Introduction to the “Registered Information Security Specialist” (RISS) System

IPA Digital Human Resources Center (DHRC)

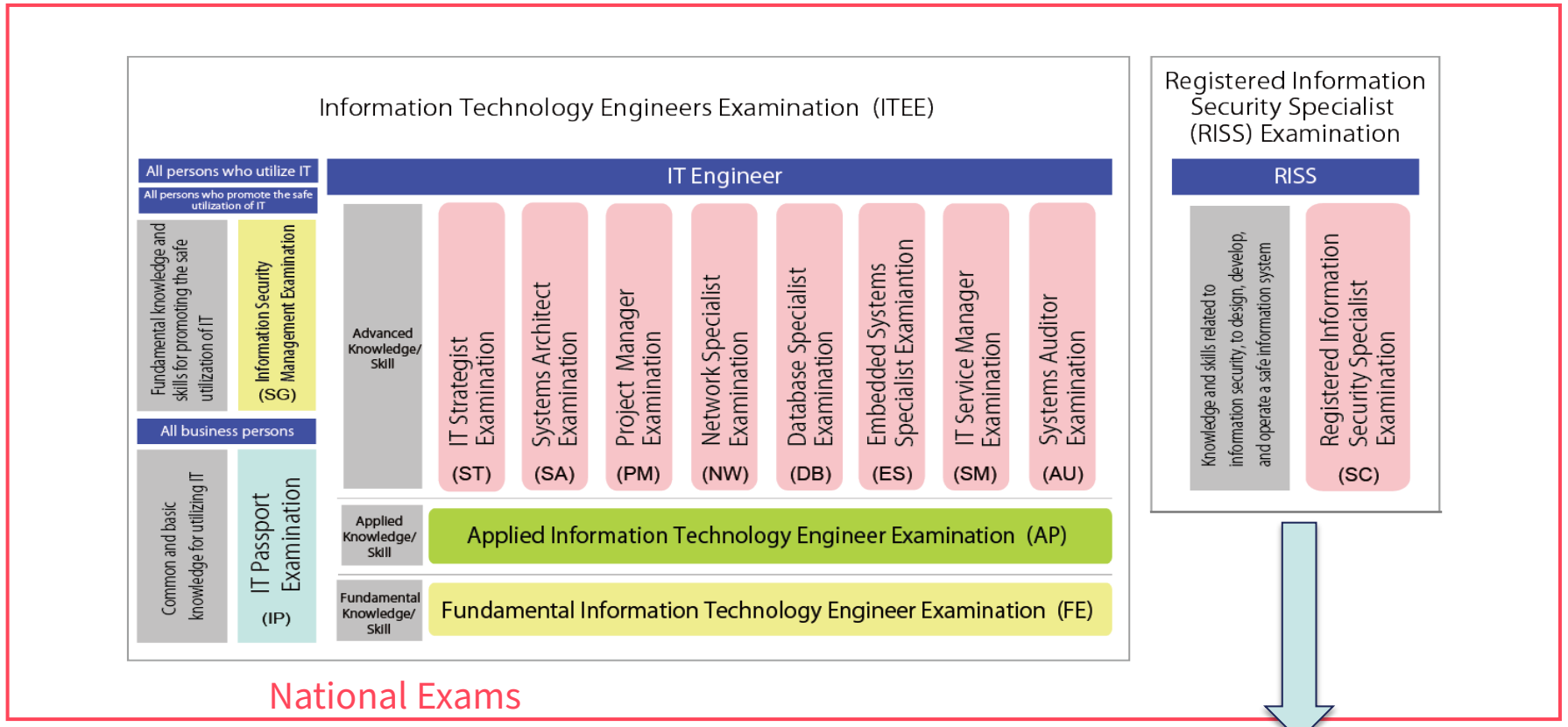
1. Background and Framework of the System
2. Features of the System
3. Benefits of the System
4. Registration and Training

The RISS system is the national qualification system for cyber security professionals.

Legal name	情報処理安全確保支援士
English name	Registered Information Security Specialist (RISS)
Legal basis	Act on Facilitation of Information Processing

【RISS logo】

1. Background and Framework of the System
National Exams and Qualification organized by IPA



The passers of the SC exam must go through the registration process to be qualified as RISS.

Increase and evolution of cyber-attacks

Society's strong dependence on IT

Defense against cyber attacks is now essential

Highly-skilled cyber security professionals with practical expertise and ethical mindset are in need.

