Article 22
Communication between the Contracting States

1. In implementing this Agreement, the competent authorities and competent institutions of the Contracting States may communicate directly in Japanese or in one of the official languages of Switzerland with each other and with any person concerned wherever the person may reside.

2. In implementing this Agreement, applications or any other documents may not be rejected by the Japanese competent authorities and competent institutions for the reason that they are written in one of the official languages of Switzerland nor by the Swiss competent authorities and competent institutions for the reason that they are written in Japanese.

Article 23
Data Protection

1. The competent authorities or competent institutions of a Contracting State shall transmit, in accordance with its legislation and other relevant laws and regulations, personal data collected under its legislation to the competent authorities or competent institutions of the other Contracting State insofar as it is necessary for the implementation of this Agreement.

2. With regard to transmission in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Article, personal data shall be protected in accordance with the legislation and other relevant laws and regulations of the Contracting States and the following provisions:

(a) the transmitted personal data may be used by the receiving body for the purpose of the implementation of this Agreement and in accordance with the legislation and other relevant laws and regulations of the receiving State;

(b) in individual cases the receiving body shall, upon the request of the transmitting body, inform that body of the use of the transmitted personal data and the results obtained thereof;

(c) the transmitting body shall ensure that the data to be transmitted are correct and limited to the extent necessary for the purpose of the transmission. If it becomes evident that incorrect data or data whose transmission is incompatible with the laws and regulations of the transmitting State were transmitted, the transmitting body shall immediately notify the receiving body of this fact. In this case the receiving body shall correct or delete this data immediately;

(d) the transmitting body and the receiving body shall, upon the request of the person concerned, inform that person of any personal data transmitted and of the purpose of their transmission;

(e) the transmitted personal data shall be deleted by the receiving body in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of the receiving State if they are no longer required for the purpose for which they were transmitted;

(f) the transmitting body and the receiving body shall record the transmission and the receipt of personal data; and

(g) the transmitting body and the receiving body shall protect personal data effectively from unauthorized access, unauthorized modification and unauthorized disclosure.

Article 24
Submission of Applications,
Appeals and Declarations

1. When a written application for benefits, an appeal or any other declaration under the legislation of a Contracting State is submitted to a competent authority or competent institution of the other Contracting State which is competent to receive similar applications, appeals or declarations under the legislation of that other Contracting State, that application for benefits, appeal or declaration shall be deemed to be submitted on the same date to the competent authority or competent institution of the first Contracting State and shall be dealt with, according to the procedure and legislation of the first Contracting State.