

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
JAPAN AND THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Japan and the Federative Republic of Brazil,

Being desirous of regulating their mutual relations in
the field of social security,

Have agreed as follows:

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1
Definitions

1. For the purpose of this Agreement:
 - (a) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Japan or the Federative Republic of Brazil, as the context requires;
 - (b) the term "Brazil" means the Federative Republic of Brazil;
 - (c) the term "national" means,

as regards Japan,
a Japanese national within the meaning of the law on nationality of Japan,

as regards Brazil,
a Brazilian national in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the Federative Republic of Brazil;
 - (d) the term "legislation" means,

as regards Japan,
the laws and regulations of Japan concerning the Japanese pension systems specified in paragraph 1 of Article 2,

as regards Brazil,
the laws and regulations concerning the benefits specified in paragraph 2 of Article 2;

- (e) the term "competent authority" means,
- as regards Japan,
any of the Governmental organizations competent
for the Japanese pension systems specified in
paragraph 1 of Article 2,
- as regards Brazil,
the Ministry responsible for the application of
the legislation of Brazil referred to in
paragraph 1(d) of this Article;
- (f) the term "competent institution" means,
- as regards Japan,
any of the insurance institutions, or any
association thereof, responsible for the
implementation of the Japanese pension systems
specified in paragraph 1 of Article 2,
- as regards Brazil,
the National Institute of Social Security;
- (g) the term "period of coverage" means,
- as regards Japan,
a period of contributions under the legislation
of Japan concerning the Japanese pension systems
specified in paragraph 1(a) to (e) of Article 2,
and any other periods taken into account under
that legislation for establishing entitlement to
benefits,
- however, a period which shall be taken into
account, for the purpose of establishing
entitlement to benefits under that legislation,
pursuant to other agreements on social security
comparable with this Agreement, shall not be
included,
- as regards Brazil,
a period of contributions and any other periods
taken into account for establishing entitlement
to the benefits under the legislation of Brazil;
- (h) the term "benefit" means a pension or any other
cash benefits under the legislation of a
Contracting State.

2. For the purpose of this Agreement, any term not defined in this Agreement shall have the meaning assigned to it under the applicable legislation.

Article 2
Matters Covered

This Agreement shall apply,

1. as regards Japan, to the following Japanese pension systems:

- (a) the National Pension (except the National Pension Fund);
- (b) the Employees' Pension Insurance (except the Employees' Pension Fund);
- (c) the Mutual Aid Pension for National Public Officials;
- (d) the Mutual Aid Pension for Local Public Officials and Personnel of Similar Status (except the pension system for members of local assemblies); and
- (e) the Mutual Aid Pension for Private School Personnel;

(the Japanese pension systems specified in (b) to (e) shall hereinafter be referred to as the "Japanese pension systems for employees"),

however, for the purpose of this Agreement, the National Pension shall not include the Old Age Welfare Pension or any other pensions which are granted on a transitional or complementary basis for the purpose of welfare and which are payable wholly or mainly out of national budgetary resources; and

2. as regards Brazil,

- (a) to the Old-age, Disability and Survivors' benefits as established by the General Regime of Social Security; and
- (b) to the Old-age, Disability and Survivors' benefits as established by the military's and the civil servants' social security regimes.

Article 3
Persons Covered

This Agreement shall apply to a person who is or has been subject to the legislation of a Contracting State, as well as dependants. For the purpose of this Article, the term "dependants" means, as regards Japan, family members or survivors who derive rights from a person who is or has been subject to the legislation of Japan and, as regards Brazil, dependants as defined under the legislation of Brazil.

Article 4
Equality of Treatment

Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, the persons specified in Article 3, who ordinarily reside in the territory of a Contracting State, shall receive equal treatment with nationals of that Contracting State in the application of the legislation of that Contracting State.

Article 5
Payment of Benefits Abroad

1. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, any provision of the legislation of a Contracting State which restricts entitlement to or payment of benefits solely because the person ordinarily resides outside the territory of that Contracting State shall not be applicable to persons who ordinarily reside in the territory of the other Contracting State.

