

JAPAN LOGISTICS SOCIETY

1. Outline of the Association

The Japan Logistics Society (JLS), established in May 1983, is an organization dedicated to conducting logistics research and contributing to the establishment of an academic system related to logistics.

To achieve its goals, the Association is involved in the following projects.

- ① Holding research conferences once a year.
- ② Organizing research group meetings and lectures.
- ③ Publishing research results from its members.
- ④ Establishing contact and exchanging information with domestic and foreign academic societies and other related organizations.
- ⑤ Undertaking other activities necessary to achieve the purpose of the association.

JLS consists of six regional divisions: Kanto, Chubu, Kansai, Hokkaido, Chugoku & Shikoku, and Kyushu. These divisions were established to stimulate and coordinate member activities at the regional level. JLS is led by a president (Minoru SAITO from Kanagawa University) and supported by three vice-presidents (Toshihiko MATSUO from Osaka University of Commerce, Yuji YANO from Ryutsu Keizai University, and Hisayuki KUROKAWA from Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology). Additionally, there is a board of directors representing each regional division. Currently, JLS has 454 individual members, 20 institutional members, and 11 honorary members.

In this essay, I would like to report on three aspects of the society's activities. First, I will provide an overview of the association, followed by a description of the annual national conferences held over the past three years (2020 to 2022). Next, I will introduce the activities of each regional branch and study groups. Finally, I will discuss the publication of the latest edition of the academic journal and highlight the society award.

2. The Annual National Conferences (From 2020 To 2022)

The Japan Logistics Society National Conference is held every September for two days. On the first day, a keynote speech and general meetings of members are held, while research reports are presented on the second day. Due to the influence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual national conferences have been held online since 2020.

(1) 2020 Annual Conference

The 37th JLS Annual National Conference took place at Senshu University (Tokyo) on September 19-20, 2020. The conference addressed the challenges posed by the diversification of consumer purchasing locations and methods. The delivery destinations for products have expanded from traditional stores to locations specified by consumers, such as convenience stores and homes. This shift has led to an increased reliance on parcel delivery services and a subsequent rise in deliveries to consumers' homes. However, this increase in residential deliveries presents problems such as reduced delivery efficiency and a shortage of truck drivers for distribution companies. One potential solution to these issues lies in leveraging innovation in logistics activities. Consequently, the unifying theme of the 37th National Convention of the Japan Logistics Society was Innovation to Support Logistics, with a focus on utilizing innovation to address logistics challenges.

During the keynote speech session, Hiroo IDE from University of Tokyo presented on "Three Perspectives for Coexisting with the New Coronavirus." The second session centered around the new coronavirus and logistics, featuring discussions involving Hiroo IDE (University of Tokyo), Hiroshi KAWAGUCHI (Driver Japan Job Co., Ltd.), Koichi NAGAI (JPR Institute of Innovation Research), Kosuke MIYATAKE (Ryutsu Keizai University), and Yuji YANO (Ryutsu Keizai University).

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis, the 39 presentations at the annual national conference included contributions from university researchers, field practitioners, and consultants.

(2) 2021 Annual Conference

The 38th JLS Annual National Conference was held at Kanagawa University (Kanagawa) on September 17-18, 2021. The conference centered around the theme of Logistics Reform that Supports Society and Economy, acknowledging the significant changes in Japan's economic landscape caused by the widespread impact of the new coronavirus infection. The conference aimed to explore the necessary efforts to adapt to these changes, focusing on transforming the working environment, ensuring transportation capacity, and realizing logistics innovation through the adoption of new technologies.

During the keynote speech session, Kimio TAKADA from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism delivered a presentation on the "Comprehensive Logistics Policy Outline and Logistics Reform" as the invited speaker. Additionally, Masatoshi MAWATARI gave a speech titled "Realization of a New Working Environment in Logistics." The panel session revolved around logistics innovation with new

technology and featured discussions led by Kazuyuki IKEDA (Askul Corporation), Takuya GONDO (Daifuku Co., Ltd.), Taro SASAKI (Hacobu Co., Ltd.), Nao TATEUCHI (Hitachi Transport System, Ltd.), and Yuji YANO (Ryutsu Keizai University).

The 38th annual national conference included a total of 39 presentations.

