

Japan Meteorological Business Support Center

(JMBSC)

Japan Meteorological Business Support Center (JMBSC) is a public-service corporation* established in 1994 in accordance with the Meteorological Service Law of Japan and under supervision of the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), the National Meteorological Service of Japan, to support and enhance the activities of weather business and efforts towards prevention/mitigation of natural hazards by authorities concerned. Since its establishment, JMBSC has been striving to provide wide-ranged services, particularly, in the following four major fields;

- (1) Distribution of meteorological data, products and information provided by JMA on the both of real-time and non-real-time bases to user communities,
- (2) Conducting the national examination for Certificated Weather Forecasters,
- (3) Official calibration and certificate of the meteorological instruments, and
- (4) Other affairs relevant to promotion of private weather business.

** A public-service corporation is an organ officially established to assist the governmental services on a non-profitable basis.*

1 Data, Products and Information Distribution Service

JMA has established a policy to widely open a variety of meteorological data, products and information prepared by JMA to the private business sectors, mass media, and other parties. Since 1994 along such a line and in compliance with the Meteorological Service Law of Japan, JMBSC has been officially designated by the Director-General of JMA as a unique and authorized organ to distribute the meteorological data, products and information to various users at the marginal cost approved by JMA. The provision is conducted on a real time basis through the network server system operated by JMBSC and with recoding medium such as CD-ROM.

(1) Real-time distribution services of meteorological data, products and information

The following meteorological data, products and information are disseminated to users under a contract with JMBSC on a real-time basis through dedicated line, the Virtual Private Network (VPN), the Internet and telephone-facsimile.

- ★ Meteorological observation data (SYNOP, METAR, RADAR etc.) collected by JMA including surface data observed by the Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System (AMeDAS) to cover all over Japan at more than 1,300 sites
- ★ Grid Point Value data of numerical weather prediction (Global Spectral Model, Ocean Waves Model, etc.) and objective analysis of JMA
- ★ Imagery data and raw data (HRIT format) obtained by the Geostationary Meteorological Satellite (GMS/MT-SAT) operated by JMA
- ★ Analysis and forecast charts issued by JMA
- ★ Weather forecasts, advisories and warnings including typhoon warnings

- ★ Seismic and volcanic observation data of JMA
- ★ Tsunami warnings
- ★ Atmospheric environmental monitoring data such as those of UV-B and yellow wind

Click here for *the brochure (in Japanese) on the distribution services of the meteorological data, products and information*

(2) Non-real-time distribution of data, products and information

- ★ Summary and individual observation data quality-controlled JMA including Those of surface (at manned and automated stations), upper-air , tide, ocean-waves and earthquakes
- ★ Summary of meteorological satellite (GMS/MT-SAT) imagery,
- ★ Monthly and annual observation reports
- ★ Monthly analysis products including re-analysis with the numerical model of JMA
- ★ Statistical reports on metrological, environmental and marine observations

The provisional services are available upon individual request and the CD-ROM with record is delivered through the mail.

2 National Examinations for Certificated Weather Forecasters

Further to weather forecast services for general and public users, JMA is in a position to exclusively issue the warnings such as typhoon warnings and torrential rain warning warnings, as a single and authoritative voice of the nation,. On the other hand, private weather companies and parties other than JMA are obliged to be authorized by the Director-General of JMA when they intend to conduct their own forecasting services and the forecasts must be prepared by Certificated Weather Forecasters qualified by JMA. Such a system is introduced to provide the public/private sectors and industries with more user-oriented and individually tailored weather forecasts.

JMBSC is conducting the examination of Certificated Weather Forecasters under the exclusive designation of the Director-General of JMA. The examination is executed to present the official qualification of the Government of Japan, and is implemented twice a year on the both of basic meteorological knowledge and forecasting techniques.

