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THE WORK OF INVESTIGATIVE AND FORENSIC AGENCIES: JAPANESE EXPERIENCE

The criminal investigation and forensic system in Japan relies on centralised coordination by the National Police Agency and regional police departments, which determine both operational methods and standards for forensic investigations. The National Police Agency's 2024 white paper pays particular attention to the challenges posed by the emergence of anonymous and flexible criminal groups that use social networks and cryptographic technologies for recruitment and money laundering. In this regard, the police are strengthening interagency cooperation, developing laboratory capabilities and integrating digital tools into the investigation cycle. This takes the form of a pragmatic combination of traditional investigative methods and new analytical approaches aimed at reducing the time spent identifying sources of information and increasing the accuracy of reconstructing events [1].

In parallel with the changing threats, there is a rapid digitisation of investigative procedures. In 2025, the government approved a legislative initiative that allows requests for warrants to be submitted electronically and submitted digitally during investigative actions, which should reduce administrative delays and increase the efficiency of procedural actions. This transformation is accompanied by reforms in the information infrastructure of law enforcement agencies and a gradual transition to electronic document management in criminal proceedings. At the same time, the transition to digital procedures raises questions about the cybersecurity of data exchange systems and the confidentiality of pre-trial investigation materials [2].

In the field of forensic science, Japan actively uses modern laboratory technologies, including rapid DNA analysis and mobile forensic laboratories. This is evidenced by the practice of state support for the transfer of equipment for rapid analysis and the establishment of mobile operational units both within the country and abroad in the form

of international assistance. The supply of portable solutions and equipment for forensic laboratories helps to speed up the identification of samples and reduce the time required for initial examinations, which in turn affects the speed of investigations and the ability to quickly link suspects to crime scenes. The external assistance that Japan provides to other countries to strengthen their forensic capabilities also reflects the country's technological resources and relevant organisational practices [3].

Artificial intelligence information technologies and analytical systems for predicting offences play a significant role in Japanese practice. A government project that implemented systems for predicting the locations and times of likely offences and optimising patrol routes demonstrates a desire to use algorithmic approaches to crime prevention. The use of such systems allows resources to be concentrated in more vulnerable areas and reduces response times to incidents, but at the same time raises questions about the transparency of algorithms, data bias and legal safeguards against unjustified surveillance. In the Japanese context, these issues are particularly important due to the high level of public trust in institutions and sensitivity to interference in private life [3].

Despite technological improvements, systemic risks identified by civil society and human rights organisations remain in the Japanese system. The practice of prolonged interrogation in custody, intensive confrontations and the high influence of 'confessions' as evidence sometimes lead to criticism from international observers and the media. Discussions of cases that have raised questions about possible coerced confessions and the conditions of prolonged investigative detention have stimulated debate about the need to strengthen procedural safeguards, review interrogation tactics, and increase the role of judicial oversight to prevent wrongful convictions. Reforms aimed at more transparent control over the procedure of detention and interrogation are still progressing slowly and require a comprehensive approach between legislative changes and staff training [5].

In the field of cybercrime and investigations in the digital space, there has been a systematic increase in specialised units in regional police departments and the creation of national cyber departments that analyse large volumes of digital evidence, investigate organised cybercrime networks and counter information security threats. The

integration of forensic laboratories with cyber units allows for comprehensive investigations that combine traditional investigative methods and digital forensics, focusing on data recovery, transaction tracing, and electronic trace identification. The improvement of these capabilities is accompanied by training programmes and cooperation with scientific institutions to develop methodologies and standards for the analysis of digital evidence [1].

International cooperation is an important element of Japan's experience, as transnational criminal networks require coordination at the regional and global levels. Japan participates in multilateral initiatives, exchanges technology, and conducts training for law enforcement agencies in other countries. This policy promotes the standardisation of practices, but at the same time poses the challenge of harmonising procedures for the exchange of evidence and guarantees of its legitimacy in accordance with international standards.

Japan's experience in organising the work of investigative and forensic agencies in 2022–2025 demonstrates a simultaneous focus on technological modernisation and the preservation of existing institutional practices. The digitisation of processes and the introduction of analytical systems increase the efficiency and potential of forensics, while the development of mobile and express laboratories contributes to faster evidence identification. At the same time, issues related to procedural guarantees, interrogation methods and the risks of algorithmic opacity require further attention. Legislative clarifications, improved data protection standards and large-scale staff training programmes are necessary for the effective and ethical use of technology. International cooperation and exchange of experience remain key to adapting to new challenges, but internal reforms that ensure transparency and protect human rights during investigations are a prerequisite for a sustainable improvement in the quality of forensic practice.

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INTEGRATING ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS INTO THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE

English language proficiency is becoming a critically important professional requirement for the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) system of Ukraine amid social transformation driven by the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war, Euro-integration, democratic processes, and close international cooperation with partners at the international level. As rightly noted: "English proficiency among law enforcement and rescue personnel is an important step towards strengthening international ties. This will facilitate communication with foreign colleagues, participation in international training, and joint operations" [1].

The purpose of the work is to analyze the current state of MIA professional standards, substantiate the critical necessity, and develop