while Labeled as Legal Herbs			
August 29, 2011	0	the 4th "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			
		Follow-up of the Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy Acceleration Plan			
July 23, 2010	0	the 3rd "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting"			

• Follow-up of the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy March 24, 2010 the 2nd "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting" • Establishment of the Working Team on the Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy Acceleration Plan August 20, 2009 the 1st "Drug Abuse Prevention Meeting" • Follow-up of the Third Five-year Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy August 22, 2008 the 15th meeting of headquarters members 0 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 3, 2007 0 the 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 January 4, 2007 0 the 13th meeting of headquarters members Partial revision of the New Five-Year Strategy for the Prevention of Drug Abuse July 18, 2006 0 the 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 June 10, 2005 the 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

the 10th meeting of headquarters members

June 14, 2004

Drug Abuse Prevention Strategy Acceleration Plan

- 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 29, 2003 O the 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

May 31, 2002 O the 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

June 1, 2001 O the 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 23, 2000 O the 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

May 18, 1999 O the 5th 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 26, 1998 O the 4th 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 27, 1997 O the 3rd 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
- April 18, 1997 O the 2nd meeting of headquarters members
 - Outline on Promoting Measures against Illicit Drugs
 - The Urgent Countermeasures against Juvenile Drug Abuse problems
- January 21, 1997 O the 1st meeting of headquarters members
- January 17, 1997 O Cabinet decision for establishment of the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Drug Abuse

(2) Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms

In September, 1995, in view of the serious firearms situation at the time, the Headquarters for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms was established in the Cabinet and in 2008, this headquarters was re-formed as the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms under the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime. In December, 2012, the jurisdiction of it was transferred from the Cabinet Secretariat to the National Police Agency.

At the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in December, 1995, the Outline on Promoting Measures against Firearms was determined. It is aiming at clarifying the basic policy for measures against firearms in the government and promoting it effectively and strongly. Furthermore, the Plan for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms and the Status of Promotion of Measures against Firearms has been formulated every year since 1997.

Recent 3-year Plans for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms are composed of the following 6 major categories: 1. Seizure of firearms concealed within Japan, 2. Strengthening of firearms seizures systems and closer partnerships with supervising organizations, 3. Thorough investigation / research and strict processing of crime involving firearms, 4. Appropriate promotion of border measures, 5. Promotion of international cooperation and 6. Acqirement of understanding and cooperation of Japanese national.

At the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms, the promotion plan has been formulated and determined for each financial year following Guidelines for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms formulated in December, 1995. In addition, at the Meeting for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in May, 2014 (6th), the 2014 Plan for the Promotion of Measures against Firearms was formulated as the plan following the Guidelines.

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

Chief: Chair of the National Public Safety Commission

Members: Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary

Cabinet Public Relations Secretary

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

Director-General of Consular Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General of Foreign Policy Bureau 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)

May 21, 2014 O the 6th "Meeting against Firearms"

- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2013
- Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2014

May 21, 2013 O the 5th "Meeting against Firearms"

- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2012
- Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2013

May 28, 2012 O the 4th "Meeting against Firearms"

- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2011
- Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2012

May 26, 2011 O the 3rd "Meeting against Firearms"

- Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2010
- Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2011

June 23, 2010 O the 2nd "Meeting against Firearms"

• Report on Progress of the Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2009

- Report on Adoption of Plans for Promotion of Measures against Firearms in Fiscal 2010
 the 1st "Meeting against Firearms"
- - 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
- May 1, 2008 O the 14th meeting of headquarters members

April 22, 2009

- 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
- June 25, 2007 O the 2nd meeting of the project team to study further measures against firearms
 - Regarding further measure plans to prevent firearms crimes
- May 18, 2007 O the 1st meeting of the project team to study further measures against firearms
 - Regarding the study for the one-step-forward measures
- April 25, 2007 O the 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 25, 2006 O the 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 26, 2005

- O the 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

April 27, 2004

- O the 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 25, 2003

- O the 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 26, 2002

- O the 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 20, 2001

- O the 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 28, 2000 O the 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 27, 1999 O the 5th 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 30, 1998 O the 4th 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
- May 7, 1997 O the 3rd 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
- December 19, 1995 O the 2nd meeting of headquarters members
 - Adoption of the Outline on Promoting Measures against Firearms
 - Adoption of Action Plan for Prevention of Promotion of Publicity Activities

September 28, 1995 O the 1st meeting of headquarters members

September 19, 1995 O Cabinet decision for establishment of the Firearms Control Headquarters

(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."

