

Yet More Japanese Translation aids

The release of a new translation tool in Europe or North America is more common than it used to be, but it is still relatively uncommon. Not so in Japan. Earlier this year Sanyo joined the long line of Japanese companies which have braved this arena with its Transporter E-J. This JP¥ 25,000 (US\$250) package is compatible with Windows, DOS/V, and NEC P-98 and can process Microsoft Word documents at the rate of up to 400 words per minute. Nothing is known about the output quality. According to a report on the Newsbytes news service, Sanyo anticipates first-year sales of 50,000 packages.

Meanwhile, Fuji Xerox has introduced a series of handheld "translation" computers which offer built-in speech synthesis. Lyucho Club W and Lyucho Club M translate between English and Japanese and have dictionaries of 1,600 words. In addition, Club W, which has a synthesized male voice, offers no less than 3,277 canned phrases, while Club W, with a synthesized female voice, contains 3,351 phrases. For travelers to Korea, Fuji Xerox offers Lyucho Ujon, which has a Korean, Japanese, and English dictionary of 1,604 words and phrases. It also offers Lyucho Niaha, which includes Chinese, and Lyucho Euro Travel, which contains Italian, German, French, and Spanish in addition to English and Japanese. Prices range from JP¥ 31,800 to JP¥ 36,800 (US\$366 to US\$424).