

The purpose of AGL

Association of Gemmological Laboratories, Japan, is the nation's first organisation formed by corporations from all over Japan which identify gemstones and/or grade diamonds as its major business. Its hands-on activities include discussions on common issues in the industry, accommodation, research and information exchange to resolve issues and dissemination of the results to the industry. AGL firmly maintains neutrality to uphold the consumer benefit and plays a significant role in the gems and jewellery industry for its healthy and wealthy progress by contributing to establish a fair foundation of the trade.

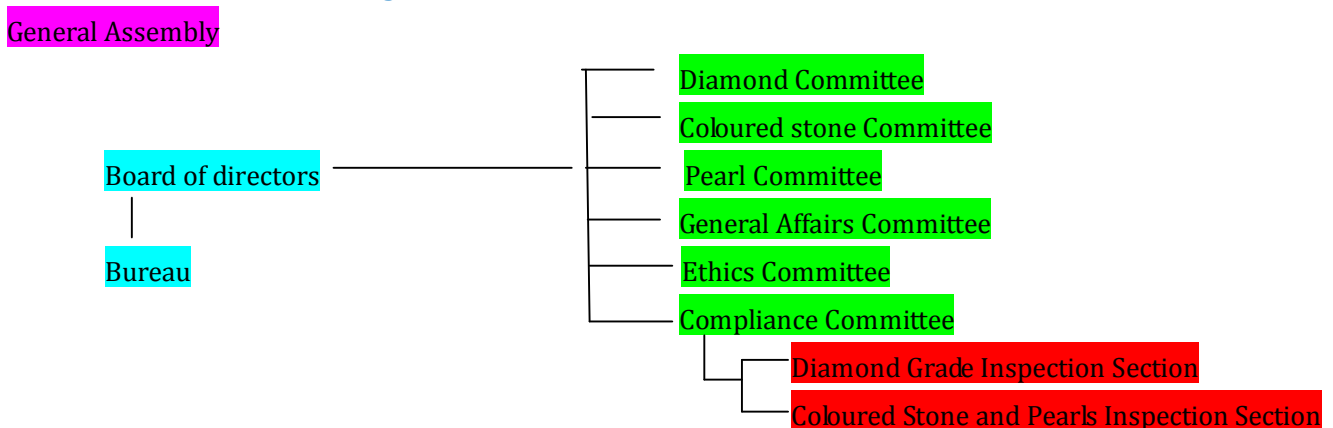
The members of AGL

The member shall be an independent office of a corporation, whose main business is gemstone identification and/or grading, as well as fulfil the following requirements:

1. two or more constituent members of the relevant corporation shall have completed gemmology course in or out of the country and should have experience of identification or grading for more than two years,
2. it has been under a healthy business operation for more than two years,
3. it shall not participate in sales transaction or pricing of gemstones as a business, and
4. it shall obtain JJA/AGL- authorized master stone set(s).

Also the member shall be in the environment in which it operates identification and/or grading work by maintaining a neutral stance in accordance with the membership regulations.

organisation chart



Business Contents

- * Establishment and dissemination of the regulations on basic statements and descriptions for identification reports and diamond grading reports.
- * Research and standardization of scientific determination criteria for gemstone identification and/or grading.
- * Information exchange and research on gemstone identification and/or grading.
- * Consultation and investigation on determination variations in gemstone identification and/or grading.
- * Establishment of liability and compensation limits of gemstone identification and/or grading operation.
- * Consumer consultation on gemstone identification and/or grading.
- * Other activities to achieve the purpose of the association.

List of AGL members (2015)

