

JSA Signed Memorandum of Understanding with BSI

On the afternoon of March 26, in Tokyo, Mr. Toshio Ibi, President of JSA (Japanese Standards Association), and Dr. Scott Steedman, Director of Standards at BSI (British Standards Institution), signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. Under this Memorandum, we intend to advance collaboration across a wide range of fields, including joint development of standards for new fields, such as services and social systems, as well as private sector-based cooperation in the international standardization field.

The conclusion of the Memorandum was prompted by the growing need to develop global standards in new fields, including services and social systems. On March 2, 2017, as part of the effort to strengthen international standardization activities aiming to enhance Japan's competitiveness, the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee (JISC) of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation with BSI as the National Standardization Body (NSB) of Japan. However, in the standardization field, as the demands of globalization increased along with the speed of change, it became clear that there were limitations in terms of what could be done at the national level. Therefore, JSA and BSI agreed that it will become even more important to strengthen collaboration between the two influential standardization bodies in the future, and to promote private sector-led joint development of standards in new fields and concrete cooperation in the development of international standards such as ISO and IEC, we concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on Collaboration based on the abovementioned Memorandum of Cooperation between JISC and BSI.

Recently, in June 2017, JSA established a system to develop and publish new JSA standards and specifications (JSAS) as private sector standards for ensuring transparency, fairness, and objectivity. In the future, through our collaboration with BSI, it will be possible to work together across a wide range of fields, from these private sector standards to international standards such as ISO and IEC, and we expect to be able to respond quickly and flexibly to various standardization needs.

The main collaborative activities set forth in the Memorandum are as follows:

- Exchanges of information on best practices in areas such as standards development programmes and standards publications;
- Co-operation and collaboration in international standards development activities at ISO/IEC;
- Co-development of standards and specifications in new and emerging areas including service sectors to facilitate innovation.