Shortage of IT security professionals in quality and in quantity

Human resource development scheme is required:

- Assessing knowledge and skills of IT professionals
- Maintaining and updating knowledge and skills of IT professionals
- Increase the public visibility of the IT professionals
- Helping IT professionals to acquiring ethical sense etc.

The establishment of a national qualification system was proposed. The RISS system was started in October 2016 after revising the "Act on Facilitation of Information Processing."

Acquisition of qualification

- Pass the exam (SC)

OR

- Certified as eligible by the ministry

Registration

- Prepare and submit registration documents
- Submitted documents are reviewed

Background check
Disqualified if:
・A person was sentenced to imprisonment or a severer punishment, or punishment related to cybercrimes and 2 years have not yet elapsed from the date of the completion of execution of the sentence or the date when sentence becomes no more executable.

Role and maintenance

- Registrant's record added to a publicly searchable online database
- Exclusive use of the "RISS" title and logo is permitted
- 4 obligations as RISS

- Completion of required training
- Prohibition of discrediting acts
- Maintenance of confidentiality
- Renewal of registration

2. Features of the System
How to access Registered Information（RISS Searching Service）

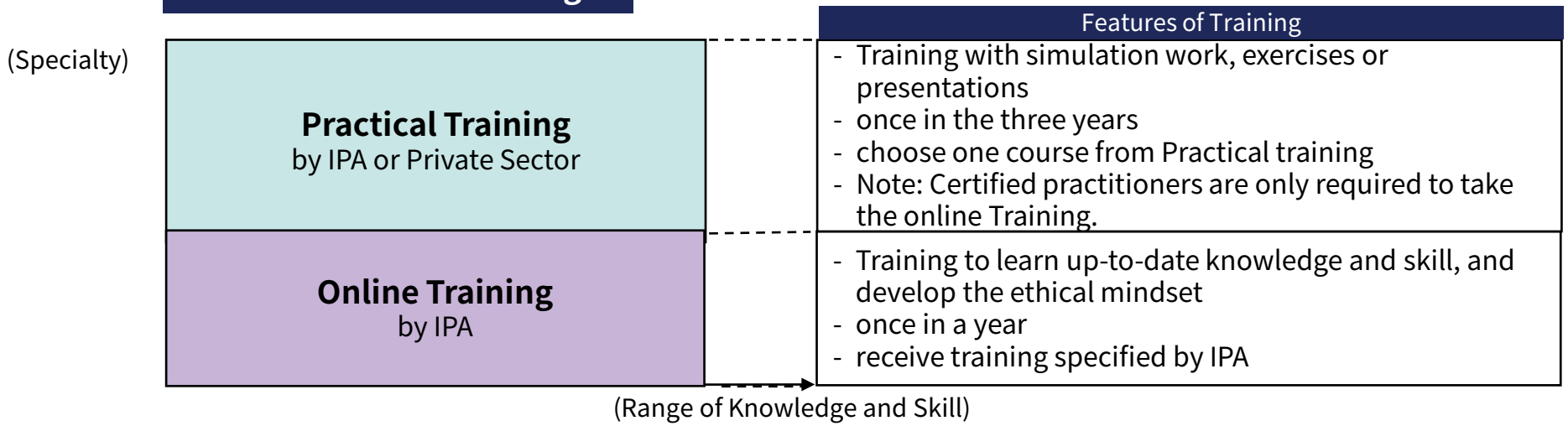
Registered information of RISS can be searched online. It can be searched by categories, such as place of employment and field of expertise.
https://riss.ipa.go.jp (Japanese)

