

Section 8 Promotion of International Strategies for ICT

1. Summary

(1) Initiatives so far

Based on the government's "Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2025" (decided by the Infrastructure Strategy Economic Cooperation Meeting on December 10, 2020) and the "MIC World Development Action Plan 2025" (formulated by MIC on July 21, 2022), MIC has worked vigorously for the overseas implementation of ICT infrastructure systems through total support for enterprises, which includes human resource development, maintenance, and finance in accordance with the implementation stage (project identification, proposal, and formation).

MIC has also contributed to the formation of interna-

tional frameworks through active participation in discussions on digital economy and the establishment of international rules in the ICT field, by taking opportunities for bilateral policy dialogues with the U.S. and other countries, and multilateral talks including G7 and G20.

As digital infrastructures such as optical undersea cables and 5G networks have become part of the basic infrastructure supporting citizen's lives and economic activities, efforts have also been made to ensure safety and reliability through international cooperation, from the viewpoint of economic security.

(2) Future challenges and directions

The transition of society and economy to digital is accelerating in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there is an increasing need for digital solutions that are effective in improving and upgrading communications networks and solving problems. The importance of high-quality infrastructures has come into focus as discussions on economic security have intensified. Under such circumstances, the implementation of high-quality Japanese infrastructures overseas utilizing bilateral and multilateral frameworks will contribute to solving not only the social issues of each country but also global issues such as climate change, and will further contribute to achieving SDGs. It is also important for the economic development of Japan to increase our international competitiveness and demonstrate our presence through the spread and development of Japanese digital technologies.

MIC is now working to implement digital technologies overseas and to establish international frameworks in the digital field through international cooperation, with the aim of strengthening the international competitiveness of Japan's digital technologies and solving global social challenges. As a means of promoting "MIC World Development Action Plan 2025," an emphasis will be placed on the implementation of one-stop ICT solutions in the medical and agricultural fields, in addition to ICT infrastructure systems such as 5G and optical undersea cables. It is necessary to contribute to global economic development and solving global social issues by utilizing Japanese technology and experience. Furthermore, in order to take a leading role in establishing international rules in the digital field, it is necessary to actively participate in international discussions at international conferences and other meetings.

2. Overseas implementation of digital infrastructures

In light of the growing need for communications infrastructure and services worldwide amid the transition of society and the economy to digital, MIC is promoting support for the overseas implementation of digital infra-

structures and other services with the aim of strengthening the international competitiveness of Japan's digital industries and promoting the use of digital technologies to solve global problems.

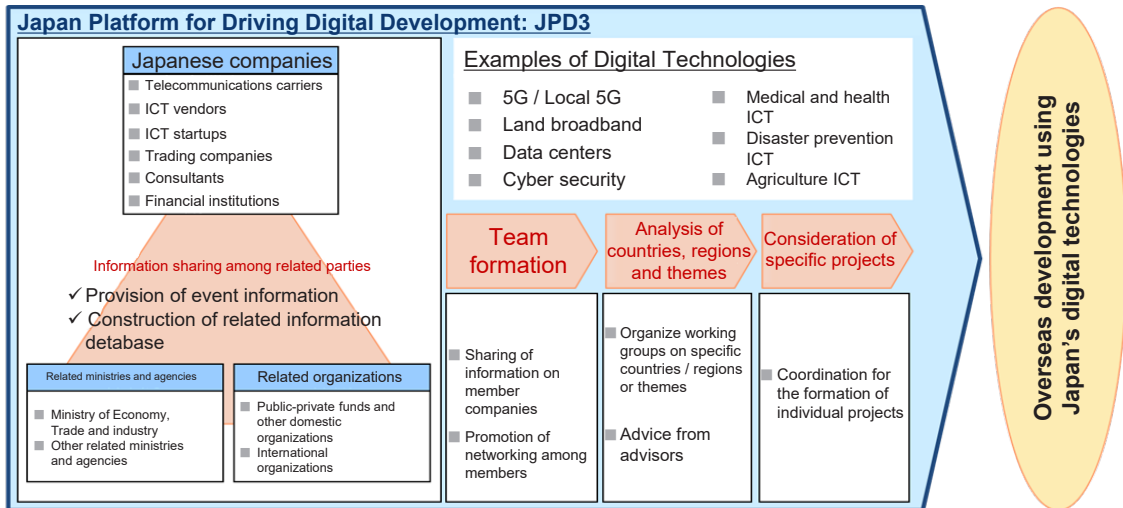
(1) Overseas implementation of support tools at MIC

MIC provides support for the overseas implementation of high-quality Japanese digital infrastructure in accordance with each phase from basic research to demonstration projects, taking into account each country's circumstances and challenges.

