

JAPAN INFORMATION PROCESSING DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Japan Information Technology Engineers Examination Center (JITEC)

Contacts

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Activities

There are about 2,000 information technology engineers in Japan as compared with 10 times that number in the United States. This shortfall of highly specialized talent has been long recognized in Japan. In 1969, MITI established the Information Technology Engineers Equivalency Examination System operated under JITEC, in part to deal with Japan's need for qualified engineers in the information technology field.

The system was designed to enhance IP technology capability by providing goals and incentives to IP engineers and programmers, to aid in establishing standard IP-related educational programs by defining skill levels required, and to provide computer users with objective criteria that would be useful in hiring IP personnel. The examination system certifies, in effect, that individuals who pass possess capabilities equivalent to defined levels of skills and capabilities in each certification category - programmer, senior programmer and system engineer.

Since its beginning, 1,150,000 people have taken the exams; 170,000 have passed. Some 350,000 examinations are scheduled for 1987. The rapid growth in the number taking examinations is due, in part, to the preference of some employers for those holding JITEC certification. As well, some companies offer salary incentives to those who pass the exams.

JITEC has eight regional offices plus its Tokyo headquarters. Its annual budget is close to one billion yen. It offers examinations throughout Japan each year.