

**Response of the JAPAN
to the 2023 Questionnaire of the 1st Study Commission IAJ-UIM
“The Effects of Remote Work on the Judicial Workplace and the
Administration of Justice”**

Questions:

1) Remote work of judges in your country

- a. Were judges permitted to work remotely in your country prior to and/or during the COVID-19 pandemic? If yes, please give examples (for example, studying cases at home; discussing cases with colleagues via videoconference applications or the telephone instead of personal meetings; holding hearings online via videoconferencing applications; etc.). Was technical equipment made available to the judges to enable them to work remotely?**

Yes.

Examples: studying cases at home; holding meetings on cases with panel members and other court officials via videoconferencing applications.

- b. What is the status of remote work by judges in your country now? Do many judges still work remotely in your country, and to what extent? (for example, all or just a certain percentage of judges? Only in certain fields of law or for certain types of cases? Only in lower courts or higher courts? etc.)**

Same as a.

2) Effect on judicial work

- a. Did remote work change judicial work in general for better or worse – or both – in your country? Please give examples.**

Diversification of working styles will make judicial work more substantive and efficient, and will lead to the provision of better judicial services.

- b. Does the remote work of judges have an impact on the judicial workplace in your country? Negative, positive or both? Please give examples.**

Diversification of working styles will make judicial work more substantive and efficient, and will lead to the provision of better judicial services.

- c. From your point of view, what future effects of remote work on the judicial workplace – negative, positive or both – can be expected?**

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3) Effects on the administration of justice

a. What are the pros and cons of remote work on the administration of justice?

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b. Does remote work have a positive or negative impact on the administration of justice in general in your country? Please give examples that include, but are not limited to, the quality of the administration of justice.

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c. Are you aware of the public's perceptions of remote work by judges? Please give examples of positive or negative perceptions.

We don't have a grasp on it.

d. What are the positive and/or negative effects of holding remote hearings/conferences?

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4) Remote work and judicial independence

Do you see any positive or negative effects of remote work on judicial independence? If yes, please give examples.

No.

5) Limits on remote work for judges

a. Does your country place any limits on the remote work of judges (for example, limits on remote hearings in criminal cases)? If yes, please give examples.

b. Are there any proposals to change rules or statutes in your country either to permit more, or to limit, remote work by judges?

c. Should there be any changes of rules or statutes in your country either to permit more, or to limit, remote work for judges?

We refrain from answering questions a. to c.