

Achievements under the Hague Convention in Japan after One Year since its Enforcement

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
(Japanese Central Authority)

1. The Hague Convention came into force on April 1, 2014 in Japan. The Japanese Central Authority (JCA) assists in the return of the child wrongfully removed or an access to the child. The assistance we provide includes:

- Locating whereabouts of the child;
- Facilitating discussion between parties and offering mediation (ADR) service
- Referral to attorneys through Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- Legal aid from Japan Legal Support Center
- Assistance in translating legal documents into Japanese

2. Achievements

During 1 year since the enforcement on April 1, 2014:

(1) Return of the child

- 26 incoming return applications are filed to Japan. (“Incoming” means that the child was removed from a foreign state to Japan.)
- In 3 cases, children were returned to France, Germany, and Canada.
- The Japanese court also has ordered the return of child in other cases.

- 18 outgoing return applications are filed to Japan. (“Outgoing” means that the child was removed from Japan to a foreign state.)
- In 4 cases, children were returned from US, Switzerland, Spain and Germany.

(2) Access to the child

- 55 incoming access cases are filed to Japan.
- The JCA has helped:
 - Long-term visit of children to the US
 - Contact through video chats with children
 - Exchange of letters and photos of children was realized
 - Coordination of the voluntary return of child to the US.
 - Facilitation of the discussion between parents.

(End)