After that, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime met often to devise various

measures adapted to address the crime situation. These were: "Support for action by the public to secure

their own safety", "The development of a social environment where crime is less likely", and "Various

anti-crime measures beginning at the waterfront". These measures were advanced as comprehensive

anti-crime action to make society as a whole stronger against crime. As a result, some improvement was

seen in public order in Japan, as numbers of reported crimes have fallen to less than half the level

reached in the worst post-war period.

On the other hand, as new threats, namely cyber-crime, cyber-attacks, international terrorism, and

organized crime, were emerging and social structures were changing, it was necessary to formulate a

comprehensive new strategy to advance anti-crime measures in future. Therefore, the Ministerial

Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime, looking to the next seven years before the 2020 Olympics

and Paralympics in Tokyo, formulated the "Strategy to Create 'Japan - the safest country in the world"

in December 2013. This strategy aimed to make Japan the safest country in the world by further

reducing crime, and fostering a public sense of confidence in public order. The cabinet resolved to adopt

the strategy on the same day, and is working steadily to realize its goals.

In addition, at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime, the 2014 Action Plan to

combat Human Trafficking were determined, that included of a declaration of the prevention of

repeating crime (ex. cooperation for employment for those released from prison) and legal protection for

foreign workers, etc..

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

Chief:

Prime Minister

Members:

All the Cabinet Ministers

(Note 2) Meetings

December 16, 2014

the 22nd meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures

against Crime

0

Declaration: No Return to Crime, No Facilitating a Return to Crime (Draft) Adoption of 2014 Action Plan to combat Trafficking in Persons (Draft) The current status of international terrorism and countermeasures December 10, 2013 the 21st meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime "The Strategy to Create 'Japan - the safest country in the world" May 28, 2013 the 20th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime "The Basic Policy on Formulating a New Action Plan to Realize a Strongly Crime-resistant Society" (Draft) "The Second Comprehensive Countermeasures for the Elimination of Child Pornography" (Draft) July 20, 2012 the 19th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures 0 against Crime "General Measures to Prevent Relapse" (proposed) Progress Report regarding Various Crime Counter-Measures July 26, 2011 0 the 18th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime Establishment of a "Working Team for a Cause of Death Investigatory System" Progress Reports, etc. regarding Various Crime Counter-Measures May 13, 2011 the 17th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime Ensuring Security and Safety of the damaged areas December 14, 2010 the 16th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime Measures to Prevent Relapse Partial Amendment (Draft) to the Outline for Awards Concerning Safe and Secure Town Planning Progress Report of the Promotion of Measures against Crime July 27, 2010 the 15th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime

- Adoption of Comprehensive Measures to Eliminate Child Pornography (Draft)
- Progress Report of the Promotion of Measures against Crime
- December 22, 2009 O the 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
- June 26, 2009 O the 13th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Progress of Measures against Crime and Progress of Discussions by Relevant Headquarters
- December 22, 2008 O the 12th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
 - Action Plan 2008 for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
- June 16, 2008 O the 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 21, 2007 O the 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
- July 3, 2007 O the 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 19, 2006 O the 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
- June 20, 2006 O the 7th meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime(3rd 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 20, 2005 O the 6th 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 28, 2005	0	the 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 14, 2004	0	the 4th 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 22, 2004	0	the 3rd 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 18, 2003	0	the 2nd meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
		Adoption of Action Plan for the Realization of a Society Resistant to Crime
September 5, 2003	0	the 1st meeting of the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime
September 2, 2003	0	Oral consent of the Cabinet on the establishment of the "Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures against Crime"

