

# *PROFILE*



**THE GENERAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF JAPAN**

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## **ABOUT THE INSTITUTE**

The General Insurance Institute of Japan was founded in 1933 and is recognized as the oldest insurance institute in Asia. Authorized by the Japanese government, the institute is a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation. Tasked with the objective of contributing to the sound development of non-life insurance and to the national economy by promoting the theoretical study of non-life insurance, the harmonization of its theory and practice, and the continuing education of insurance practitioners, the institute is engaged in the following undertakings:

### **EDUCATION**

Training programs and seminars concerning non-life insurance and related business activities

### **RESEARCH**

Research and collection of materials concerning various aspects of non-life insurance

### **LIBRARY**

Operation of a library for the benefit of the public, academic circles and the insurance industry

### **PUBLICATIONS**

Information services through publications on a wide range of topics concerning non-life insurance

### **PROMOTION**

Assistance to those engaged in the search for improvement and development of the non-life insurance field



## ***A BRIEF HISTORY***

### **ESTABLISHMENT**

Proposed by Mr. Kenkichi Kagami, chairman of The Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the company, the General Insurance Institute of Japan was established in 1933 with funds donated by the company.

### **AFTER WORLD WAR II**

The institute was compelled to suspend its activities when all of its properties were lost in the flames of war in May 1945. In 1947, the General Insurance Association of Japan decided to provide financial support for the activities of the institute. The funding of the institute was accordingly transferred to the association, and since that time the institute has been successfully developing its activities with the co-operation of every member company of the association.

### **EXPANSION**

In light of a changing business environment in which the need for research on common market issues from a medium to long-term perspective grew rapidly within the non-life insurance industry, in 1990 the institute enlarged both its organization and scope of activities.

In April 2011, responding to a statutory change, the institute obtained authorization from the government to become a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation, a special legal status for organizations that operate in the interests of the public. Since this transition, the institute has continued to commit itself to the objective of contributing

to the development of the national economy and to the improvement in stability of the lives of citizens through the sound development of non-life insurance and related business activities.



## **I. EDUCATION**

### **1. NON-LIFE INSURANCE EDUCATIONAL COURSES**

The institute holds the following insurance education and training courses.

#### **Introductory Course**

The purpose of the Introductory Course is to provide participants with basic, essential and practical insurance knowledge via eight-hundred repeatable web-based quizzes. This basic knowledge includes insurance theory, insurance laws and regulations (for both non-life and life insurance businesses), and related subjects such as taxation and social insurance. This course is suitable for those who have just begun a career in insurance, or for those interested in learning about the field. In consideration of participant convenience, the course is designed to be accessed and completed anytime/anywhere via mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets. In 2023, 883 people undertook the Introductory Course.

#### **Regular / Basic Courses**

The institute's main training course is the one-year Regular Course, which aims to provide in-depth knowledge of non-life insurance theory and practice. It currently consists of 13 subjects, such as Principles of Insurance, Insurance Laws, Risk Management and Financial Science. Initiated in 1953, the Regular Course is mandatory for every managerial career track employee in most insurance companies. Certificates are awarded to participants who complete the course and pass the examinations.

Less extensive than the Regular Course, the Basic Course was initiated in 2011

for employees with limited job scope. Studied over seven months, the course consists of five subjects.

In 2023, while 1,163 people undertook the Regular Course, 82 people undertook the Basic Course. In order to provide educational support to a much wider cross-section of the industry, the courses are now open not only to Japanese and foreign insurers doing business in Japan, but also to cooperatives and intermediaries.

### **Advanced Course**

The Advanced Course was launched in 2014 to provide enhanced underwriting and service skills to mid-level employees. Participants can choose from a selection of ten subjects covering the fields of underwriting, claims, and corporate-management. Each subject consists of two or three in-class lectures, which are also provided online. In 2023, the total number of people who undertook the Advanced Course was 592.

### **Specific Courses**

Designed to provide advanced education on specific matters related to non-life insurance and associated fields, Specific Courses cover many different subjects, with each one being comprised of several sessions that are presented at varying intervals during the year. Applicants are free to select subjects depending on their interests and needs. As a measure against the Covid-19 pandemic, every Specific Course in 2022 was provided online rather than in the traditional face-to-face format.

Each Specific Course starts twice a month (on the 1st and 15th), and can be seen and studied for 30 days. In 2023, a total of 329 people attended Specific Courses on 92 subjects.