2. Benefits under the legislation of a Contracting State shall be paid to nationals of the other Contracting State who ordinarily reside in the territory of the third state, under the same conditions as if they were nationals of the first Contracting State.

3. Payments of benefits under this Agreement to beneficiaries who reside in the territory of the other Contracting State are effected directly in freely convertible currencies. In case provisions for restricting the exchange of currencies or remittance are introduced by either Contracting State, the Governments of both Contracting States shall immediately consult on the measures necessary to ensure the payments of benefits by either Contracting State under this Agreement.

PART II
PROVISIONS CONCERNING
THE APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Article 6
General Provisions

Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, a person who works as an employee or a self-employed person in the territory of a Contracting State shall, with respect to that employment or self-employment, be subject only to the legislation of that Contracting State.

Article 7
Special Provisions

1. Where a person who is employed in the territory of a Contracting State by an employer with a place of business in that territory is sent by that employer, either from that territory or from a territory of the third state, to work in the territory of the other Contracting State, the employee shall be subject only to the legislation of the first Contracting State as if that employee were working in the territory of the first Contracting State, provided that that employee is covered under the legislation of that Contracting State and that the period of such detachment is not expected to exceed five years.

2. If the detachment referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article continues beyond five years, the competent authorities or the competent institutions of both Contracting States may agree in special circumstances that the employee remains subject only to the legislation of the first Contracting State for a period not exceeding three years.

3. A person who was already subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not be subject again to those provisions, unless one year has elapsed since the end of the preceding detachment.

4. Where a person who ordinarily works as a self-employed person in the territory of a Contracting State, works temporarily as a self-employed person only in the territory of the other Contracting State, that person shall be subject only to the legislation of the first Contracting State as if that person were working in the territory of the first Contracting State, provided that that person is covered under the legislation of that Contracting State and that the period of the self-employed activity in the territory of the other Contracting State is not expected to exceed five years.

5. If the self-employed activity in the territory of the other Contracting State referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article continues beyond five years, the competent authorities or the competent institutions of both Contracting States may agree in special circumstances that the self-employed person remains subject only to the legislation of the first Contracting State for a period not exceeding three years.

6. A person who was already subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Article shall not be subject again to those provisions, unless one year has elapsed since the end of the preceding self-employed activity.

Article 8
Employees on Board a Sea-Going Vessel

Where a person works as an employed person on board a sea-going vessel flying the flag of a Contracting State and would otherwise be subject to the legislation of both Contracting States, that person is subject only to the legislation of that Contracting State. Notwithstanding the foregoing, that person shall be subject only to the legislation of the other Contracting State, if that person is employed by an employer with a place of business in the territory of that other Contracting State.

Article 9
Members of Diplomatic Missions,
Members of Consular Posts and Civil Servants

1. This Agreement shall not affect the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of April 18, 1961, or the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of April 24, 1963.

2. Subject to paragraph 1 of this Article, where any civil servant of a Contracting State or any person treated as such in the legislation of that Contracting State is sent to work in the territory of the other Contracting State, that person shall be subject only to the legislation of the first Contracting State as if that person were working in the territory of the first Contracting State.

Article 10
Exceptions to Articles 6 to 9

At the request of an employee and an employer or a self-employed person, the competent authorities or the competent institutions of both Contracting States may agree to grant an exception to Articles 6 to 9 in the interest of particular persons or categories of persons, provided that such persons or categories of persons shall be subject to the legislation of one of the Contracting States.

Article 11
Spouse and Children

While a person works in the territory of Japan and is subject only to the legislation of Brazil in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 2 of Article 9 or Article 10, the spouse or children coming with that person shall be exempted from the legislation of Japan concerning the Japanese pension system specified in paragraph 1(a) of Article 2 provided that the requirements specified in the legislation of Japan concerning the enforcement of the agreements on social security are fulfilled. However, when those spouse or children so request, the foregoing shall not apply.

Article 12
Compulsory Coverage

Articles 6 to 8, paragraph 2 of Article 9 and Article 11 shall apply only to compulsory coverage under the legislation of each Contracting State.

