JFTC warns three apparel companies in Gifu district against misleading representations on country of origin

31 October 2003
Japan Fair Trade Commission

Following an investigation into representations on country of origin by apparel companies in Gifu district, the JFTC warned today three manufacturers against possible infringement of Section 4 (3) (misleading representation on country of origin) of the Premiums and Representations Act, and requested an association of clothing industry in Gifu to instruct its members not to engage in similar conduct in the future.   .

1. Outline of warning
(1) Parties to be warned
  - K.K. Garo   Gifu-city
  - Miyabe K.K.   Gifu-city
  - Murakatsu K.K   Gifu-city

(2) Outline of suspected violation
  The three companies made representations which might mislead consumers by detaching the tag marked "Made in China" from the dresses which were made in People's Republic of China and sold to consumers through retailers:

  - K.K Garo pretended that some of the imported formal dresses were made in Japan by detaching the "Made in China" tag and affixing "Made in Japan" one (2000 to January 2003).

  - Miyabe K.K. pretended that some of the women's vest, pants and skirts were made in Japan by detaching "Made in China" display and saving the label with the Japanese language (1997 to July 2003).

  - Murakatsu K.K. pretended that some of the women's pants were made in Japan by detaching "Made in China" display and saving the label with the Japanese language (November 1999 to June 2002).

  Fact: the said clothes were made in China.

(3) Related laws etc.
  The conducts of above (2) are suspected to infringe Section 4 (3) of the Premiums

and Representations Act. The JFTC warned the three companies not to make similar representations in the future.

2. Request to a related trade association

Because the three companies are members of Women and Children Clothing Association of Gifu, The JFTC request the Association to advise its members not to engage in similar conduct in the future and to instruct the members to make appropriate representations.