

For immediate releaseDecember 14, 2020
Infomart Corporation

**Decision to formulate Japanese standards that comply
with the international standards “Peppol” for
popularizing electronic invoices**

**The public and private sectors to collaboratively promote digital transformation (DX)
for small, medium, and large-sized enterprises**

The E-Invoice Promotion Association (representative managing corporation: Yayoi Co., Ltd.), in which Info Mart Corporation (headquartered in Minato-ku, Tokyo; President and CEO: Osamu Nagao; hereinafter called “our company”) participates as one of the managing corporations, will formulate the standards of electronic invoices in Japan in accordance with the international standards “Peppol.”

<The following is the press release of the E-Invoice Promotion Association>

Peppol is international standards for sharing electronic documents, including electronic invoices, in a network. Peppol has been adopted by European countries, Singapore, Australia, etc., and an increasing number of electronic invoices are used internationally in accordance with Peppol.

Since the establishment in July 2020^{*1}, the E-Invoice Promotion Association (EIPA) has discussed the Japanese standards for electronic invoices, involving 65 regular corporate members, 3 special institutional members, 7 people (as of the end of November 2020), and observers from administrative bodies. In order to develop a system that can be used by small, medium, and large-sized enterprises easily at low cost and can deal with global transactions before the start of the invoice system in October 2023, we decided to formulate Japanese standards that comply with Japanese laws, regulations, commercial customs, etc. after selecting Peppol as relevant standards.

With the system for electronic invoices, it will be possible to smoothly share digital invoices with business partners inside and outside Japan online. This will be paperless and compatible with the invoice system, lead to digitalization, including the automation of business operation processes, enable business operators to accurately conduct such tasks

as billing, payment, booking, and tax filing in an outstandingly efficient manner, and facilitate telecommuting.

EIPA called for all-out cooperation from the government, in order to popularize electronic invoices in Japan. In detail, EIPA requested the government to assume an active role in negotiations with OpenPeppol, which is an organization for operating and managing Peppol, develop an appropriate system for enforcing and managing Japanese standards in the framework of Peppol, and establish a system that can be easily used by business operators so that electronic invoices will be popularized and used. Today, the representative Koichiro Okamoto of EIPA visited Mr. Takuya Hirai, the Minister for Digital Transformation, giving proposals for digitization of business operations through the popularization of electronic invoices in Japan, making the above requests, and exchanging opinions.

EIPA aims to enable business operators to use software that is compatible with electronic invoices by the autumn of 2022, before the start of the invoice system in October 2023. From now on, we will research and analyze the standards of Peppol in detail, summarize necessary additional requirements for Japanese standards, and aim to formulate and disclose the first version of the Japanese standards for electronic invoices around by the end of June 2021. Member companies will engage in development of compatible products, etc. in cooperation with EIPA.

*1: Press release dated July 29, 2020: The E-Invoice Promotion Association was jointly established by 10 companies. It aims to contribute to the digitalization of overall commercial transactions and the improvement in productivity.

■Outline of Peppol

Organization that operates and manages Peppol	OpenPeppol
History of installation	There exists a network that enables the exchange of electronic documents under the same standards, and its access points have been set at a total of 295 sites in 31 countries, including European countries, the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Singapore (as of August 19, 2020).
Management in countries where Peppol was installed	In each country where Peppol was adopted, Peppol Authorities were established in administrative organs, and the standards tailored to each country's commercial customs are managed.
URL	https://peppol.eu/

■Outline of the E-Invoice Promotion Association

Group name	The E-Invoice Promotion Association
Date of establishment	July 29, 2020
Location	4 th floor of Akasaka Grace Bldg., 1-3-6 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo (inside the Computer Software Association of Japan)
Representative managing corporation	Yayoi Co., Ltd.
Managing corporations	Info Mart Corporation SAP Japan Co., Ltd. TKC Corporation Money Forward, Inc. Miroku Jyoho Service Co., Ltd. Yayoi Co., Ltd. (Corporate names in the order of the Japanese syllabary)
Auditors	Manabu Mizutani (Director and advisor of PCA Corporation) Kazuo Isobe (tax accountant)
No. of members	68 companies and 7 people (65 regular corporate members, 3 special institutional members, and 7 special members (individuals)) *List of members: https://www.csaj.jp/documents/activity/project/eipa/201130_memberlist.pdf
URL	https://www.csaj.jp/activity/project/eipa.html

<Our company's comments>

The reason why our company agreed with the adoption of the international standards “Peppol” in Japan, in the E-Invoice Promotion Association, in which our company participate as a managing corporation, is that we considered that the linkage of existing networks, including our services, through Peppol for popularizing electronic invoices among Japanese enterprises would be quite beneficial as the invoice system will be started in October 2023.

At present, over 500,000 enterprises are registered in BtoB Platform Invoicing, which is offered by our company. By issuing and receiving invoices electronically in the network, they can streamline their business operations, reduce costs, and make transactions paperless amid the coronavirus crisis.

We will cooperate in the promotion of use of electronic invoices based on the collaboration between the public and private sectors through the activities of EIPA, so that the invoice digitalization service of our EDI (BtoB Platform Invoicing) will be continuously used from October 2023 and when it is connected to another EDI, it will be possible to use Peppol.

<Company profile>

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