## **Special Seminars**

Special seminars are one-day sessions that provide a broad range of specialized knowledge and information directly and indirectly related to insurance. In 2023, 1,603 people participated in 24 special seminars.

Chosen from among topics which could have an impact on the future of the insurance business, past seminar themes have included:

- Challenging the Protection Gap: A New Paradigm for Insurance
- Embedded Insurance: Current Status and Future Prospects
- Recent Trends and Issues on Laws and Regulations Related to Autonomous Vehicles

The most popular seminar was “Explanation of Fraudulent Claim Cases Abusing Natural Disasters”, which attracted some 122 participants.

## **2. THE INSURANCE SCHOOL (NON-LIFE) OF JAPAN (ISJ)**

International cooperation in the field of insurance first drew world attention in October 1966 when the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade (CIFT) under the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) put forward its recommendations. It recommended that developed countries make an active commitment to international cooperation with developing countries in the field of insurance and reinsurance, including technical assistance, training of human resources and exchange of information and data. In 1968, the recommendation was adopted at the 2nd meeting of the UNCTAD in New Delhi, India and was readopted at the 3rd meeting in Santiago, Chile in 1972.

Coincidentally, the East Asia Insurance Congress (EAIC) began talks in the 1960s on how they could best develop regional collaboration in the field of insurance, including the training of human resources. In particular, at its meeting in Seoul, Korea in 1968, highly-charged discussions focused on the idea of founding an Asian Insurance Research Center and an Insurance Training Program. However, this plan was

premature given the circumstances of the time.

In light of the recommendations adopted by the UN organization and the discussion developing locally in the East Asian region, the Japanese non-life insurance industry started extensive studies on how it could effectively disseminate, specifically to East Asian insurance professionals, the knowledge and expertise that it had accumulated through its own business operations in Japan.

In October 1971, a draft plan to launch a permanent educational program for insurance practitioners in the regions of East Asia was unanimously approved by the members of the General Insurance Association of Japan. The program, entitled the Insurance School (Non-Life) of Japan, started in July 1972 and has been jointly organized and run by the association and the institute every year since. In 2022, the ISJ celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **ISJ- General Course**

An educational and training program for insurance practitioners based in East Asian regions, the ISJ has been held in Tokyo every year since it commenced in 1972. The name of the course was changed to “General Course” when the Advanced Course was created in 1991.

Between its inception in 1972 and the 49th session in November 2023, 1,625 participants from 16 regions had graduated from the course.

Due to the lift of COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the 49th session was held in two parts; the first in an online format and the second face-to-face, from mid-November to early December.

### **ISJ- Advanced Course**

This course was launched in 1991 with the objective of providing more advanced knowledge and information to experienced or managerial level staff from the same regions, principally graduates of the General Course.

The 34th Session of the ISJ Advanced Course was held in two parts; the first in an online format (in May 2024) and the second face-to-face (in June 2024).

Between its inception in 1991 and the 34th session in 2024, 696 participants from 15 regions had graduated from the course.

### **ISJ- Overseas Seminar**

This program was started in 1993 with the aim of providing information on subjects that regional insurance markets are interested in acquiring from the Japanese market. Each year, one or two locations are selected as venues from among the regions. The seminars are organized with the help of the respective regional non-life insurance associations.

The topics of the seminars are chosen according to the needs of the regional markets in collaboration with local co-sponsors. Along with institute staff, staff members of insurance companies with expertise in the fields from which the topics are chosen are sent from Japan as lecturers and coordinators.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the overseas seminars were held online on demand from 2020 to 2022. However, the 2023 seminar was held in Phnom Penh for the first time in four years for insurance industry professionals in Cambodia. Since its inception in 1993 to its 30th session in 2023, approx. 6,120 participants have attended the seminars.

## **II. RESEARCH**

### **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

The institute conducts extensive research on medium to long-term issues emanating from changes and developments in the economic, social and financial environment surrounding the non-life insurance industry.

The Research Department was set up in July 1990 with the aim of functioning as a think-tank to provide the industry with advice and essential materials for the study of its roles and the direction to take in the new era.

During the 2023 term, studies were conducted on the following two subjects:

- The Status of Utilization of Data, Including Personal Identification Numbers, and Efforts to Standardize Operations in the Insurance Industry in Major Countries
- Recent Developments in Insurance Regulation and Supervision in Major Countries - Focus on Solvency Regulation and Business Scope of General Insurers

In addition to the above studies, the Research Department published quarterly reports on topical subjects, with 6 main themes related to the business of non-life insurance.

