

I. Background and Objectives

The economy in Asia (ASEAN + 6) has been rapidly developing and has been sustained by an increase in direct investment in the region and expansion of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA). As a qualitative shift, the economy in the region has been moving toward a knowledge-based economy with the growth of high value-added industries.

These changes in the economy resulted from individual enterprise activities, while affecting those very same activities. Seen from the viewpoint of enterprise activities, the generalization of outsourcing, progress of cross-border technology transfer and progress of knowledge transfer, and the construction of the global supply chain support these changes and development.

Consolidating the development of Asia requires constructing a more advanced cross-border common infrastructure suitable for a knowledge-based economy and appropriate for the knowledge-based economy era. As part of this effort, it is important to invest in enterprise information security and to ensure the industrial policies of the region.

In order to promote further business outsourcing and foreign direct investment in Asia, a secure business environment needs to be created. For that purpose, it is essential to motivate each company to understand the importance of information security measures and take action.

For each company it is often difficult to fully grasp the information security level they should reach. In Japan, in order to establish and promote the idea of information security governance, the *Information Security Management Benchmark (ISM benchmark)* was developed as a self-check tool for organizations with which users can compare their security level with others. Three years have passed since this benchmark was released, and many organizations have used it.

In this project, we share the point of view and experience with other countries in Asia and develop a common information security management benchmark, which also takes the original situation of each country into account. Through the promotion of this benchmark, we aim to strengthen the information security measures of businesses in Asia.