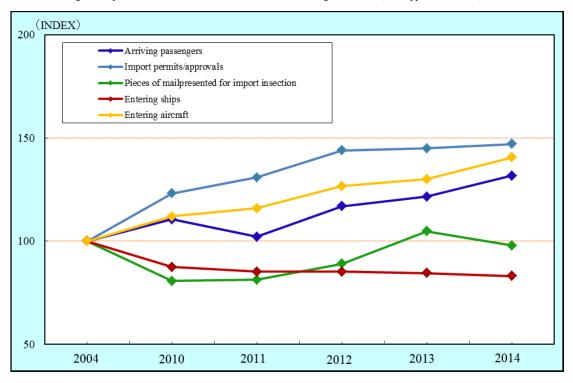
2. Law Enforcement by Japan Customs

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		2004	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
(Indicator)		(10years ago)					
Passengers	10000	2,370	2,620	2,420	2,772	2,881	3,121
(Arriving passengers)	people	(100.0)	(110.5)	(102.1)	(117.0)	(121.6)	(131.7)
Commercial cargoes	10000	1,599	1,969	2,092	2,302	2,319	2,352
(Import permits/approvals)	people	(100.0)	(123.1)	(130.8)	(144.0)	(145.0)	(147.1)
International mail	10000	11,402	9,210	9,266	10,158	11,956	11,164
(Pieces of mail presented for import inspection)	pieces	(100.0)	(80.8)	(81.3)	(89.1)	(104.9)	(97.9)
Ships	10000	13.6	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.5	11.3
(Entering ships)	ships	(100.0)	(85.3)	(85.3)	(85.3)	(84.6)	(83.1)
Aircraft	10000	15.0	17.4	19.0	19.0	19.5	21.1
(Entering aircraft)	aircrafts	(100.0)	(116.0)	(126.7)	(126.7)	(130.0)	(140.7)

(Note) 1.The number of arriving passengers derive from Annual Report on Statistic on Legal Migrants published by the Ministry of Justice. (Data of 2014 are preliminary.)

^{4.} The figures in parentheses on the bottom are indexes with 2004 given as 100. (This applies hereafter.)



^{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.(Data of 2014 are preliminary)

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

(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:

The Japanese Shipowners' Association,

The Scheduled Airlines Association of Japan,

Japan Aircargo Forwarders Association,

Japan Customs Brokers 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.

(28 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.



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 cargoes, large-scale X-ray equipment for containerized cargoes capable of inspecting containers without their being unloaded from their trailers and mobile backscatter X-ray equipment for inspecting heavy items and lengthy cargoes have been installed in principal ports across the country since February 2001 and, 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.



c. Utilization of Drug Detector Dogs

Drug Detector Dogs were introduced in 1979 to cope with increasing numbers of drug smuggling cases. After that, Japan customs has made use of the dogs to inspect belongings carried by arriving passengers as well as international mail.



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 single national 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 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 (Regional Intelligence Liaison Office) 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 Korea in January 2012, analyzes trends in smuggling within the region based on reports from participant countries and regions on 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.

<Present Condition of the Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement>

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), India (August 2011),
Peru (March 2012), Australia (January 2015), Mongolia (February 2015, enacted)
Intergovernmental Agreements
United States (June 1997), South Korea (December 2004), China (April 2006),
EU (February 2008), Russia (May 2009), Netherlands (March 2010), Italy (April 2012),
South Africa (July 2012), Germany (December 2014), Spain (May 2015)
Cooperative Arrangements between Customs Administrations
Australia (June 2003), NZ (April 2004, June 2014, revised), Canada (June 2005),
Hong Kong (January 2008), Macao (September 2008), France (June 2012),
U.K. (June 2013)
(Note 1) Contains provisions on customs mutual assistance.
(Note 2) The dates within parenthesis indicate the month and year of enactment
(as of 31 May 2015)

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.