

➤ **Public Access to Information: Eight Principles**

We hereby confirm that the Freedom of Information Law and Freedom of Information ordinances that we demand in our “declaration of Rights to Public Access to Information” must at the minimum fulfill the following eight general principles.

1) As a general principle, all written documents and other information in the possession of the national government, local governments and other public entities shall be disclosed to the citizens and residents of Japan.

2) All citizens and residents of Japan shall be granted the right to request that the national government, local governments and other public entities disclose information and in the event that this request is denied, the requesting party shall have the right of appeal to an independent administrative committee or court of law and to receive a substantive decision on the merits of his request.

3) In the event that it is decided that, as an exception, certain information need not be disclosed, such information shall be limited to the necessary minimum, it shall be required that the conditions to such exceptional cases shall be clearly provided in the relevant law or ordinance, and the national government, local governments or other public entity shall bear the burden to prove the fulfillment of such conditions.

4) Information relating to matters affecting the life, health and security of mind and body of the people and other matters having a substantial effect on the daily life of the people, as well as the records of deliberative councils, committees, and similar entities concerned with such matters shall be absolutely subject to disclosure, and disclosure thereof may not be denied for any reason.

5) Information relating to the determination of operational plans of monopolistic industries affecting the public welfare (Electricity, gas supply, and similar industries) and other such information that exerts a substantial impact on the daily lives of the people shall be absolutely subject to disclosure, and disclosure thereof may not be denied for any reason.

6) Information relating to individuals must be disclosed to the individual concerned upon request. Unless otherwise provided by law, information relating to individuals shall not otherwise be disclosed. Provided, however, that the foregoing shall not apply to information concerning government employees or the employees of public entities.

7) The national government, local governments and other public entities shall bear the duties to record their activities, to preserve written documents and other forms of information, and to prepare indexes to such information.

8) Oversight committees in which citizens and residents may participate shall be established to monitor the assembly, disposition, use and disclosure of information.

Further, it is recognized that laws concerning open meetings, privacy protection, and disclosure assets and like information of special public employees must be established Freedom of Information Law.