

**The JFTC surcharged 44 participants in the
bid-rigging for steel bridge construction projects**

March 27, 2006
Fair Trade Commission of Japan

The Fair Trade Commission of Japan (hereinafter “JFTC”), on March 24, 2006, ordered 44 participants to pay surcharge regarding the bid-rigging for steel bridge construction projects procured by Kanto Regional Development Bureau, Tohoku Regional Development Bureau and Hokuriku Regional Development Bureau of the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transportation (hereinafter “MLIT”), and Japan Highway Public Corporation (hereinafter “JH”: See Note 1) based on Section 48-2 (1) of the Antimonopoly Act (before amendment) pursuant to the provisional measures in the amended Antimonopoly Act.

1. Violations related to the surcharge (Recommendations: September 29, 2005, Recommendation Decisions: November 18, 2005)

(1) 45 companies including Takada Kiko Co., Ltd. and other 5 companies (See Note 2) conspired to rig bids for the steel bridge construction projects procured by MLIT.

(2) 45 companies including JFE Engineering Corporation and other 5 companies (See Note 2) also conspired to rig bids for the steel bridge construction projects procured by JH.

Each conduct infringed Section 3 of the Antimonopoly Act (unreasonable restraint of trade) and pertained to the price of the services provided in Section 7-2 (1) of the Act.

(Note 1) JH was privatized into East, Middle and West Nippon Express Company Ltd. in October 2005.

(Note 2) The hearing procedure against 5 companies is ongoing.

2. Total amount of surcharge

	Violators(Corporations)	Violators Surcharged (Corporation)	Surcharge (Thousand Yen)
MLIT	50	43	3,787,730
JH	50	43	9,122,750
Gross (Actual)	100 (50)	86 (44)	12,910,480

(Note): The Section 7-2 (1) of the Antimonopoly Act (before amendment) prescribed that in case the amount of a violator's surcharge computed fall below half a million yen, the JFTC shall not issue the payment order to the violator. According to this section, the JFTC did not issue the payment order to one corporation out of 50 violators in this chart.

3. Deadline for payment

May 24, 2006