1. Japanese Inheritance Law (Overview)



Civil Law	Universal Succession. No probate.
Assets	No JTWROS, no joint account, no POD/TOD.
	 Wills A foreign will may be valid if it complies with the law of testator's residence, etc. A Japanese notarized deed will is recommended for Japanese assets.
	Intestacy • The heirs must reach an agreement (or obtain court order) about who takes which property.
	 Trusts A codified law of trusts, which allows the creation of a living trust or testamentary trust. Family trusts are not as commonly used as in the US.
Legally- reserved Portions	 Eligible heirs are heirs other than the decedent's siblings. The legally-reserved portion (relative to the whole) is generally one-half of the decedent's property (comprising the estate and certain lifetime gifts minus debts), which is equally allocated to the decedent's spouse and issue (25% each). The right to a legally-reserved portion is a monetary claim against the devisee upon request by the eligible heir within the prescribed time. The Japanese courts will apply this rule to the decedent's worldwide assets.

2. Japanese Inheritance Tax (Overview)



Taxpayer	Recipient of the assets (heir/devisee), not estate
Scope of Taxation	 Japanese assets Non-Japanese assets in certain cases, such as if: 1) An heir or devisee was resident in Japan when the decedent dies, or 2) The decedent (a Japanese citizen) was resident in Japan at the time of death.
Basic Exclusion	JPY 30 million + (JPY 6 million x the number of legal heirs) ($\approx $276,690 \text{USD}$) ($\approx $55,338 \text{USD}$) If the heirs are a surviving spouse and 2 children (3 heirs), the basic exclusion would be JPY 48 million ($\approx $442,704 \text{ USD}$).
Tax Rate	From 10% to 55% : 10% on amounts of <u>JPY 10 million</u> or less (\approx \$92,230USD) : 55% on amounts over <u>JPY 600 million</u> (\approx \$5,533,800USD) The tax rate is applied not to the estate as a whole, but to the amount each heir is legally entitled to receive pursuant to his statutory share.
Limited Spousal Credit	No tax on amounts received up to the greater of (i) statutory share of the total taxable assets and (ii) JPY 160 million (≈ \$1,475,680 USD)

^{*} JPY1 million =\$9,223USD, as of October 18, 2019.