PART III
PROVISIONS CONCERNING BENEFITS

Chapter 1
Provisions concerning Japanese Benefits

Article 13
Totalization

1. Where a person does not have sufficient periods of coverage to fulfill the requirement for entitlement to Japanese benefits, the competent institution of Japan shall take into account, for the purpose of establishing entitlement to those benefits under this Article, the periods of coverage under the legislation of Brazil insofar as they do not coincide with the periods of coverage under the legislation of Japan. However, the foregoing shall not apply to the additional pension for specified occupations under the mutual aid pensions and the lump-sum payments equivalent to the refund of contributions.

2. In applying paragraph 1 of this Article, the periods of coverage under the legislation of Brazil shall be taken into account as periods of coverage under the Japanese pension systems for employees and as corresponding periods of coverage under the National Pension.

Article 14
Special Provisions concerning Disability Benefits
and Survivors' Benefits

1. Where the legislation of Japan requires for entitlement to disability benefits or survivors' benefits (except the lump-sum payments equivalent to the refund of contributions) that the date of the first medical examination or of death lies within specified periods of coverage, this requirement shall be deemed to be fulfilled for the purpose of establishing entitlement to those benefits if such a date lies within the periods of coverage under the legislation of Brazil. However, if entitlement to disability benefits or survivors' benefits (except the lump-sum payments equivalent to the refund of contributions) under the National Pension is established without applying this Article, this Article shall not be applied for the purpose of establishing entitlement to disability benefits or survivors' benefits (except the lump-sum payments equivalent to the refund of contributions) based on the same insured event under the Japanese pension systems for employees.

2. In applying paragraph 1 of this Article, as regards a person who possesses periods of coverage under two or more Japanese pension systems for employees, the requirement referred to in that paragraph shall be deemed to be fulfilled for one of those pension systems in accordance with the legislation of Japan.

3. Paragraph 1 of Article 5 shall not affect the provisions of the legislation of Japan which require a person who is aged 60 or over but under 65 on the date of the first medical examination or of the death to reside ordinarily in the territory of Japan for the acquisition of entitlement to the Disability Basic Pension or the Survivors' Basic Pension.

Article 15
Calculation of the Amount of Benefits

1. Where entitlement to a Japanese benefit is established by virtue of paragraph 1 of Article 13 or paragraph 1 of Article 14, the competent institution of Japan shall calculate the amount of that benefit in accordance with the legislation of Japan, subject to paragraphs 2 to 5 of this Article.

2. With regard to the Disability Basic Pension and other benefits, the amount of which is a fixed sum granted regardless of the periods of coverage, if the requirements for receiving such benefits are fulfilled by virtue of paragraph 1 of Article 13 or paragraph 1 of Article 14, the amount to be granted shall be calculated according to the proportion of the sum of the periods of contribution and the premium-exempted periods under the pension system from which such benefits will be paid to the theoretical period of coverage referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article.

3. With regard to disability benefits and survivors' benefits under the Japanese pension systems for employees, insofar as the amount of those benefits to be granted is calculated on the basis of the specified period determined by the legislation of Japan when the periods of coverage under those systems are less than that specified period, if the requirements for receiving such benefits are fulfilled by virtue of paragraph 1 of Article 13 or paragraph 1 of Article 14, the amount to be granted shall be calculated according to the proportion of the periods of coverage under the Japanese pension systems for employees to the theoretical period of coverage referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article. However, when the theoretical period of coverage exceeds that specified period, the theoretical period of coverage shall be regarded as equal to that specified period.

4. For the purpose of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, "theoretical period of coverage" means the sum of the following periods (except that it shall not include the period after the month in which the day of recognition of disability occurs or the period beginning with the month in which the day following the day of death occurs):

- (a) the period from the month in which the day of attainment of age 20 occurs through the month preceding the month in which the day of attainment of age 60 occurs, except the period before April 1, 1961;

- (b) periods of contribution under the legislation of Japan which do not coincide with the period referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph; and
- (c) periods of coverage under the legislation of Brazil which do not coincide with periods referred to in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, in case the month in which the day of recognition of disability occurs or the month preceding the month in which the day following the day of death occurs is before the period referred to in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph.

