

## Section 10

# Evolution of Postal Administration

### 1. Launch of “Japan Post”

The Basic Law on the Administrative Reform of the Central Government (enacted in 1998) stipulated establishment of a new State-run public corporation for postal services in accordance with the policy to enable autonomous and flexible management under the self-supporting accounting system. Based on this, the MPHPT submitted the following bills to the 154th ordinary session of the Diet: [1] a draft Japan Post Law; [2] an enforcement bill for the Japan Post Law; [3] a bill on law concerning correspondence delivery by private-sector operators; and [4] a bill on law concerning preparation of related laws for enforcing law concerning correspondence delivery by private-sector operators. These laws were approved and enacted in July 2002. The Japan Post Law entered into force in April 1, 2003 to inaugurate Japan Post. From the viewpoint of conducting autonomous and flexible management under the self-supporting accounting system, Japan Post adopts various new systems. Therefore, the organization is expected to provide services of higher quality while continuing to provide universal service.

### 2. Promoting Smooth and Appropriate Correspondence Delivery Business

The correspondence delivery business, which had been monopolized by the State, was opened to the private sector with the enforcement of the “Law Concerning Correspondence Delivery by Private-Sector Operators” (“Correspondence Delivery Law”) upon establishment of Japan Post in April 2003. The purpose of the Correspondence Delivery Law is to introduce a correspondence delivery licensing system for private operators and take measures to ensure that they appropriately man-

age their services, thereby securing universally impartial provision of correspondence delivery services and expanding options for users. The business of providing correspondence delivery services is divided into “general correspondence delivery business” and “special correspondence delivery business,” and the operators need to obtain a license from the Minister of the MPHPT in either type of business.

### 3. Promoting One-Stop Service at Post Offices

It would be considerably convenient for residents if their most familiar public service provider, the post office, provided one-stop service. Therefore, the “Law on Provision of Specific Local Government Services at Post Offices” entered into force in December 2001 to enable post offices to handle certain local government affairs, such as providing a copy of the resident register, in order to improve the convenience for residents and rationalize the organization and operations of local governments. Due to this law, local governments are now able to have post offices handle various local government affairs by concluding rules and agreements with Japan Post through negotiations. As of the end of fiscal 2002, the certificate issuing service is provided at 147 post offices in 43 municipalities.



[www.soumu.go.jp/](http://www.soumu.go.jp/)

This booklet is an unofficial translation of the Japanese version of *Information and Communications in Japan (Summary)*.