### **III. LIBRARY**

The library collection accumulated since the foundation of the institute was completely destroyed during World War II. The rebuilding of the library, which started soon after the war, was deeply indebted to Dr. Kotaro Shida, ex-dean of Meiji University, and to Dr. Zen-ichi Takiya and Dr. Ikusaburo Shiina, all three of whom donated large quantities of books. Since that time, the institute has accumulated an extensive collection of works on non-life insurance subjects, as well as on legal, economic and in other fields, too.

Currently, the library comprises some 22,200 volumes and 519 periodicals.

The institute's library is used not only by employees of non-life insurance companies, but also by scholars, students and people from various fields seeking information concerning non-life insurance. Enquiries can be made via the Internet, by telephone or by fax, and library staff will carry out a search and recommend appropriate reading material.

## **IV. PUBLICATIONS**

### **THE INSTITUTE'S JOURNAL "STUDY OF NON-LIFE INSURANCE"**

Issued quarterly by the institute, this journal has continued to feature both academic and practical studies of non-life insurance since its first issue in 1935. It has earned a wide reputation as a publication of high-level academic study on the theory and practice of non-life insurance. In 2018, the journal introduced the peer review system in order to improve its quality (although the journal is not a peer-reviewed-only journal).

Some of the journal's recent theses can be read via the online academic journal platform.

<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/giij/-char/ja>

### **TEXTBOOKS FOR NON-LIFE INSURANCE EDUCATIONAL COURSES**

The institute currently publishes a series of 17 textbooks. Though mainly for use on the Regular Course, they are also occasionally used for insurance lectures at certain universities.

### **ENGLISH TEXTBOOKS ON NON-LIFE INSURANCE IN JAPAN**

Focusing on the practice of non-life insurance in Japan, the institute publishes a series of textbooks written in English for use on ISJ courses. Whilst one is entitled 'Overview of the Non-Life Insurance Business', other currently published textbooks cover Fire, Marine and Inland Transit, Automobile, Miscellaneous Casualty (Commercial Lines), Miscellaneous Casualty (Personal Lines), Reinsurance, The Insurance Act, and Insurance Regulation.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS ON NON-LIFE INSURANCE**

The institute publishes books, mostly on a non-profit basis, on subjects concerning non-life insurance and its related fields that are of academic value.

