

EMF Credits – Japan

1. Does a compulsory licence regime(s) exist? If so describe its operation. E.g. must be licensed to practise engineering and sign off engineering work.

Regarding professional engineering practices, two legislations are administered in Japan, namely, “Professional Engineer (Gijyutsushi) Law, Latest Amendment: 2000, Law No.48 “ and “The Kenchikushi Law for Architects/Building Engineers, Latest Amendment: 1987, Law No.66”.

Professional Engineer Law: An engineer registered under the Law is authorized to use the title of the Professional Engineer (Gijyutsushi). Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) administers the Law.

Those Professional Engineers registered in the specific engineering branches such as civil, mechanical and electrical are granted licenses to practise engineering mostly related to the public works conducted by the responsible Ministries, such as Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT), and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). Such responsible Ministries give licenses under the respective legislations administered by them.

The Kenchikushi Law: The Law specifies the qualifications required of a person engaged in designing buildings and superintending construction work. Such engineers to engage in these practice areas shall be licensed as Kenchikushi. Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport (MLIT) administers the Law.

Under this Law, “Kenchikushi (Architects/Building Engineers)” is classified into 1st-class Kenchikushi, 2nd-class Kenchikushi, and Mokuzo (wooden structure) Kenchikushi.

Only a 1st-class Kenchikushi is allowed to undertake the design and the superintendence of related construction work specified in the Law, for example, schools, hospitals, theatres, etc, with a total floor area exceeding 500 sq m.

Only Professional Engineers and 1st-class Kenchikushi are eligible to submit applications for APEC Engineers in Japan.

2. Does a voluntary registration regime(s) exist? If so, describe its operation, and the activities that can only be performed by registered person, e.g. only registered persons allowed to sign off construction-related work and devices inspected under occupational safety and health regulations.

No voluntary registration regimes exist in Japan. Regarding occupational safety and health regulations, each responsible Ministry administers and controls those related activities and operations under the specified Law and regulations.

3. Describe the credit that will be given to any person registered on any section of the IRPE without the need to form any further agreements beyond the EMF (i.e. without bilaterals). E.g.

- a. Credit for holding a suitable qualification
- b. Credit for 7 years' experience
- c. Credit for 2 years' responsible charge
- d. Credit for demonstrating competence to the agreed international standard (other than local knowledge)
- e. Credit for sufficient recent CPD (last 5 years)

Only under the bilateral mutual recognition agreement concluded by the regulatory authority of Japan, those credits in a. b. c. and e. will be considered. In other word, in order to give those credits to an IRPE in Japan, a bilateral mutual recognition agreement shall be concluded between Japan and the subject economy where the IRPE registered.

For information, under the bilateral agreement between Japan and Australia, “A Bilateral Framework to Facilitate Mobility for Mutual Recognition of Registered/Licensed Engineers”, signed in October 2003, the credits in a, b, c and e are given in the conditions that those registered/ licensed engineers are registered as APEC Engineers. However, regarding item d, “Credit for demonstrating competence to the agreed international standard (other than local knowledge), no specific guidance is defined in the agreement.

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4. Describe the extra credit that may be achieved beyond that described in 3 through the formation of a bilateral agreement. This credit is only available to registrants on the section of the IRPE to which the specific bilateral applies.

Under the Bilateral Framework between Japan and Australia of the above, the following condition is added; demonstrate that they have obtained the equivalent of one year of experience in the host country.

Also, the Framework specifies its scope as; the Framework applies to the disciplines for which both countries have a similar scope, such as Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, as listed in the APEC Engineer Manual. This Framework does not apply where disciplines have a different scope.

5. Describe the assessment or other conditions that all registrants, irrespective of which IRPE section they are on, would have to meet prior to registration/licensing, e.g.

An Australian engineer, who wishes to register as a Professional Engineer of Japan under the provisions of the Framework, is required to submit an application specified in the Framework. Requirements in the application are;

a. Residency requirements for a period of time

Residency requirements for a period of time: No residency requirements are specified.

b. Local employment for a period of time

Local employment for a period of time: Equivalent of one year of experience in Japan is required.

c. Demonstration of local knowledge through an assessment

Demonstration of local knowledge through an assessment: An interview may be required when clarification of its application and experience record is deemed to be necessary.

d. Demonstration of competence recently

Demonstration of competence recently: APEC Engineers must have maintained their continuing professional development at a satisfactory level. Maintaining CPD is only requirement for this purpose.

6. Describe assessment areas in which assessment may be required, at discretion of registering authority. E.g.

a. Communication skills

Required assessment areas should be discussed and decided in the course of negotiations of the bilateral mutual recognition agreement. Under the Framework of the above, no specific assessment areas other than the APEC Engineer Criteria are defined.

b. Language capability

No response received

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7. Describe any benefits that IRPE registrants might receive in addition (but separate) to registration/licensing benefits. E.g.

- a. Ease of entry to membership of a learned society.

IPEJ Response: Under the Framework of the above, an Australian Chartered Professional Engineer fulfilled conditions of the Framework is able to register as a Professional Engineer in Japan. (See Article 31.2 Professional Engineer Law.) Accordingly, this Australian engineer registered as Professional Engineer of Japan is able to be a member of the Institution of Professional Engineer, Japan (IPEJ), which is organized by Professional Engineers under the provision of the Professional Engineer Law.

8. Where the jurisdiction is an APEC member, what differences to the above list, if any, apply to APEC Engineers?

No response received