company name	address	Tel / (Fax)
Japan Gem Appraisal	NC Garden-heim 2F, South8 West3, Cyuo-ku, Sapporo 064-0808	011-511-9676 (011-511-9682)
AGT Gem Laboratory	Okachimachi-CY Bilg., 5-15-14 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3834-6586 (03-3834-6589)
Gem Research Laboratory	Daiichi-higasa Bldg. 2F, 1-20-4 Higashi-ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0015	03-3833-0028 (03-3835-8348)
Jewel Trading Laboratory	5-21-3 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3835-0607 (03-3835-0693)
Japan Technical Gem laboratory (Tokyo)	5-2-3 Soto-kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0021	03-3834-5491 (03-3834-5492)
Diamond Grading Laboratory (Tokyo)	Amano Bldg. 4F, 5-18-7 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3832-2432 (03-3832-2439)
CGL (Central Gem Laboratory)	Miyagi Bldg., 5-15-14 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3836-1627 (03-3832-6861)
Gem Science Academy of Gemology, Tokyo	Kojima Bldg. 2F, 3-20-8 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3836-5838 (03-3836-5837)
Japan Gem Testing Center (Tokyo)	Nisshin Bldg. 5F, 4-29-13 Taito, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3836-1388 (03-3836-1389)
Nippon Gemstone Laboratory	Shiho Bldg., 5-11-7 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3834-3468 (03-3834-3469)
Universal Gem Laboratory	Dai2-Orient Bldg. 7F, 5-13-11 Ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0005	03-3836-2315 (03-3831-2136)
Nichibei Gem Appraisal	Aurum Bldg. 212, 1-26-2 Higashi-ueno, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110-0015	03-3833-3723 (03-3833-3720)
Japan Germany Gemmological Laboratory	824-5 Furukamijyo-machi, Kofu 400-0051	055-243-2690 (055-243-8377)
Metro Gem Testing Laboratory	4-3-30 Sumiyoshi, Kofu 400-0851	055-232-3990 (055-232-3999)
Diamond Grading Laboratory (Nagoya)	5-30-12 Imaike, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-0850	052-732-0580 (052-732-0622)
Diamond Grading Laboratory (Osaka)	E-ze- Bldg. 4F, 3-3-10 Minami-senba, Cyuo-ku, Osaka 542-0081	06-6253-1436 (06-6253-1430)
Japan Gem Testing Center (Osaka)	Daido Bldg. 2F, 1-9-24 Higashi-shinsaibashi, Cyuo-ku, Osaka 542-0083	06-6251-1571 (06-6251-1572)
Gem Research Japan	Nagahorido-Bldg 5F, 1-3-10 Higashi-shinsaibashi Cyuo-ku, Osaka 542-0083	06-6252-1222 (06-6252-1223)
Diamond Grading Laboratory (Fukuoka)	BS Bldg. 4F, 3-19-14 Hakata-ekimae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka 812-0013	092-414-6065 (092-413-7717)

History of the Association of Gemmological Laboratories, Japan

- Kanwa-Kai club was established in 1977, to discuss identification and grading of gemstones.

The club, which was the parent organisation of the Association of Gemmological Laboratories, Japan, was organized by gemmological laboratories from all over Japan in response to a request by volunteers in the industry for a gathering at which members could discuss issues on gemstone identification and grading.

- The Association of Gemmological Laboratories, Japan, was established in 1981.

The association was organized by 29 corporations which conform to the strict membership requirements in order to follow the purpose of the Kanwa-Kai club as well as to give effectivity to issue resolutions and implementation of the agreement.

- Inspection and adjustment on diamond grading was started

Grading of diamonds is regularly inspected and the results are reflected in adjustment for variations between laboratories.

- Consumer complaint survey was started

The association started the first field survey of consumer complaint on jewellery in the industry. The report received a high commendation from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (currently the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) and from various quarters.

- Customer consultation desk was set up.

Consultation desk was set up in the office of the association to provide proper advices for gemstone problems or complaints collected from the government and local consumer centres located throughout Japan. The association also holds seminars and exchange meetings for the consumer centres and similar organisations to disseminate accurate knowledge on gemstones.

- Information disclosure on gemstones was started in 1994.

Aiming to provide consumers gemstone information more precisely, the association created the "Regulations on definitions and nomenclature for substances used as gemstones or for jewellery" with the cooperation of Japan Jewellery Association (JJA) and started information disclosure with statements on the gemstone identification reports.

- Diamond masterstone (for colour grading) accreditation system was started in 1996.

In cooperation with GIA headquarters over a period of seven years, aiming to standardise diamond grading, AGL and JJA installed the standard diamond master stones (standard stones) in October 1996. AGL obliged the members to hold "the JJA/AGL approved master stone set".

- Operations management committee for the standard diamond master stones was established in September 1996.

When large variation in colour grading occurs between AGL members, based on an arbitration request, convene an "operations management committee for the standard stones", which consists of representatives from JJA and AGL, to arbitrate in an attitude of strict neutrality. Strict actions including "recommendation for

improvement” and “revocation of accreditation” may be taken in accordance with the arbitration. The accredited master stone set should be regularly inspected and the accreditation should be renewed.

- Global standardisation of information disclosure (September 2004)

As a gemstone is a universal commodity, with the cooperation of foreign inspection agencies, revision was made on identification reports so that the identification result should be described in a mineral name or gem name and specific statement such as existence/non-existence of treatment is required.

- Regulations on definitions and nomenclature for pearls were created in October 2004.

Definitions and nomenclature of pearls were made explicit to harmonise the names.

- Ethics committee was set up in November 2005.

The role of the committee is to maintain integrity and dignity of AGL. The committee investigates if members comply with the regulations and operate gemstone examinations in accordance with the rules, and takes actions as appropriate. The committee accepts an intellectual outside the gemstone industry as a chairperson.

- AGL obtained corporate status.

The association became a limited liability intermediate corporation in December 2005 by Intermediate Corporation Act (enforced in April 2002), and became a general incorporated association in December 2008 according to the law revision. After obtaining the corporate status, activities in and out of the jewellery industry has become easier, and the association intensifies propagation activities of gemstone examination importance as well as other knowledge.

- Compliance committee was set up in September 2009.

The committee aims to arbitrate and harmonise technical issues such as “variations in diamond grading” or “disagreement of identification results” between AGL members.

