Japan

Transfer Pricing Country Profile

Updated October 2017

		SUMMARY	REFERENCE
1	Does your domestic legislation or regulation make reference to the Arm's Length Principle?		Para 1 Article 66-4 of Act on Special Measures concerning Taxation ("ASMT") http://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws_search/lsg 0500/detail?lawId=332AC0000000026#507
2	What is the role of the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines under your domestic legislation?	A Commissioner's Directive on the Operation of Transfer Pricing ("CDOTP") prescribes that the OECD Transfer Pricing Guidelines shall be referred to in the course of examination or APA.	1-2(3) of Commissioner's Directive on the Operation of Transfer Pricing ("CDOTP"). http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho-kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/01.htm
3	Does your domestic legislation or regulation provide a definition of related parties? If so, please provide the definition contained under your domestic law or regulation.	 ☒ Yes ☐ No "A foreign-related person" is defined as a foreign corporation having an "associated relationship" with another corporation. A corporation is treated as "associated" with the other if it holds 50 percent or more of the total number of issued stocks or the amount of investment of the other corporation. The Order for Enforcement prescribes the other cases to be treated as having an "associated relationship". 	Para 1 Article 66-4 of ASMT http://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws_search/lsg 0500/detail?lawId=332AC0000000026#507 Para 1~5 Article 39-12 Order for Enforcement of ASMT http://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws_search/lsg 0500/detail?lawId=332C000000000043#595

Transfer Pricing Methods									
4	Does your domestic legislation provide for transfer pricing methods to be used in respect of transactions between related parties?	In 66-cordiff AS not	CUP Examinate 4(2) of Antents of the ferent ele MT Dire ed that ex	Resale Price Sion for selection for selecti	Cost Plus ction of the inafter referelated trans SMT Direct 2), Items 1(comparable	rred to as "the saction shall tive 66-4(3)- 1) through (4	Profit Split priate methone most app be underst 3. Taking t 4) into cons	Other (If so, please describe) od prescribed in Article propriate method''), the ood exactly based on the points listed in dideration, it shall be gethe foreign-related	Chapter4-1, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/03.htm Para. 2 Article 66-4 of ASMT http://elaws.e- gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws search/lsg0 500/detail?lawId=332AC00000000026#507 Para. 6~8 Article 39-12 Order for Enforcement of ASMT http://elaws.e- gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws search/lsg0 500/detail?lawId=332CO00000000043#595 66-4(2)-1 of Commissioner's Directive on Interpretation of ASMT http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/tsutatsu/kobetsu/hojin/sochiho/750214/ 12/12 66 4i.htm 66-4(3)-3 of Commissioner's Directive on Interpretation of ASMT http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/tsutatsu/kobetsu/hojin/sochiho/750214/ 12/12 66 4b-00.htm
5	Which criterion is used in your jurisdiction for the application of transfer pricing methods?	Fro	Hierarch Most app Other (if om the ab		ethod explain) ds, the most d circumsta	inces of each		ould be selected, I transaction, including	Para. 2 Article 66-4 of ASMT http://elaws.e- gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws_search/lsg0 500/detail?lawId=332AC0000000026#507