2. Features of the System
Outline of RISS Training and Renewal Cycle

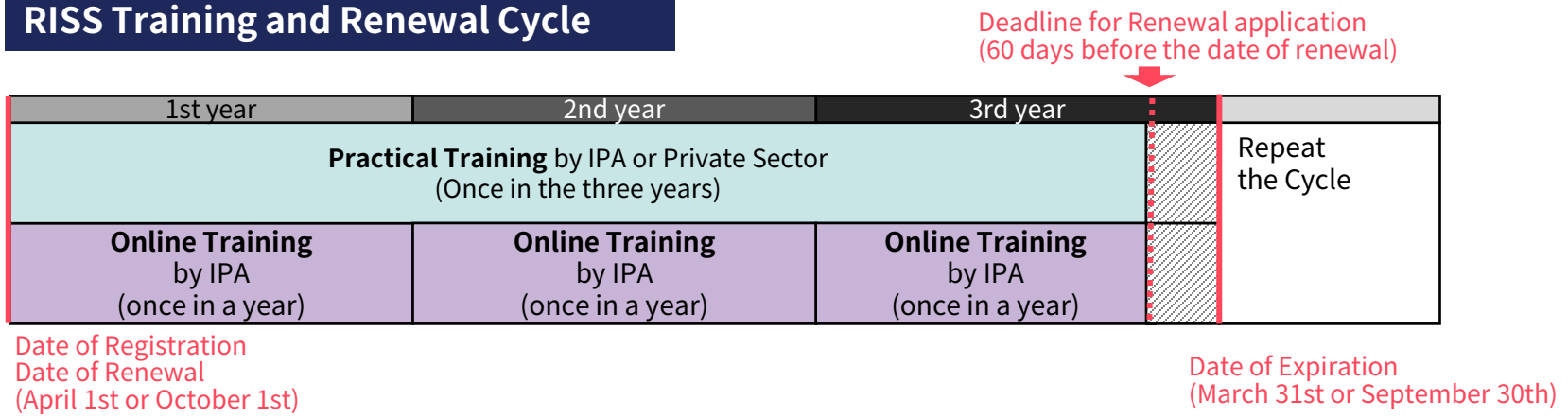
RISS must complete required training to:

- **Update and Improve Knowledge and Skills**
- **Develop an Ethical Mindset**

Outline of RISS Training



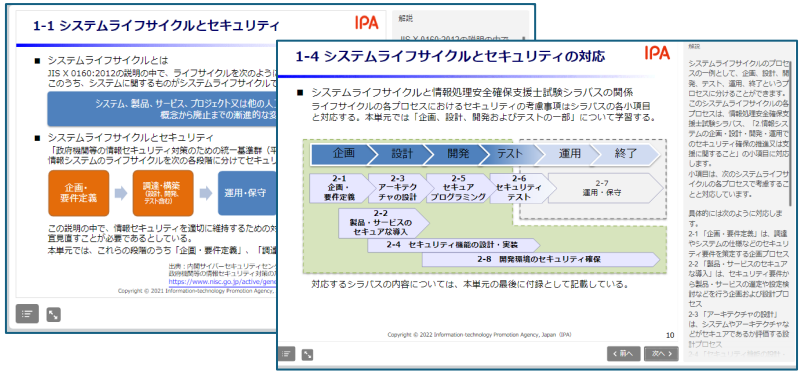
RISS Training and Renewal Cycle



RISS Online Education (about 6 hours)

- Receive training specified by IPA

Self-Study in e-Learning Style



Assessment of Understanding

Example: Online Education for FY2026 (Education materials are updated every year)

Knowledge	3h	• Expected Role and Knowledge as a RISS • Cybersecurity trends within Japan • Business continuity and cybersecurity in driving digital transformation（DX）
Skills	2h	• Supply chain cybersecurity • Secure development (NIST SP 800-218)
Ethics	1h	• Compliance and Governance
Assessment of Understanding (multiple choice question)		

2. Features of the System
RISS Practical Training and Designated Training

RISS Practical Training

- RISS chooses and receives one course depending on his/her interest and work content.

Practical Training by IPA

(1) Practical Training <Course A> — Recommended for the 1st through 3rd year

Through group exercises for incident responses and others, participants acquire the specific techniques and methods for practicing cyber security that are required for RISS.

(2) Practical Training <Course B> — Recommended for the 4st through 6th year

Through exercises in which a group considers security advice when starting a new business, participants acquire practical skills for use in their work.

(3) Practical Training <Course C> — Recommended for the 7th year or later

Through hands-on incident response simulations and group discussions, participants gain practical knowledge and skills to deliver strategic guidance for executive decision-making, as expected of a RISS.

(4) Cyber Resilience Enhancement eXercise by industry（CyberREX）

This cybersecurity　exercise targets managers and deals with different scenarios by industry to learn how to strengthen responsiveness and resilience against cyber attacks.