(3) 2022 Annual Conference

The 39th JLS Annual National Conference took place at Nagoya Gakuin University (Nagoya) on September 9-10, 2022. In recent years, logistics has been recognized as the “main artery of the economy” or the “core of industrial activity.” It serves not only as a social infrastructure supporting the economy and industry but also as a vital resource during natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons, and tsunamis, functioning as a lifeline. Furthermore, the focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been increasing. Therefore, there is a growing need to incorporate sustainability perspectives into logistics activities.

Truck transportation, which accounts for over 90% of domestic logistics in Japan, faces challenges such as driver shortages and an aging workforce. To address these issues, efforts have been made to reform work styles, reduce long working hours, and improve the trading environment with shippers. Considering these trends, the 39th annual conference adopted the unified theme of Ensuring Sustainability in Logistics, with a particular emphasis on the challenges faced by truck transportation, which serves as the core of the logistics industry.

During the keynote speech session, three presentations were delivered. The first presenter, Daisen TERADA from the Public Corporation Japan Logistics System Association, provided an activity report on the realization of a sustainable society. The second presenter, Ikutoku YAMAGISHI from the Aichi Trucking Association, discussed the recruitment and development of human resources to achieve sustainable logistics. Finally, Yoshitada FURUHASHI from the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism presented on the current situation of the trucking industry and government efforts.

The 39th annual national conference included a total of 36 presentations.

3. The Activities of Each Regional Branch and Study Groups

As mentioned in Section 1, the JLS comprises six regional divisions: Kanto, Chubu, Kansai, Hokkaido, Chugoku & Shikoku, and Kyushu. The research group meetings and lectures are organized based on these regional divisions. In this section, I

will introduce the research activities of each regional chapter and highlight the activities of special research divisions within the Japan Logistics Society, such as the Wakataku Study Group, the Business Session Study Group, and the Kansai Joint Logistics Study Group.

3.1 The Activities of Each Regional Branch

3.1.1 Kanto Regional Division

Four study sessions were held by the 2021 Kanto regional division. The contents of the report are as follows.

(1) Research Meetings

1. Date: July 17, 2021 Online

Theme: Trusco Nakayama's Platform Strategy ~Logistics DX2.0~

Reporter: Hideki NAOYOSHI (Trusco Nakayama Co., Ltd.)

2. Date: December 11, 2021 Online

Theme: Results of survey research on training and securing highly-skilled human resources in the field of logistics

Reporter: Soichiro MINAMI (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

3. Date: February 19, 2022, 14:00-15:30 Online

Theme: Looking Back on Nao Hirahara: His Life and Thoughts

Reporter: Kanji TAMAI (Logistics Museum)

4. Date: April 30, 2022, 14:00-15:30 Online

Theme: Commercial vehicle automation, safety measures and MaaS

Reporter: Hiroshi OGAWA (Hino Motors, Ltd.)

3.1.2 Chubu Regional Division

In the 2021 Chubu Division one research meeting and one lecture were held. Due to the influence of Corona, a company tour could not be held. Details are as follows.

(1) Research Meeting

Date: March 31, 2022 Online

Theme 1: Research on practical education related to physical distribution and logistics

Reporter 1: SANG Haixia (Kyoto Tachibana University)

Theme 2: Relationship between Marketing Channels and Logistics

Reporter 2: Yoshihiro MATSUMOTO (Nagoya University of Foreign Studies)

(2) Lecture

1. Date: February 28, 2022 Online

Theme: Successful Case Study of Inventory Management in Logistics

Speaker: Shigeyasu OKAMOTO (Setouchi SCM Co., Ltd.)

2. Date: May 28, 2022 (Saturday): Online

Theme: Research on licenses and licenses for transportation and
warehousing operations and subsequent maintenance

Speaker: Hiroshi IKEYAMA (GFA Ikeyama Administrative Scrivener Office)

3.1.3 Kansai regional division

In 2021, the Kansai Subcommittee held two research sessions involving four research reports. A company tour was also held. Details are as follows.

