

**Development of Programs for Enhancement of
Research and Reference Services
to Diet Members in The Third Millennium**

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Establishment of National Diet Library

- **The Diet Law (Law No.79. 1947)**

Article 130

“ The National Diet Library shall be established in the Diet by a separate law, in order to assist Diet Members in their study and research.”

- **National Diet Library Law (Law No.5.1948)**

Principle for Establishment of NDL

- **Preamble of NDL Law**

“ The National Diet Library is hereby established as a result of the firm conviction that truth makes us free and with the object of contributing to international peace and the democratization of Japan as promised in our Constitution.”

Functions of NDL

The NDL shall collect books and other library materials

- for the purpose of assisting the members of the National Diet in the performance of their duties, and also
- for the purpose of certain library services as hereinafter specified for the executive and judicial agencies of the national government and for the people of Japan.

(Article 2, NDL Law)

Establishment of the Research Bureau

- The Chief Librarian shall establish within the National Diet Library a department to be known as the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau .
- The functions of this department shall be as follows :

(Article 15 , NDL Law)

Functions of the Research Bureau ⁽¹⁾

- Upon request , to advise and assist any committee of the Diet in the analysis , appraisal or evaluation of legislation pending before it , or of proposals submitted to the Diet by the Cabinet , and otherwise to assist in furnishing a basis for the proper department of measures before the committee.

(paragraph 1 , Article 15 , NDL Law)

Functions of the Research Bureau (2)

- Upon request, or upon its own initiative in anticipation of requests, to gather, classify , analyze and make available in translations , indexes, digests , compilations , bulletins and otherwise , materials for or related to legislation , and to provide serviceable materials to the Diet and to committees and members thereof , without partisan or bureaucratic bias in selection or presentation of such materials .

(paragraph 2 , Article 15 , NDL Law)

Functions of the Research Bureau (3)

- To provide a bill-drafting service that assist the Diet , its committees and members in the preparation of legislation ; provided , however , that this assistance shall be supplied only upon request of a committee or a member of the Diet , and that the staff of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau shall in no case initiate or urge legislation .

(paragraph 3 . Article 15 , NDL Law)

Functions of the Research Bureau (4)

- To make its collection of information available to the executive and judicial agencies of the government or to the general public to the extent that the needs of the Diet and of its committees and members permit this to be done .

(paragraph 4 , Article 15 , NDL Law)

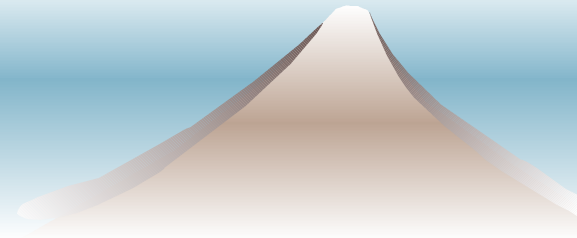


Evolutional Movements in the Diet in the last decade

- Advancement in the legislative and policy-making abilities of the Members
- Enhancement of the Diet's function for monitoring and auditing the Executive Branch
- Enhancement of Deliberation System
- Research Commissions on the Constitution

Development of Programs towards the New Millennium

- ◆ Reorganization of the Research Bureau
- ◆ Basic Plan for Services to the Diet
- ◆ Reorganization of the National Diet Library
- ◆ NDL Vision 2004
- ◆ Short-term program for Implementing Principal Program



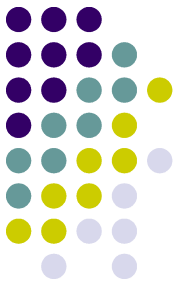
Reorganization of the Research Bureau (Apr.2001)

- Enhancing its function for planning and coordinating services
 - Providing enough materials and information for research services
 - Establishing an environment well suited to electronic information
 - Enhancing its research units
 - Steadily carrying out interdisciplinary research
 - Enhancing its research on foreign legislation
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The Research Bureau's Basic Plan

for Services to the Diet

(Mar.2001)



- Enhancing the research through an analytical approach
- Carrying out interdisciplinary research from multi-perspective viewpoint
- Enhancing the research on foreign legislative affairs
- Improving the functions for delivering legislative information and making the related services more efficient
- Establishing a service system that takes its feasibility into consideration

Reorganization of the NDL (Apr.2002)

□ **Head Office in Tokyo**

- *Administrative Department*
- *Research Bureau*
- *Acquisition Department*
- *Bibliography Department*
- *Public Services Department*
- *Reference and Special Collections Department*
- *Detached Library in the Diet*

□ **Kansai-kan**

□ **International Library of Children Literature**

□ **Oriental Library (Toyo Bunko)**

NDL Vision 2004

Mission and Roles

- To collect products of the intellectual activities of Japanese people and construct information resources as the common property of the people of Japan
- To assist the legislative activities of the Diet by providing research and analysis services, and information on national political issues
- To provide library services and guarantee access to information resources to the executive and judicial branch and to the people of Japan

NDL Vision 2004

Priority Areas

- Enhancement of legislative support function
- Creation of digital archives
- Improvement of access to information resources
- Promotion of cooperation

NDL Vision 2004

Enhancement of legislative support function

— Priority objectives

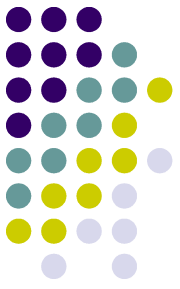
- To enhance “interdisciplinary research”
- To deal with significant national political issues, and especially reinforce the research system on the Constitution of Japan
- To enhance providing digital information to the Diet



Short-term Program for Implementing Principal Program ⁽¹⁾

- To provide promptly highly-elaborated research and precise information services meeting legislative needs
- To publish products and compilations completed in the process of services in a timely and appropriate manner through either the print or electronic media

Short-term Program for Implementing Principal Program (2)



- To provide legislative information in electronic form , which is generated in the process of the activities of the Diet , in such a manner that electronic devices are used to the full to guarantee promptness and convenience .
- To expand and improve the Electronic Library Services to the Diet , establishing the infrastructure for those services without delay.