(5) Cyber SecuriTy practIcal eXercise for industrial control system (CyberSTIX)

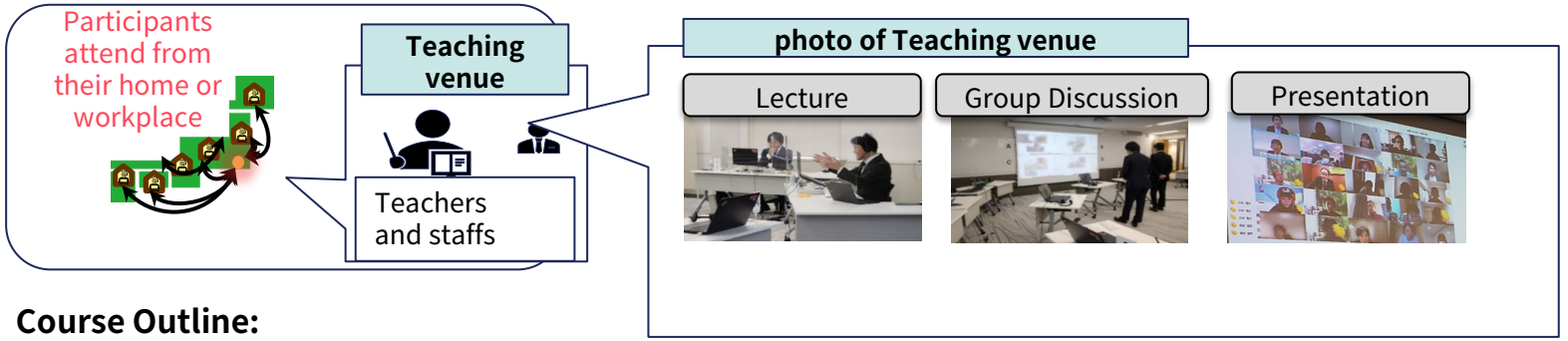
This exercise targets practitioners engaged in OT(Operational Technology) to deepen their understanding of industrial control system security by experiencing cyber attacks against a simulated system and its defense mechanisms.

Practical Training by Private Sector

Courses offered by private sector, which have been approved by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, having equal or greater effect than RISS Practical training conducted by IPA.

2. Features of the System
RISS Practical Training

Format: Self-Study (e-Learning) + Group Discussion with Web Conference Tool



Course Outline:

Practical Training <Course A>

1． Self-Study (e-Learning) (about 3 hours)
1. Incident Response Method
2. Ethics in Cyber Security

2． Group Discussion (10:00～17:00)
Case #1:
Incident Response
Case #2:
Preventive Measures
Case #3:
Ethical Judgments and Actions

Practical Training <Course B>

1． Self-Study (e-Learning) (about 3 hours)
1. Protection of personal information
2. DX with Cybersecurity
3. Preparation for Incident Response

2． Group Discussion (10:00～18:00)
1.Case #1:
Collaboration on Digital Transformation
2.Case #2:
Preparation for Incident Response
3.Review of the Day

Practical Training <Course C>

1． Self-Study (e-Learning) (about 3 hours)
1. Cyber Security and risk management
2. Approach to Incident Response

2． Group Discussion (10:00～18:00)
1.Incident Response (Detection and Analysis)
2.Incident Response (Containment and Eradication)
3.Incident Response (Recovery)
4. Review of the Day

A summary of the most frequent comments for <Course A>

- I gained new perspectives.
- It was a good opportunity to practice incident handling.
- I got useful tips to improve my work performance.
- The group discussion was meaningful.
- I learned that a good understanding of business is a must when handling cyber security incidents.
- I realized the importance of perceiving a situation from alternative viewpoints.
- I became more aware of the importance of being ethical.

3. Benefits of the System
Benefits for RISS and his/her Employers

RISS system not only helps to demonstrate the commitment to superior professionalism of the registrants, but also helps the industries become more secure and reliable.

Improvement of Capability

Business Benefit

Social Responsibility

	RISS	IT vendors	User companies
Improvement of Capability	Updating knowledge	Understanding the security requirements from the client's standpoint	Strengthening their cybersecurity measures with top management
	Participating in the community of professionals	Planning, developing, and operating secure information systems	Defining and presenting security requirements for the information systems
	Preferential treatments to obtain related qualifications*		
Business Benefit	Increased opportunities of employment	Meeting criteria for government procurement*	Improving reliability and reputation
Social Responsibility	**Contribution to More Secure Society**		

1. Bid requirements

- In some bids, it is mandatorily required to have RISS in the project.