6	If your domestic legislation or regulations contain specific guidance on commodity transactions, indicate which of the following approaches is followed.	 ☑ For controlled transactions involving commodities, the guidance contained in paragraphs 2.18-2.22 of the TPG is followed. ☐ Domestic legislation mandates the use of a specific method for controlled transactions involving commodities (<i>if so, please explain</i>) ☐ Other (<i>if so, please explain</i>) The CDOTP prescribes commodity transactions. It is basically consistent with the TPG. For example, as an example of methods consistent with the traditional transaction methods, in cases where actual uncontrolled transactions comparable with foreign-related transactions cannot be found, the arm's length price is calculated based on objective and practical indicators, such as commodities exchange prices or other market prices. 	Para 2 Article 66-4 of ASMT http://elaws.e-gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws_search/lsg0 500/detail?lawId=332AC0000000026#507
		Comparability Analysis	
7	Does your jurisdiction follow (or largely follow) the guidance on comparability analysis outlined in Chapter III of the TPG?	 ☒ Yes ☐ No The Commissioner's Directive on Interpretation of ASMT is basically consistent with the TPG. 	66-4(3)-3 of Commissioner's Directive on Interpretation of ASMT http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho-kaishaku/tsutatsu/kobetsu/hojin/sochiho/750214/12/12_66_4b-00.htm
8	Is there a preference in your jurisdiction for domestic comparables over foreign comparables?	 ✓ Yes ☐ No Considering the differences of market conditions where the comparables locate, we prefer to choose local comparables which locate in the same jurisdiction as the tested party over foreign comparables. 	66-4(3)-3 of Commissioner's Directive on Interpretation of ASMT http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho-kaishaku/tsutatsu/kobetsu/hojin/sochiho/750214/12/12_66_4b-00.htm
9	Does your tax administration use secret comparables for transfer pricing assessment purposes?	 ☑ Yes ☐ No If the Local File is not presented or submitted by a certain appointed date, the tax authorities can inspect persons engaged in similar businesses by asking questions. Information obtained through such inspections may be used as secret comparables. 	Para. 11, 12 Article 66-4 of ASMT http://elaws.e- gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws search/lsg0 500/detail?lawId=332AC000000026#507

10	Does your legislation allow or require the use of an arm's length range and/or statistical measure for determining arm's length remuneration?		66-4(3)-4 of Commissioner's Directive on Interpretation of ASMT http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/tsutatsu/kobetsu/hojin/sochiho/750214/ 12/12 66 4b-00.htm
11	Are comparability adjustments required under your domestic legislation or regulations?	 ☒ Yes ☐ No The CDOTP prescribes differences such as trade terms and settlement terms as a case where comparability adjustment required. 	Para. 2 Article 66-4 of ASMT. http://elaws.e- gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws search/lsg0 500/detail?lawId=332AC0000000026#507 Para. 6~8 Article 39-12 Order for Enforcement of ASMT 4-3,CDOTP http://elaws.e- gov.go.jp/search/elawsSearch/elaws_search/lsg0 500/detail?lawId=332CO00000000043#595
		Intangible Property	
12	Does your domestic legislation or regulations contain guidance specific to the pricing of controlled transactions involving intangibles?	 ☑ Yes ☐ No The CDOTP prescribes the transactions involving intangibles. When examining licensing transactions of intangible properties, it shall be noted that not only the legal ownership of the intangible properties but also the degree of contribution of a corporation or a foreign-related party to the activities for the formation, maintenance or development of the intangible property (hereafter "the formation and so on") need to be taken into account. In assessing the degree of the contribution to the formation and so on, the functions that the corporation or the foreign-related party performed, such as decision making, providing of services, bearing of costs, and risk management, shall be taken into account comprehensively. In this case, it is to be noted that the degree of contribution shall be assessed as low when the corporation or the foreign-related party merely bears the cost of the formation and so on of the intangible properties that are highly expected to be the source of income. (3-12, CDOTP) 	3-11~3-13, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02.htm

13	Does your domestic legislation or regulation provide for transfer pricing rules or special measures regarding hard to value intangibles (HTVI)? Are there any other rules outside	□ Yes □ No □ Yes	
	transfer pricing rules that are relevant for the tax treatment of transactions involving intangibles?		
		Intra-group Services	
15	Does your domestic legislation or regulations provide guidance specific to intra-group services transactions?	☑ Yes □ No The CDOTP prescribes IGS. It is basically consistent with the TPG. In cases where a corporation conducts certain activities concerning management, finance, business operation, and administration to its foreign-related party, whether the activities fall under the provision of services shall be judged by whether the activities have economic or commercial values for the foreign-related party. Specifically, it shall be judged by whether a unrelated party in the same condition as the foreign-related party will pay the compensation in cases where it receives the same activities from another unrelated party, or whether the foreign-related party itself is deemed to be required to conduct the same activities in cases where the corporation does not conduct the activities. (3-9(1), CDOTP)	3-9, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02.htm
16	Do you have any simplified approach for low value-adding intra-group services?	 ☑ Yes ☑ No Regarding the simplified approach, the CDOTP will be revised to be consistent with the TPG. 	3-10, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02.htm
17	Are there any other rules outside transfer pricing rules that are relevant for the tax treatment of transactions involving services?		