## **V. PROMOTION OF SCHOLARLY STUDY**

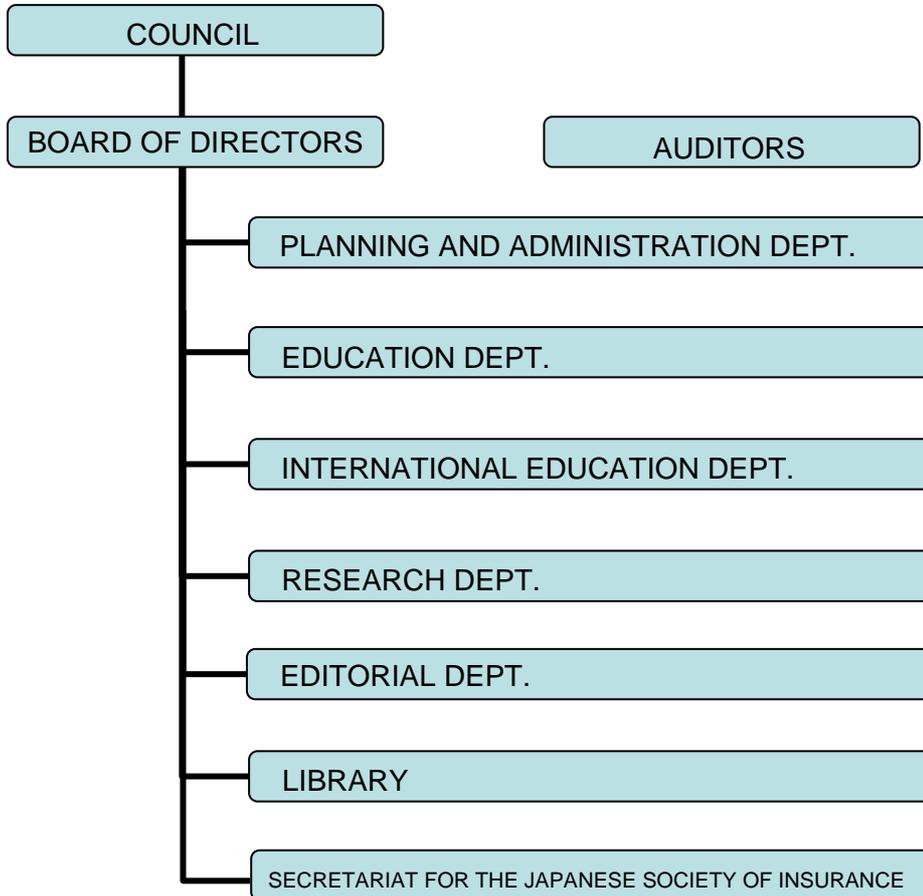
### **JUDICIAL CASE STUDY**

In April 2008, the institute started a new society for the study of judicial cases in the non-life insurance field, which is comprised of about 50 members from universities, law offices and the non-life insurance industry. Results of the studies are published in the institute's journal, the "Study of Non-Life Insurance".

### **SUBSIDIES FOR SCHOLARLY STUDY OF NON-LIFE INSURANCE**

In 1972, the institute began offering subsidies to young scholars and graduate students engaged in the study of non-life insurance science for their expenditure on books. In order to expand the range of use to include general research, in 1993, the institute restructured the subsidies offered on condition that any research undertaken is related to non-life insurance. Some 177 beneficiaries received grants between 1972 and 2023.

# ORGANIZATION (as of July 1, 2024)



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President: Hiroyuki Gotoh

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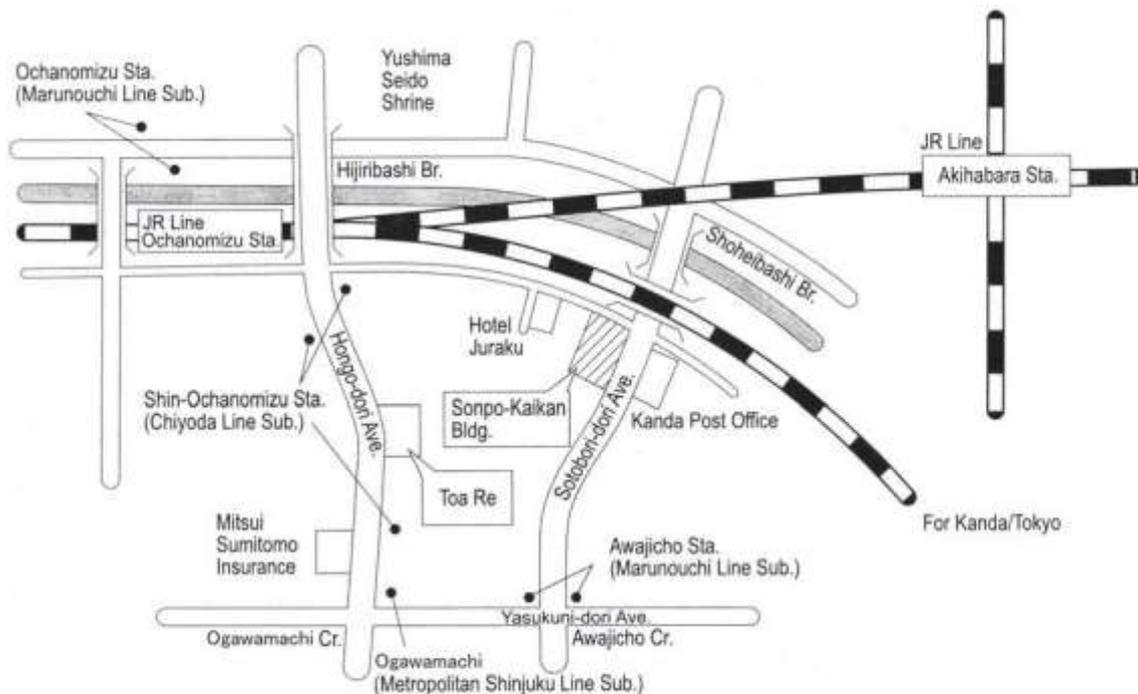
URL <https://www.sonposoken.or.jp> (Japanese and English)

### Library

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Ave. = Avenue Bldg. = Building Br. = Bridge Cr. = Crossing Sta. = Station Sub = Subway