By searching the “Government Procurement Portal” (https://information1.gov-procurement.go.jp/en/) managed by the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, 416 tender notices require to assign technical staff with RISS or equivalent qualification（as of July 28, 2023）

2. Preferential Treatments to obtain related qualifications

- RISS enjoys the benefit when obtaining the qualification to assist information security audit.
  - While 5-day training is required for obtaining the assistant auditor’s qualification, it is shortened to 1-day for RISS.
  - Exemption of written examination

Please refer to the website below for more information：
Japan Information Security Audit Association “Special Schemes on Advanced Information Security Qualification”
https://www.jasa.jp/qualification/info_secure_supporter.html (Japanese)

- RISS enjoys the benefit when applying for the Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) employee qualification, a certified individual assessor of PCI DSS*.
  - RISS is accredited as one of the information security qualifications required to apply for the QSA employee.

* The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) is a set of information security standards to handle credit card information.
Please refer to the website below for more information：
https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/minisite/ja-ja/ (Japanese)

The number of RISS is
26,453
(as of April 1, 2026)

Age	Registrants	%
10 - 19	20	0.1%
20 - 29	2,227	8.4%
30 - 39	6,281	23.7%
40 - 49	9,398	35.5%
50 - 59	6,895	26.1%
60 - 69	1,588	6.0%
70 - 79	43	0.2%
80 - 89	1	0.0%
Average	44.3 years old	

As of April 1, 2026

Occupation	Registrants	%
Information processing/information service	8,324	36.2%
Software industry	5,208	22.7%
Manufacturing industry	2,123	9.2%
Transport or telecommunication industry	1,594	6.9%
Service industry	1,102	4.8%
Government or public interest groups	1,099	4.8%
Finance, insurance business, or real estate industry	909	4.0%
Manufacturing or sales of computers and peripheral devices	710	3.1%
Construction industry	392	1.7%
Education (school/research institute)	313	1.4%
Wholesale, retail business, or restaurants	281	1.2%
Electricity, gas, heat supply, or waterway industry	212	0.9%
Medical, or welfare industry	123	0.5%
Research industry and advertising business	63	0.3%
Agriculture, forestry, fishery, or mining	12	0.1%
Other (students, not entered, etc.)	507	2.2%

＊from the current situation survey（N=22,972）

4. Registration and Training
Number of Registrants based on Prefectures

As of April 1, 2026

Region	Prefecture	Registrants	%	Region	Prefecture	Registrants	%
Hokkaido (North)	Hokkaido	328	1.2%	Kinki (Mid-West)	Kyoto	340	1.3%
Tohoku (North-East)	Aomori	50	0.2%		Osaka	1,583	6.0%
	Iwate	98	0.4%		Shiga	122	0.5%
	Miyagi	290	1.1%		Hyogo	744	2.8%
	Akita	53	0.2%		Nara	173	0.7%
	Yamagata	44	0.2%		Wakayama	51	0.2%
	Fukushima	72	0.3%	Chugoku (West)	Tottori	38	0.1%
Kanto (Capital Area)	TOKYO	8,558	32.4%		Shimane	59	0.2%
	Ibaraki	388	1.5%		Okayama	135	0.5%
	Tochigi	97	0.4%		Hiroshima	255	1.0%
	Gunma	137	0.5%		Yamaguchi	62	0.2%
	Saitama	2,225	8.4%	Shikoku (South-West)	Tokushima	47	0.2%
	Chiba	2,190	8.3%		Kagawa	117	0.4%
	Kanagawa	4,684	17.7%		Ehime	74	0.3%
Chubu/Tokai (Mid-East)	Niigata	120	0.5%		Kochi	28	0.1%
	Toyama	132	0.5%	Kyushu/Okinawa (Far West/ South)	Fukuoka	605	2.3%
	Ishikawa	161	0.6%		Saga	45	0.2%
	Fukui	56	0.2%		Nagasaki	70	0.3%
	Yamanashi	55	0.2%		Oita	64	0.2%
	Nagano	167	0.6%		Kumamoto	82	0.3%
	Gifu	168	0.6%		Miyazaki	44	0.2%
	Shizuoka	306	1.2%		Kagoshima	42	0.2%
	Aichi	1,075	4.1%		Okinawa	108	0.4%
	Mie	103	0.4%	Overseas	Overseas	8	0.0%

For further information on the system and registration etc., please see IPA website below.

https://www.ipa.go.jp/jinzai/riss/index.html (Japanese)