Main affairs referred to in programs for enhancing services to the Diet

- Enhancement of substance legislative research and reference services to the Diet
 - *Assessment on what has been done already*
 - *Planning*
- Enhancement of the infrastructure for services to the Diet
 - *Personnel and Training*
 - *Research Materials*
 - *Information dissemination from the Research Bureau*
 - *Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications*
 - *Facilities and equipments*

Enhancement of the substance of legislative research and reference services to the Diet

Assessment on what has been done already

- *Identification of the needs of the Diet*
- *Research in response to the request*
- *Research on matters anticipated on the researchers' initiatives*
- *Publication of the research findings*

Identification of the needs of the Diet

We have endeavored to accurately identify the needs of the Diet by ;

- Collecting, sharing and analyzing information on bills to be submitted to the Diet, through materials released by the Cabinet, the Secretariats of each House of the Diet and others
- Acquiring information by means of questionnaires to Members of the Diet

Research in response to the requests

(1)

Progress in ;

- Completing written reports
- Summarizing or making abstracts of materials or information in foreign languages
- Uniting and coordinating the work of each research section or unit in the Research Bureau , coping with interdisciplinary matters

Research in response to the requests

(2)

Further needs to endeavor to ;

- Report, explain, lecture, comment or advise actively on the matters concerned at the committees or conference of Members of the Diet
- Enhance "interdisciplinary research" or research from multi-perspectives
- Make closer selection or evaluation of the materials or information provided to assure the accuracy and usefulness
- Have the Members aware of the availability of the web site ("Chosa-no-Mado") of the Research Bureau

Research on matters anticipated on the researchers' initiatives

Progress in ;

- Ensuring the effective use of “Basic Research Work Plan”
- Publishing “The Outline of Political Issues at the Diet”
- Developing “Interdisciplinary Research” and publishing the results
- Establishing “Office of the Constitution” in the Research Bureau , which is a research service unit concerning the Constitution of Japan



Publication of the research findings

- “Reference”
 - “Research and Information - ISSUE BRIEF - ”
 - “Foreign Legislation”
 - “Findings Monograph Series”
 - “Total Points of National Political Issues”
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Planning

- Enhancement of identification of legislative research needs
- Enhancement of research through analytical approach
- Enhancement of anticipatory research
- Promotion of the interdisciplinary research
- Promotion of research of constitutions at home and abroad
- Enhancement of the services providing information related to foreign legislation
- Enhancement of the function to provide information to support the legislative activities of the Members of the Diet

Enhancement of the infrastructure for services to the Diet

- *Personnel*
- *Research materials*
- *Information dissemination from the Research Bureau*
- *Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications*
- *Facilities and equipments*

Personnel policy and training programs (1)

- Personnel placement to heighten their aptitude and specialization
 - Mid-career recruitment system
 - Interchange of staff with the Secretariats of both Houses and other appropriate government agencies
 - Training system for younger staff to study abroad or study in a Japanese university
 - Invitation system of guest researchers and part-time researchers
 - Use of external human resources
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Personnel policy and training programs (2)

- Improving “research work training” programs
 - Carrying out training programs for the research on foreign legislation
 - Introducing training programs in the external institutes
 - Increasing chances for researchers to learn foreign languages
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Research materials

- Action Plan for Acquisition of Research Materials
- Introducing Commercial Databases
- Making the services of “Japan Center for Economic Research” available



Action Plan for Acquisition of Research Materials

The purposes are to ;

- Improve the work of selection and purchase of research materials
- Endeavor to grasp and collect materials and information of the executive and judicial agencies of Japan which cannot be acquired through the normal route
- Improve the acquisition of foreign books and magazines to meet the needs of the Diet
- In the acquisition of electronic publications , in principle put more emphasis on network resources rather than packaged resources such as CD-ROMs

Information dissemination from the Research Bureau

- Total System for Research and Information Services
- Index to Japanese Laws and Regulations Database
- “Chosa-no-Mado” (Gateway to Research) on the web site
- Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Diet
- Full-text Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet

Roles of System for Research and Information Services

- To assist the Research Bureau's day-to-day support operations to the Diet
- To provide Members of the Diet with access to the Research Bureau's products in as timely and convenient a manner as possible

Subsystems of System for Research and Information Services

- **Tracking Request System**

Recording of :

- Diet Members' inquiries and how they are assigned to the staff
- their answers, statistics and approval

- **Information Sharing System**

- to store a digitized version of the Research Bureau publications and research reports
- to provide it for the Diet via an internet web site (Chosa-no-Mado)

Improvement of Total System for Research and Information Services

- **Improvement of “Total System for Research and Information Services” by getting additional functions ;**
 - Exclusive page for Diet Members
 - Selective Dissemination of Information service

Parliamentary Documents and Official Publications

Further efforts to be made to improve services through ;

- Collecting parliamentary documents of several regions , which are difficult for us to acquire , for example , Asia , Latin-America and Northern Europe
- Collecting web resources of foreign organizations , especially those published only in electronic media
- Enriching the contents of “Parliamentary Documents and Official Publication Room” on the NDL website

Conclusion

To provide accurate and ample legislative services , we should obtain all

- Information resources, and
- Human resources ;

and make them available.

Among them, the most important factor is the competence of the staff .