	Cost Contribution Agreements							
18	Does your jurisdiction have legislation or regulations on cost contribution agreements?		3-14~18, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho- kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02.htm					
		The CDOTP prescribes CCA. It is basically consistent with relevant parts concerning CCA of the TPG. A Cost Contribution Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as "CCA") means a						
		contract to share the cost required for the activities necessary for the achievement of a common purpose, such as development of a specific intangible property (hereinafter referred to as "Activities such as Research and Development,") between contracting parties (hereinafter referred to as "the Participant"), and to obtain the interest of the outcome yielded from Activities such as Research and Development in accordance with the proportion of the total amount of expected benefit (hereinafter referred to as "the Expected Proportion of Benefit") of the earning that is expected to increase or the cost that is expected to decrease (hereinafter referred to as "the Expected Benefit") for each participant by the new outcome yielded from Activities such as Research and Development. (3-14, CDOTP)						
		Transfer Pricing Documentation						
19	Does your legislation or regulations require the taxpayer to prepare transfer pricing documentation?	 ☑ Yes ☐ No If affirmative, please check all that apply: ☑ Master file consistent with Annex I to Chapter V of the TPG ☑ Local file consistent with Annex II to Chapter V of the TPG ☑ Country-by-country report consistent with Annex III to Chapter V of the TPG ☐ Specific transfer pricing returns (separate or annexed to the tax return) ☐ Other (specify): 	Master file Para. 1 Article 66-4-5 of ASMT Local file Para. 6 Article 66-4 of ASMT CbCR Para. 1 Article 66-4-4 of ASMT http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/ippanjoho/pamp h/pdf/h28iten-kakaku_en.pdf					

20	Please briefly explain the relevant requirements related to filing of transfer pricing documentation (i.e. timing for preparation or submission, languages, etc.)	Master file (Japanese or English) To be submitted to the competent District Director within one year of the day following the one when the Ultimate Parent Entity's fiscal year ends Local file (no language requirement) Deadline for preparation: To be prepared by final return filing due date, and to be maintained for seven years. Deadline for submission: To be presented or submitted within a certain appointed period if requested during the course of tax examination. CbCR (English) To be submitted to the competent District Director within one year of the day following the one when the Ultimate Parent Entity's fiscal year ends	Master file Para. 1 Article 66-4-5 of ASMT. Article 22-10-5 of Ordinance for Enforcement of ASMT Local file Para. 6, 8, 9 Article 66-4 of ASMT Article 22-10 of Ordinance for Enforcement of ASMT CbCR Para. 1 Article 66-4-4 of ASMT. Article 22-10-4 of Ordinance for Enforcement of ASMT
21	Does your legislation provide for specific transfer pricing penalties and/or compliance incentives regarding transfer pricing documentation?	 ☑ Yes ☑ No Master file • CbCR - Fine of up to 300,000 yen if corporations fail to submit a Master file/CbC Report to the District Director by the deadline without good reason Local file - For ensuring the duty of transfer pricing documentation, if the local file is not presented or submitted by a certain appointed date, the tax authorities can impose tax by estimation. 	Master file Para. 3 Article 66-4-5 of ASMT CbCR Para. 7 Article 66-4-4 of ASMT Local file Para. 8 Article 66-4 of ASMT
22	If your legislation provides for exemption from transfer pricing documentation obligations, please explain.	Master file • CbCR - MNE Groups with a total consolidated revenue for the Ultimate Parent Entity's preceding fiscal year of less than 100 billion yen Local file - Corporations are exempted from the duty of contemporaneous documentation for Controlled Transactions with one foreign-related party during the current business year. (1) If the amount of transactions (total of receipts and payments) with the foreign-related party during the previous business year (the current business year if there was not the previous one) was less than five billion yen, and (2) If the amount of transactions of intangibles (total of receipts and payments) with the foreign-related party during the previous business year (the current business year if there was not the previous one) was less than 300 million yen	Master file Para. 1 Article 66-4-5 of ASMT Para. 4 Article 66-4-4 of ASMT Local file Para. 7 Article 66-4 of ASMT CbCR Para. 1 Article 66-4-4 of ASMT Para. 4 Article 66-4-4 of ASMT

