
A Great Way to Use Foreign Cash Left Over from Trips Abroad!

Terminals installed in 3 stores to convert foreign currency into e-money etc.

- In alliance with Pocket Change Inc. -

In alliance with Pocket Change Inc. (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo; President: Shin Aoyama), on Thursday March 22 NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY CO., LTD. (Headquarters: Chuo-ku, Tokyo; President: Akihiro Horisaka) started the roll-out of terminals to convert leftover foreign cash into a form that can be used domestically, such as electronic money and gift vouchers. The terminals are to be installed in three NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY stores (Kyoto, Osaka and Sannomiya).

This is the first time that the Pocket Change service has been adopted in the Kyoto area.



Even though foreign countries are moving towards becoming cashless societies with their increasing use of credit cards and e-money, they do still have cash transactions. Many of our customers return to Japan from overseas travel or business trips with leftover foreign currency. Surveys run by financial institutions reveal that more than 80% of people who changed money for a trip overseas have found themselves with leftover foreign cash. It seems that many people just put any leftover coins or notes from their trips overseas into a drawer or somewhere and forget about it. Apparently, around one trillion yen's worth of foreign currency is thought to be stowed away like that in Japan.

NIPPON TRAVEL has formed an alliance with Pocket Change Inc., the first company in Japan to develop a service where foreign banknotes and coins can be converted into e-money and gift vouchers that can be used here. We will install dedicated terminals in three stores (TiS Kyoto, TiS Osaka, and TiS Sannomiya). All three stores are conveniently located inside stations (in front of the ticket gate) so people can convert leftover foreign cash into familiar e-money or vouchers during their commute or while out shopping.

Overseas travellers to Japan (inbound customers) can also use the terminals since they can convert Japanese yen into e-money that can be used in their own country.

Going forward, NIPPON TRAVEL will increase the number of stores installed with the terminals nationwide and encourage the efficient use of leftover foreign cash.

■ Overview

1. Stores that will install terminals, and the dates the service will be launched

- (1) Store name (location): TiS Kyoto (Inside JR Kyoto Station, in front of the central ticket barrier)
Service launched: Thursday March 22
- (2) Store name (location): TiS Osaka (Inside JR Osaka Station, in front of the central ticket barrier)
Service launched: Friday March 23
- (3) Store name (location): TiS Sannomiya (Inside JR Sannomiya Station, in front of the East Gate ticket barrier)
Service launched: Saturday March 24

* NIPPON TRAVEL plans to increase the number of stores installed with the terminals nationwide.

2. Service details

- (1) Currencies supported:
US dollar, euro, Chinese yuan, Korean won, Japanese yen
- (2) Languages supported:
Japanese, English, Chinese (traditional/simplified), Korean
- (3) Service: Leftover foreign cash (banknotes and coins) can be converted into e-money etc. as listed below.
WAON, Rakuten Edy, Amazon gift voucher, WeChat Pay, Rakuten Super Point (can only be used for Taiwan Rakuten Ichiba), Ctrip, ecoPayz, Culture Land, Ticket Monster, Ybex, and more ... (Over 20 types in all)
* WAON is a registered trademark of AEON Co., Ltd.
* Rakuten Edy is the Rakuten Group's prepaid form of e-money.
* In addition to e-money and gift vouchers, it is also possible to donate to a charity such as UNICEF.
- (4) Operating method: The terminal is simple to operate! Personal data such as your name and email address are not required so there is no need to worry about security!
 - (1) Select your country of residence and the conversion service you want
 - (2) Put the foreign cash (banknotes and coins) into the slot or tray
 - (3) Check the exchange rate, then swipe the IC card you want to use and charge it!
* If you want to convert the cash into a gift voucher or the like, you will be issued a receipt printed with the necessary information. You will need to carry out the necessary procedures yourself at a later time.

■ Overview of Pocket Change Inc.

Company name: Pocket Change Inc. (<https://www.pocket-change.jp/>)

Address: Shiba Estē Bdg. 9F, 1-15-13 Shiba, Minato-ku, Tokyo

Representative: Shin Aoyama, President & CEO

Established: December 2015



Developed a service to convert foreign banknotes and coins into e-money or gift vouchers etc. which can be used domestically. (The first such service in Japan.)

Service launched in February 2017 with the installation of a dedicated terminal in the arrivals lobby of the Haneda Airport International Terminal.

19 terminals have been installed in locations such as airports (international terminals) and hotels as of March 20.