(1) Research Meetings

1. Date: July 2, 2021

Venue: Chuo Denki Club (Dojimahama, Kita-ku, Osaka)

Theme 1: Logistics Behavior in Environmental Management — Drivers and
Traffic Safety

Reporter 1: Akiyo KAWAMURA (Kobe University)

Theme 2: About Hannan's response to the new coronavirus

Reporter 2: Yukari SHIMOMURA (Hannan University)

2. Date: March 4, 2022

Venue: Chuo Denki Club (Dojimahama, Kita-ku, Osaka)

Theme 1: Building a pharmaceutical platform in the dispensing pharmacy
industry

Reporter 1: Kaneka KANE (Hagoromo International University)

Theme 2: Physical Internet Service for Modal Shift to Coastal Feeder
Transport Feasibility study for Service Realization

Reporter 2: Toru KATO (Kindai University)

(2) Company Tour

Date: November 19, 2021

Destination: Nakanishi Kinzoku Kogyo Head Office (Temmabashi, Kita-ku,
Osaka)

3.1.4 Hokkaido regional division

The 2021 Hokkaido Branch published two newsletters and emailed them to members.

3.1.5 Chugoku & Shikoku regional division

The 2021 Chugoku & Shikoku Branch held a study meeting once, and the details are as follows.

(1) Research Meeting

1. Date: August 26, 2021: Online

Theme: Impact of COVID-19 on logistics in Taiwan — Focusing on online shopping

Reporter: CHEN Huizhen (Okayama University of Commerce)

3.1.6 Kyusyu regional division

In 2021, the Kyushu Branch held one research meeting and an Okinawa Logistics Study Meeting twice. Details are as follows.

(1) Research Meeting

1. Date: July 17, 2021

Venue: Seinan Gakuin University Academic Research Institute

Theme 1: Toward the Realization of Sustainable Logistics — Construction and Operation of Effective BCP/BCM

Reporter 1: Hiroyuki UCHIDA (Japan University of Economics)

Theme 2: Issues in Promoting Modal Shift to Railway Freight — From the Perspective of Railway Investment and Railway Usage Fees

Reporter 2: Atsushi MIZUTANI (Kobe University),

Haruhito FUKUDA (Momoyama Gakuin University)

Theme 3: Current Status of the Logistics Industry and Government Efforts

Reporter 3: Shigenobu AMANO (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)

2. Date: December 4, 2021 Online

Theme 1: New Logistics Market Trends - Last One Mile & Free Delivery & DX,

Reporter 1: Hidetomo KOIKE (GW Connect Co., Ltd.)

Theme 2: Envisioning a Link between One Belt, One Road and RCEP

Reporter 2: Hideo FUKUYAMA (Japan Maritime Center)

(2) Okinawa Logistics Study Meeting

1. Date: August 24, 2021 Online

Theme: Post-Corona Okinawa Economic Revitalization and Logistics Strategy

Organizer: Hajime CHINEN (University of the Ryukyus)

Date: March 24, 2022 Online

Venue: Ryukyu Kaiun headquarters' Meeting room

Theme: Disruption in Logistics and Rise in Prices during the Corona Crisis — The Case of Okinawa

Organizer: Hajime CHINEN (University of the Ryukyus)

3.2 The Activities of the Wakataku Study Group

The Society of Logistics Society of Japan established the Wakataku Study Group to encourage active research activities by graduate students. In 2021, research report meetings were held three times. Details are as follows.

(1) Research Meetings

1. Date: October 23, 2021 Online

Theme 1: Reconstruction of logistics in line with the development of the EC market – Focusing on resilience

Presenter 1: YANG Zhifei

(Master's program, Graduate School of Commerce, Senshu University)

Theme 2: Supply chain management in the restaurant industry

Presenter 2: Toshiyuki HARA

(Meiji University Graduate School of Commerce Master's Program)

2. Date: March 12, 2022: Online

Theme 1: Challenges of China-Europe freight trains

Presenter 1: Aya WATANABE (Master's program, Fukushima University)

Theme 2: Last Mile Delivery in Internet Shopping

Presenter 2: LIU Yabing (Senior Lecturer, Meiji University)

3. Date: May 28, 2022 Online

Theme 1: Estimation and international comparison of bunkering operations based on AIS data

Presenter 1: Eisuke WATANABE (Master's program, The University of Tokyo)

Theme 2: Impact of Tariffs on Supply Chains — Examples of Customers' Tariff Optimization Efforts

Presenter 2: Teruyuki HANAZAWA, Takahiro YAMADA (Asahi Kasei Corporation)

3.3 The Activities of the Business Session Study Group

The Business Session Study Group mainly conducts research reports by frontline practitioners active in the field of logistics. In 2021 research reports were made twice. Details are as follows.