Enhanced engagement programs	Administrative Approaches to Avoiding and Resolving Disputes							
Safe Harbours and Other Simplification Measures 24 Does your jurisdiction have rules on safe harbours in respect of certain industries, types of taxpayers, or types of transactions? 25 Does your jurisdiction have any other simplification measures not listed in this questionnaire? If so, please provide a brief explanation. Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures 26 Does your jurisdiction allow/require taxpayers to make year-end adjustments? No Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures □ No □ N	your jurisdiction to prevent and/or	Please check those that apply: ☐ Rulings ☐ Enhanced engagement programs ☑ Advance Pricing Agreements (APA) ☑ Unilateral APAs ☑ Bilateral APAs ☑ Multilateral APAs ☑ Mutual Agreement Procedures ☑ Other (please specify): In addition to the mechanisms above, administrative review process and judicial process are also permitted for resolving the transfer	Article 12-1 of Ministerial Ordinance to the Act on Special Provisions of the Income Tax Act, the Corporation Tax Act and the Local Tax Act Incidental to Enforcement of Tax Treaties Commissioner's Directive on the Mutual Agreement Procedure (Administrative Guidelines) http://www.nta.go.jp/foreign_language/00.pdf APA Chapter 6, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho-					
Does your jurisdiction have rules on safe harbours in respect of certain industries, types of taxpayers, or types of transactions? Does your jurisdiction have any other simplification measures not listed in this questionnaire? If so, please provide a brief explanation. Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures Does your jurisdiction allow/require taxpayers to make year-end adjustments? No No 3-20, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeihckaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02		APA stands for Advance Pricing Arrangement in Japan.	inibilities juite unes mojus o 1000 1/00 anum					
safe harbours in respect of certain industries, types of taxpayers, or types of transactions? Does your jurisdiction have any other simplification measures not listed in this questionnaire? If so, please provide a brief explanation. Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures Does your jurisdiction allow/require taxpayers to make year-end adjustments? No Street No No No No Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures 3-20, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeihckaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02		Safe Harbours and Other Simplification Measures						
Simplification measures not listed in this questionnaire? If so, please provide a brief explanation. Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures Does your jurisdiction allow/require taxpayers to make year-end adjustments? No System 1 3-20, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02	safe harbours in respect of certain industries, types of taxpayers, or types							
Does your jurisdiction allow/require taxpayers to make year-end adjustments? □ No 3-20, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02	simplification measures not listed in this questionnaire? If so, please	N/A						
taxpayers to make year-end adjustments? No No http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeihokaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02	Other Legislative Aspects or Administrative Procedures							
The CDOTT presentes the rules for year-end adjustments.	taxpayers to make year-end		3-20, CDOTP http://www.nta.go.jp/shiraberu/zeiho-kaishaku/jimu-unei/hojin/010601/02.htm					

		In cases where the corporation has changed the amount of price previously	
		effected foreign-related transaction on the pretext of price adjustment, it shall be examined whether the change falls under a change of transaction price based on reasonable grounds.	
		In cases where the change is made by a payment of money or recording of expenses (hereinafter referred to as "payment") for the foreign-related party, examination shall be made in a comprehensive consideration of the reason concerning the payment, contents of the prior agreement, calculation method and the calculation basis, the date of determination of the payment etc., and the date of the payment. In cases where such a payment is deemed to be based on reasonable grounds, the change shall be treated as a change of transaction price. (3-20, CDOTP).	
27	Does your jurisdiction make secondary	□ Yes	
	adjustments?	$oxed{oxed}$ No	
		Other Relevant Information	
28	Other legislative aspects or administrative procedures regarding transfer pricing	N/A	
29	Other relevant information (e.g. whether your jurisdiction is preparing new transfer pricing regulations, or other relevant aspects not addressed in this questionnaire)	N/A	