Today, a number of Certificated Weather Forecasters actively involve in the weather forecasting in private weather companies separately from JMA. A part of Certificated Weather Forecasters serve as the weather casters on TV and Radio as well as consultants on application of metrological information. Further to weather forecasting, Certificated Weather Forecasts are playing a vital role in promulgation of weather information and knowledge on the both of professional and voluntary bases.

The system of Certificated Weather Forecasters was established as a national scheme in 1994 in compliance with Meteorological Service Law of Japan. As of March in 2009, around 7,300 people passed the examination and more than 95% of them have registered to JMA as Certificated Weather Forecasters (The registration is legally requested to serve as the Certificated Weather Forecasters.).

3 Calibration and Certificate of the Meteorological Instruments

In order to maintain the meteorological observation precise and consistent, the calibration of meteorological instruments is indispensable. In Japan, official meteorological observations are regulated to be made with the officially calibrated instruments in compliance with the Meteorological Service Law of Japan. While JMA has the responsibility for the standardization of meteorological instruments as the national authority, the individual calibration and certificate of instruments for surface and upper-air observations are carried out by JMBSC which is an organ authorized to conduct the official calibration and certificate by JMA.

The service is conducted through: submission of instruments directly to JMBSC: or submission of calibration data obtained in the manufacturer's laboratories registered to JMA to JMBSC. In the former case, JMBSC implements the calibration of each instrument and issues the certificate. In the latter case, after the evaluation of the data submitted, JMBSC issues the certificate. The both types of services are carried out at the marginal cost approved by JMA. Such calibration and certificate are conducted along the procedures and the guideline established by JMA. For each instrument which is qualified, the certificate is issued in Japanese, with English translation if necessary. The certificate is valid in Japan.

4 Other services and A

(1) Education on knowledge of meteorology and enhancement of forecasting skill

JMBSC offers several basic training courses and comprehensive courses for a few months duration. Several spot seminars to transfer forecast techniques newly developed by JMA to private weather industry.

(2) Reprint and publication services

Further to reprint of JMA's publications and issue of JMBSC original publications, reference services including duplication of papers/documents and print-out of contents on electric media are also carried out upon request.

(3) Consulting and expert services

For enhancement of meteorological and environmental business of private sector as well as support of Official Development Aid (ODA) activities of Government of Japan to National Meteorological and Hydrographical Services in the world are conducted.

(4) Developments of software and procedure

JMBSC supports the application procedures and technique to use data, products and information provided through JMBSC (see the section 1).

(5) Research on weather related subjects

JMBSC executes research projects with laboratories or companies concerned to earn the meteorological knowledge and to develop relevant applications techniques to industries.

(6) Sales of campaign goods of JMA

JMA has designed a mascot character nicknamed, "Harerun" (which means expectation of fine weather and clear sky *in Japanese*) to help public awareness of meteorological

services of JMA. JMBSC sales campaign goods with the character, such as dolls, cups, and straps.

Your inquiry and order are anticipated to be addressed to the international service officer of JMBSA by e-mail in English to:

International Service Officer
at e-mail address: jmbosc@jmbosc.or.jp

For the orders from outside of Japan, the payment is required in Japanese currency (Yen) and all of the bank transfer commission is required to be covered by the order side. Cost estimation for the individual services is available upon your inquiry.

Address of JMBSC and Map in vicinity of JMBSC



"Harerun"
(The mascot character of JMA)

2 minute walk from Exit. 3B of Takebashi station (subway Tozai Line)
7 minute walk from Jinbocho station (subway Toei Shinjyuku Line)
7 minute walk from Otemachi station (subway lines: Tozai Line,
Chiyoda Line, Hanzomon Line, Toei Mita Line)
15 minute walk from JR Kanda station or from Ochanomizu station

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To-nen Bld., 3-17, Kanda-nishiki-cho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo, 101-0054
Tel:+81-3-5281-0440, Fax:+81-3-5281-0445
<http://www.jmbosc.or.jp/index-e.pdf>
E-mail:jmbosc@jmbosc.or.jp

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