(1) Research Report

1. Date: June 16, 2021

Theme: Beams EC Logistics Strategy with Full Use of RFID

Reporter: Makoto TAKEKAWA (BEAMS HOLDINGS CO., LTD.)

2. Date: April 12, 2022

Theme: Our Logistics Strategy to Support Shippers' Transportation Competitiveness

Reporter: Kensuke EIKI (3CF&Co Co., Ltd.)

3.4 The Activities of the Kansai Joint Logistics Study Group

In order to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus infection, the 2021 study group did not meet.

4. The Publication of the Academic Journal and Society Award

4.1 Publications

JLS disseminates the outcomes of its research activities through two forms of publication: the *Journal of the Japan Logistics Society* and the *Newsletter*.

Journal of the Japan Logistics Society: Once a year, JLS edits and publishes the *Journal of the Japan Logistics Society*. Members of JLS have the opportunity to submit manuscripts for publication consideration. The editorial board of the journal oversees the review process for the submitted manuscripts. In the latest edition of the *Journal of the Japan Logistics Society* (No. 30), 25 refereed papers and 10 non-refereed papers were published.

Newsletter: Once a year, JLS edits and publishes a newsletter to update its members on current issues, including activity status and financial updates. The newsletter also highlights the research achievements of JLS members.

4.2 Society Award

JLS presents awards for book(s), articles(s) and research activities of graduate students that have made great contributions to the advancement of logistics research. The award winners in 2020 are as follows:

No awards for book section in 2020.

2020 Article award: Yoshio DOI, Hisayuki KUOKAWA, Seiichi KUBOTA, Kiyoshi UEMURA,

“Japan Logistics Research on the impact of inter-company collaboration on the productivity improvement of truck transportation”, “*Japan Logistics journal*, No.29.

Japan Society of Logistics Research Encouragement Award:

1. Takuya YAMAGUCHI (Graduate School, The University of Tokyo)
“Construction of an intermodal international logistics network model by large-scale parallel multi-stage distribution and Application to the ASEAN region”
2. Maho OGAWA (Nihon University)
“Questionnaire survey on online mail order home delivery during the new coronavirus disaster”
3. Yin SIMA (Kobe University)

“Construction of material redistribution model after large-scale disaster considering material surplus and shortage”

4. Tsuguhisa TOGAWA (Ryutsu Keizai University)

“Research on Production and Logistics of the Business Form Industry”

5. Kanade YOSHIDA (Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology)

“Will smart interchanges contribute to regional revitalization?”

Graduate Student Session Excellent Presentation Award at 2020 Annual Conference

1. Reporter: Yasumi FUKAYA (Graduate School, Ibaraki University)

Theme: A study on the effect of introducing platooning on the problem of empty truck hierarchies between regions

Supervisor: Terumitsu HIRATA (Ibaraki University)

2. Reporter: Takeshi NAKAMURA (Graduate School, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology)

Theme: Current Situation of Railway Container Transport between China and Europe Utilizing the New Eurasia Land Bridge Economic Corridor

Supervisor: Daisuke WATANABE (Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology), Hajime MATSUI (Nippon Property Insurance)

The Japan Logistics Society will commemorate its 40th anniversary this year. This significant milestone serves as an opportunity to reflect on the Society's contributions and look forward to its continued role in the advancement of the Japanese economy.

Over the past four decades, the Japan Logistics Society has been at the forefront of promoting research and knowledge exchange in the field of logistics. Through its various activities such as research conferences, group meetings, and publications, the society has played a vital role in fostering innovation, efficiency, and sustainability in logistics practices.

The research activities conducted by the Japan Logistics Society have had a direct impact on the development of logistics in Japan. By addressing pressing challenges and exploring emerging trends, the society has provided valuable insights and practical solutions for enhancing supply chain management, transportation efficiency, and distribution networks.

As the Japanese economy continues to evolve and face new challenges, the Japan Logistics Society remains committed to its mission of advancing the logistics field. By staying at the forefront of research, fostering collaborations with academia, industry,

and government, and continuously adapting to the changing landscape of logistics, the Society aims to make significant contributions to the further growth and prosperity of the Japanese economy.

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(SANG Haixia, Kyoto Tachibana University)