In February 2021, MIC established the "Japan Platform for Driving Digital Development," a public-private cooperation framework to support the implementation

of Japanese ICT overseas under MIC's initiative (**Figure 5-8-2-1**). As of January 2023, over 100 members including Japanese ICT-related companies and relevant ministries, agencies, and organizations participated in the framework to share information on countries and regions (51 countries and one organization) in databases, hold workshops, form teams, and discuss specific projects.

Figure 5-8-2-1 Japan Platform for Driving Digital Development



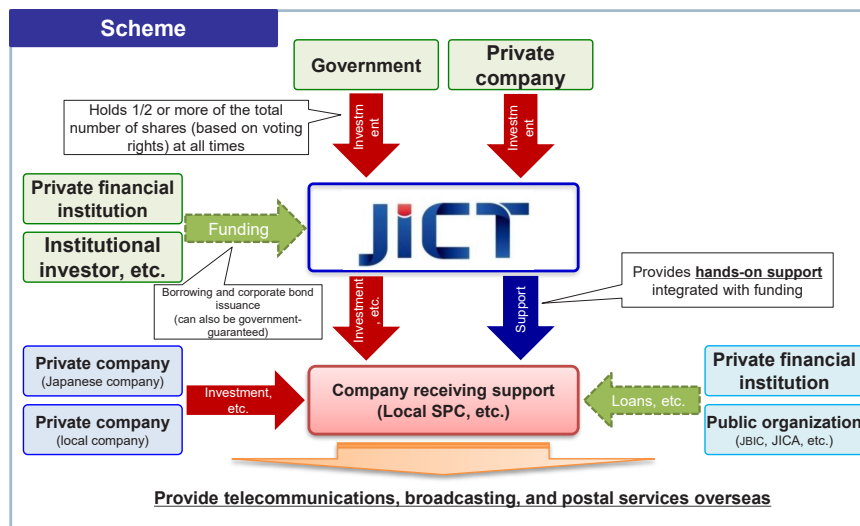
(2) Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT)

The Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT), a public-private fund under the control of MIC, supports investments and hands-on projects by entities providing overseas communications, broadcasting, or postal services and those supporting them (Figure 5-8-2-2). As of the end of March 2023, funds and loans totaling 102.9 billion yen have been allocated for support.

were revised in February 2022 (MIC Notice No. 34 of 2022) to allow JICT to support projects that do not involve the development of hard infrastructure (ICT service projects) and to make LP investments in funds. As a result, JICT has established a system that makes it easier for not only large enterprises but also medium-sized, small, and local enterprises to support overseas expansion, and five new support decisions were made in fiscal 2022.

In light of recent developments and needs in ICT and policy trends around the world, JICT support standards

Figure 5-8-2-2 Support through the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT)



(3) Initiatives toward overseas expansion for each field

a Core communications infrastructure

In 2021, the Ethiopian government granted a license to an international consortium including Japanese companies providing access Ethiopia's mobile phone business, and commercial communications services were then launched for mobile communications networks in October 2022. MIC plans to take this opportunity to promote the implementation of digital solutions in Ethiopia and throughout Africa (Figure 5-8-2-3).

JICT has provided support for optical undersea cable projects in Southeast Asia and elsewhere (with up to 78 million USD of the total project cost of approximately 400 million USD supported). Furthermore, Japanese companies began in September 2021 to participate in a project to lay optical undersea cables in the Indian Ocean that had been announced by Prime Minister Modi in August 2020. In addition, efforts are being made

to improve communication environments in Pacific Island countries, which have relatively poor communication environments, in cooperation with voluntary countries, relevant ministries and agencies and organizations. The importance of safe and secure 5G networks is currently being discussed in the international arena. With regard to 5G and local 5G, “Open RAN” is attracting attention as a technology for realizing open and secure networks, and work on the overseas deployment of systems that utilize it is underway. For example, since fiscal 2021, MIC has been working with local communications carriers in Thailand and Chile to jointly examine the possibility of overseas expansion through construction of a local 5G network using 5G wireless equipment based on Open RAN and demonstration experiments for local 5G applications. Since fiscal 2022, a testing environment has been developed for Open RAN in the UK, conducting tests to confirm compatibility of RAN devices with inter-

b Digital technology use models

In the medical field, Japan has received orders for remote medical care systems using smartphones mainly in Central and South America, and since fiscal 2020, with the aim of expanding the use of endoscopy and medical AI diagnostic support systems in Southeast and South-west Asian countries, which utilize high-definition imaging techniques, studies have been conducted through actual certification at local hospitals. In FY 2022, surveys and demonstrations were conducted in Vietnam. As for

