HMDC Presents...

Country Profile: Japan

Committee: DISEC: Drone Surveillance and Privacy

AT A GLANCE

Capital	Tokyo (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Population	About 123.4 million people in 2025 (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Region	East Asia and Pacific (World Bank)
Drone rule	Registration for outdoor drones of 100 grams or more since June 20, 2022

WHY JAPAN MATTERS IN DISEC

Japan has clear drone registration rules and a long-standing privacy law. It shows our committee how one country protects privacy while still allowing drones.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

- Since June 20, 2022, Japan has required all drones of 100 grams or more that fly outdoors to be registered, and each must show its registration ID. (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- Japan's Act on the Protection of Personal Information of 2003 set up an independent commission to make sure personal information is handled properly. (Personal Information Protection Commission, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- Japan's drone safety guidelines tell people who post drone images online to respect the privacy of others. (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, January 26, 2023)
- Japan sent comments for a 2014 UN report on privacy in the digital age, which resolution 68/167 had asked for. (OHCHR, June 30, 2014)

OUR POSITION IN ONE SENTENCE

Since 2022, Japan has required outdoor drones of 100 grams or more to be registered and asks people posting drone images to respect privacy.

THREE IDEAS OUR DELEGATE CAN PROPOSE

1. Registering drones: every country requires drones above a small weight to carry a registration ID.

2. Privacy rules for drone cameras: clear limits on recording and posting images of people without permission.

3. Shared UN guidance: a simple UN guide that helps countries write fair drone privacy laws.

CAREFUL NOTE

Japan registers the drone itself, while the European Union makes the operator, the person or company that uses the drone, register.

QUESTIONS WE STILL ANSWER OURSELVES

1. Must drones or their pilots be registered in our country, and do the rules mention cameras or privacy?

2. Does our country have a law that protects personal information?
3. What has our government told the UN about privacy, and how did it vote on drone resolutions?

WHERE WE LOOK

ICAO drone toolkit: https://www.icao.int/uas-toolkit-home

Privacy laws map: https://unctad.org/page/data-protection-and-privacy-legislation-worldwide

Armed drones resolution vote: https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/769152?ln=en

Every fact above names its source and date. We do our own research and write our own position paper, as the conference rules require. This profile is a starting point, not a script.