

Tokyo Electric Power Services Co., Ltd. Quickly Evolved its Expense Reimbursement System Using WebLogic Server for OCI

Tokyo Electric Power Services Co., Ltd. (TEPSCO), a construction consulting firm of the Tokyo Electric Power Company Group, has been designing and supervising civil engineering, construction, electricity, and mechanical equipment in both Japan and overseas since 1960. With regional branch offices in 37 countries around the world, TEPSCO has undertaken numerous projects from planning and research to operations and maintenance of power generation, transmission, and distribution equipment.

TEPSCO developed a cloud-based expense reimbursement system that manages expenses, balances, and issues deposit slips at overseas branch offices that were previously operating in an on-premises environment. By adopting WebLogic Server for OCI, TEPSCO migrated from standalone Microsoft Access based application to a web application in just three months and immediately gained real-time insight into the status of reimbursements and expedited month-end financial closing and reconciliation.

Background

For several years, TEPSCO provided and maintained an on-premises expense reimbursement application for each of the overseas branches using a standalone Microsoft Access application. However, local employees at overseas locations required improvements to make their work more efficiently and convenient rather than sending copies of expense voucher documents to the head office every month.

The head office accounting department was processing all the vouchers monthly and received 300-800 expense reimbursement applications from overseas branches per month in CSV and MS Access file formats. Because aggregation processing was concentrated from the end of each month to the beginning of the next month, settlement work in the group was oftentimes delayed and the overseas branches needed a more immediate response. To make matters even more complex, any time the expense account changed, each overseas branch office needed to manually change the setting individually which resulted in 23 manual changes and those changes were not able to handle the expense reimbursement in real-time. Because of these issues, TEPSCO decided to develop a highly secure expense reimbursement system in the cloud.



Highlights:

- With WebLogic Server for OCI, the implementation of the new cloud-based expense application took only 3 months and was done by TEPSCO itself
- The new expense reimbursement system enables local employees at overseas offices can submit their expenses and get them approved quickly from anywhere and any time
- TEPSCO was able to eliminate hardware and save time and money with the new cloud-based expense reimbursement system based on WebLogic Server for OCI



Oracle products Used

- Oracle Database Cloud Service
- Oracle Identity Management Cloud Service
- Oracle Cloud Infrastructure
- Oracle WebLogic Server for Oracle Cloud Infrastructure

Why TEPSCO Chose Oracle

TEPSCO did an evaluation of cloud-based vendors in the space and decided to standardize on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) for its Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) for its expense reimbursement system. It was an easy decision for TEPSCO because they already utilized several Oracle products including Oracle Database with PL/SQL assets and Oracle WebLogic Server for its mission-critical systems. With Oracle providing a successful track record of 25+ years for the stable operation of these products, it really was an easy decision for TEPSCO to go with OCI. Some benefits seen include:

- **The implementation of the cloud-based application only took 3 months and was done by TEPSCO itself.** TEPSCO has a corporate culture that emphasizes IT in-house production. TEPSCO is an expert in defining and executing on its IT work. TEPSCO's partner company, Fullenergy, Limited had deep knowledge and experience with WebLogic Server and was able to work with TEPSCO to deploy the infrastructure components with WebLogic Server and application specifications and further, was able to adopt WebLogic Server for OCI. Because of its solid understanding, of WebLogic Server, Fullenergy Limited, along with TEPSCO was able to complete its cloud modernization of the expense reimbursement system at 23 office branches in less than 6 months and it has been fully operational and stable since February 2021.
- **The new cloud-based expense applications were developed using WebLogic Server for OCI.** In particular, the web-based Graphical User Interface (GUI) to the system was able to remain exactly the same and was all made possible by WebLogic Server for OCI. This enabled users to have the exact same visual experience as their prior on-premises expense reimbursement system -- all the screen images and transitions provided the exact same experience for employees which enabled TEPSCO to not have to re-educate their system users.
- **The old stand-alone expense reimbursement system has been reborn as a web application system consisting of Oracle Database Cloud Service and WebLogic Server for OCI.** TEPSCO adopted Oracle Database Cloud Service to manage all expense data items in which electronic copies of

voucher documents need to be submitted by local employees. Using WebLogic Server for OCI, TEPSCO developed an online workflow process for expense report submission, approval, and reimbursement all from an intuitive web-based GUI.

- **With the new expense reimbursement system, local employees at overseas offices can submit their expenses and get them approved quickly from anywhere at any time.** User management is centrally managed by Identity Cloud Service (IDCS) which provides multi-factor authentication (MFA) when employees are working from outside the office (home, hotels, etc.). IDCS provides a huge convenience to employees working remotely. When employees are working inside the office, they are able to login without MFA. Local employees no longer need to go into the office to submit expenses or send in voucher documents on a monthly basis due to the ability to upload electronic receipts. With the new expense reimbursement system, the accounting department can see expenses in-real time, process and approve expenses quickly. This is resulted and shortening the aggregation process enabling the end of the month closing to advance by one month.

The transition from on-premises expenses to a cloud-based expense reimbursement solution has also brought the following benefits to the IT department:

- **Elimination of hardware maintenance labor costs:** With the previous system, it took three days to set up the PCs which had to be shipped to the regional offices, but now, hardware does not need to be replaced.
- **Savings in both time and money:** Previously, when system setting changes were needed such as master updates due to changes in job structure or account items, the IT department had to work with each office individually. Now, with the system based on WebLogic Server for OCI, the IT department can centrally manage user management and settings, so this task has been eliminated, resulting in overall cost and time savings.

Looking to the Future

TEPSCO is pleased that all the problems of the old system have been completely solved by migrating to the new cloud-based solution. As they move to the future, TEPSCO would like to consider using Oracle Cloud Infrastructure and WebLogic Server for OCI for a new production environment of its backend core system in conjunction with the expense reimbursement system. This system would provide an integrated expense reimbursement system and experience servicing all employees across the entire company.

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