

Gōdō Kaisha Starting a Business in Japan

AHK Japan | DEinternational

What is a Gōdō Kaisha?

The Gōdō Kaisha is based on the U.S. Limited Liability Company (LLC) and its internal structure is similar to that of a partnership, where the liability (similar to the German GmbH) is limited to the amount of equity participation. Recently the Gōdō Kaisha is particularly used for the establishment of project corporations in Japan by foreign investors.

Founding Procedure

- Cross checking with the Legal Affairs Bureau for similar corporation names
- Appointing shareholders: at least one shareholder (with individual persons) or the named representative for Japan (shokumu shokkosha; this is mandatory in case of legal persons as shareholders) has to be present in Japan
- Composition of the corporation contract as well as further founding documents (in case of participation of a foreign legal person as associate it is necessary to create a notarized statement concerning the statute of the shareholder, on which the signature of the representative of the corporation has to be notarized)
- Deposit of capital
- Submission of the registration form to the Legal Affairs Bureau (establishment date)
- Proof of Registration

Further important points

- Even though there is no legally mandatory founding capital for the Gōdō Kaisha, sufficient funding is recommended in order to ensure proper business activities.
- Costs associated with the registration at the trade register in Japan amount to about 60.000 Yen. The establishment, dependent on the time frame needed for the authentication of the notarized statements, can be processed in 6–8 weeks.
- At anytime the Gōdō Kaisha can be transformed into a Kabushiki Kaisha by unanimous agreement of all shareholders.

Contact – AHK Japan | DEinternational

German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan

Sanbancho KS Bldg. 5F
2-4 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo 102-0075, Japan

Phone: +81-(0)3-5276-9811
Fax: +81-(0)3-5276-8733
Email: info@deinternational.jp
Website: www.japan.ahk.de



German Chamber of Commerce
and Industry in Japan
在日ドイツ商工会議所

#PartnerForBusiness