5. With regard to the calculation of the amount of benefits under the Japanese pension systems for employees in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, if the person entitled to the benefits possesses periods of coverage under two or more such pension systems, the periods of contribution under the pension system from which such benefits will be paid referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article or the periods of coverage under the Japanese pension systems for employees referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article shall be the sum of the periods of coverage under all such pension systems. However, when the sum of the periods of coverage equals or exceeds the specified period determined by the legislation of Japan within the meaning of paragraph 3 of this Article, the method of calculation stipulated in paragraph 3 of this Article and this paragraph shall not apply.

6. With regard to the Additional Pension for Spouses which is included in the Old-age Employees' Pension and any other benefits that may be granted as a fixed sum in cases where the periods of coverage under the Japanese pension systems for employees equal or exceed the specified period determined by the legislation of Japan, if the requirements for receiving such benefits are fulfilled by virtue of paragraph 1 of Article 13, the amount to be granted shall be calculated according to the proportion of those periods of coverage under the Japanese pension systems for employees from which such benefits will be paid to that specified period.

Article 16 Exception to Article 4

Article 4 shall not affect the provisions on complementary periods for Japanese nationals on the basis of ordinary residence outside the territory of Japan under the legislation of Japan.

Chapter 2
Provisions concerning the Brazilian Benefits

Article 17
Totalization and Rules of Calculation

1. If a person is not eligible to a benefit under the legislation of Brazil for not having accumulated sufficient periods of coverage according to that legislation, the periods of coverage under the legislation of Japan will also be taken into account to determine that person's eligibility. In order to apply the foregoing, the competent institution of Brazil shall:

- (a) calculate the theoretical amount of the benefit that would be paid if all the periods of coverage had been completed under the legislation of Brazil;
- (b) on the basis of that theoretical amount, then calculate the actual amount of the benefit payable according to the ratio between the duration of the periods of coverage completed under the legislation of Brazil and the total duration of the periods of coverage under the legislation of both Contracting States. However, if that total duration exceeds the minimum period necessary to establish eligibility to the benefit under the legislation of Brazil, that total duration shall be considered as equal to that minimum period.

2. The theoretical amount of the benefit referred to in paragraph 1(a) of this Article shall not, under any circumstances, be inferior to the minimum amount guaranteed by the legislation of Brazil.

3. If a person is eligible to a benefit under the legislation of Brazil without the application of paragraph 1 of this Article, the competent institution of Brazil shall determine the amount of the benefit to be paid based exclusively on the periods of coverage completed by that person under the legislation of Brazil.

PART IV
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Article 18
Administrative Collaboration

1. The competent authorities of both Contracting States shall:

- (a) agree on the administrative measures necessary for the implementation of this Agreement;
- (b) designate liaison agencies for the implementation of this Agreement; and
- (c) communicate to each other, as soon as possible, all information about changes to their respective legislation insofar as those changes affect the implementation of this Agreement.

2. The competent authorities and competent institutions of both Contracting States, within the scope of their respective authorities, shall provide any assistance necessary for the implementation of this Agreement. This assistance shall be provided free of charge.

Article 19 Charges or Fees and Legalization

1. Insofar as the legislation and other relevant laws and regulations of a Contracting State contain provisions on an exemption or reduction of administrative charges or consular fees for documents to be submitted under the legislation of that Contracting State, those provisions shall also apply to documents to be submitted in the application of this Agreement and the legislation of the other Contracting State.

2. Documents which are presented for the purpose of this Agreement and the legislation of a Contracting State shall not require legalization or any other similar formality by diplomatic or consular authorities.

Article 20 Communication

1. In implementing this Agreement, the competent authorities and competent institutions of both Contracting States may communicate directly in Japanese or Portuguese language with each other and with any concerned person wherever the person may reside.

2. In implementing this Agreement, the competent authorities and competent institutions of a Contracting State may not reject applications or any other documents for the reason that they are written in the language of the other Contracting State.

Article 21
Transmission and Confidentiality of Information

1. The competent authorities or competent institutions of a Contracting State shall, in accordance with its laws and regulations, transmit to the competent authorities or competent institutions of the other Contracting State information about a person collected under the legislation of that Contracting State insofar as that information is necessary for the implementation of this Agreement. Unless otherwise required by the laws and regulations of that other Contracting State, that information shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing this Agreement.

2. The competent authorities or competent institutions of a Contracting State may, upon the request of the competent authorities or competent institutions of the other Contracting State, transmit, in accordance with the legislation and other relevant laws and regulations of that Contracting State, information about a person other than that information referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article collected under the legislation of that Contracting State, to the competent authorities or competent institutions of that other Contracting State insofar as they are necessary for the implementation of the legislation of that other Contracting State. Unless otherwise required by the laws and regulations of that other Contracting State, that information shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing that legislation of that other Contracting State.

3. Information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article received by a Contracting State shall be governed by the laws and regulations of that Contracting State for the protection of confidentiality of personal data.

Article 22
Submission of Applications, Appeals and Declarations

1. When a written application for benefits, an appeal or any other declaration under the legislation of a Contracting State is submitted to a competent authority or competent institution of the other Contracting State which is competent to receive similar applications, appeals or declarations under the legislation of that other Contracting State, that application for benefits, appeal or declaration shall be deemed to be submitted on the same date to the competent authority or competent institution of the first Contracting State and shall be dealt with, according to the procedure and legislation of the first Contracting State.

2. The competent authority or competent institution of a Contracting State shall send the application for benefits, appeal or any other declaration submitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article to the competent authority or competent institution of the other Contracting State without delay.

Article 23
Resolution of Disagreement

Any disagreement regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be resolved by consultation between the Contracting States.

Article 24
Joint Committee

The Contracting States may establish a Joint Committee composed of representatives of the competent authorities and competent institutions of both Contracting States. This Joint Committee shall be responsible for monitoring the application of this Agreement. This Joint Committee shall meet when necessary either in Japan or Brazil upon request by either Contracting State.

Article 25
Headings

The headings of Parts, Chapters and Articles of this Agreement are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.

PART V
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 26
Events and Decisions prior to the Entry into Force

1. This Agreement shall not establish any entitlement to benefits for any period prior to its entry into force.

2. In the implementation of this Agreement, periods of coverage completed before its entry into force as well as other legally relevant events occurring before its entry into force shall also be taken into account.

3. In applying paragraph 1 or 4 of Article 7, in the case of a person who has been working in the territory of a Contracting State prior to the entry into force of this Agreement, the periods of detachment or self-employed activity referred to in paragraph 1 or 4 of Article 7 shall be considered to begin on the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

4. Decisions made before the entry into force of this Agreement shall not affect any rights to be established by virtue of this Agreement.

5. The application of this Agreement shall not, for a beneficiary, result in any reduction in the amount of benefits to which entitlement was established before the entry into force of this Agreement.

6. Subject to paragraph 1 of this Article, where an application for a benefit in accordance with provisions of this Agreement is presented within two years after the entry into force of this Agreement, the corresponding benefit shall be payable from the time when the necessary conditions are met. If the application is made after two years from the date of entry into force of this Agreement, the effect of the application will be subject to the legislation of the relevant Contracting State.

Article 27 Entry into Force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the third month following the month in which the Contracting States shall have completed an exchange of diplomatic notes informing each other that their respective constitutional requirements necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled.

Article 28 Duration and Termination

1. This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period. Either Contracting State may give to the other Contracting State, through diplomatic channels, written notice of termination of this Agreement. In that event, this Agreement shall remain in force until the last day of the twelfth month following the month in which the termination was notified.

2. If this Agreement is terminated in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, rights regarding entitlement to and payment of benefits acquired under this Agreement shall be retained.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done at Tokyo on July 29, 2010 in duplicate in the Japanese, Portuguese and English languages. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

For Japan:

岡田克也

For the Federative Republic
of Brazil:

C. Gabas