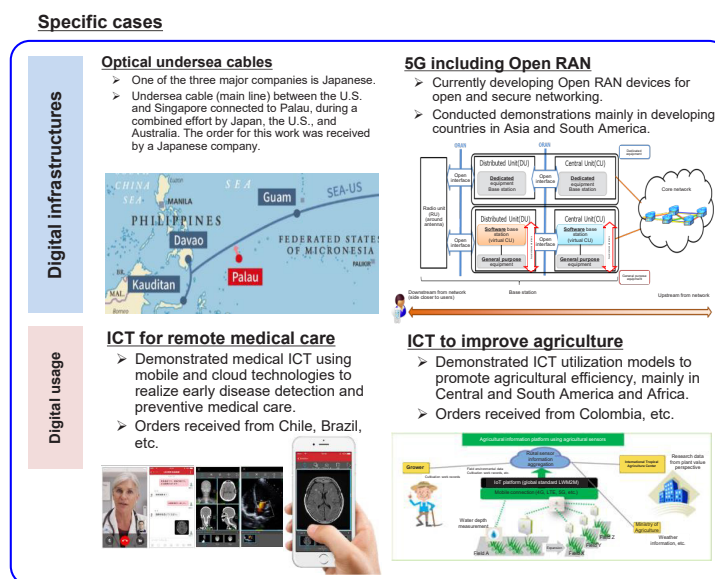
face specifications established by the O-RAN Alliance, and conducting surveys on the feasibility of implementing Open RAN in Vietnam and the Philippines.

Since March 2021, Japanese companies have been participating in projects to improve the communications environment in Uzbekistan, including the development of data centers and other communications infrastructures. JICT has also supported the development and operation of data centers in India, with an investment of up to 86 million USD decided in October 2022.

A total of 20 countries mainly in Central and South America have adopted the Japanese digital terrestrial broadcasting system. In October 2022, Botswana became the first country to adopt the system overseas and switched off analog broadcasting throughout the entire country. In January 2023, Costa Rica did the same. MIC will continue to support the smooth transition to digital broadcasting.

radio systems, preparations are under way to conduct demonstration tests in Thailand for the Ground-Based Augmentation System (GBAS), an aircraft approach and landing system utilizing GPS and other positioning satellites. Through these efforts, Japan aims to convince other countries of our technological superiority, promote the international use of highly efficient Japanese radio technologies, and promote the international coordinated use of radio frequencies.

Figure 5-8-2-3 Examples of overseas implementation of ICT



c Broadcast content

Japanese broadcasters have been working with local governments to produce broadcast content that conveys the appeal of Japan and disseminate it through overseas broadcasters and other organizations, and have been continuously supporting the overseas expansion of broadcast content through international trade fairs. This has had various benefits including economic ripple effects, such as the development of sales channels for re-

gional products and the spread of Japan's appeal. In fiscal 2023, MIC began to develop a common platform for expanding Japanese broadcast content information overseas. With the goal of increasing overseas sales related to broadcast content by 1.5 times by fiscal 2025 (compared to fiscal 2020), MIC will continue to promote the expansion of broadcast content overseas, thereby strengthening our soft power.

d Other

(a) Firefighting

The “Memorandum of Cooperation in Firefighting between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam” was signed on October 8, 2018. Since then, Japan has been promoting the high quality of its firefighting equipment by exchanging opinions on

(b) Postal service

The government and the private sector are working together to promote international cooperation and overseas expansion through an approach that identifies opportunities and issues related to postal efficiency and modernization, and to share Japanese knowledge and experience to help solve these issues, mainly in emerging and develop-

(c) Administrative consultation and statistics

In the area of administrative consultation, coordination and cooperation are being carried out with the official ombudsmen of each country. In the area of statistics, MIC has been promoting support for digitization of the government by making use of its knowledge on the con-

fire prevention policies and standards for firefighting equipment. In February 2023, basic training on firefighting techniques was conducted. MIC will continue to promote the overseas deployment of firefighting equipment that conforms to Japanese standards by providing encouragement to Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries.

ing countries in Asia and Eastern Europe. MIC has received requests for consultation on streamlining operations and have received orders for sorting machines from postal services in Vietnam and Slovenia. MIC has also taken other initiatives to expand business opportunities in postal service entities through the use of ICT.

struction of highly reliable electronic government and statistical systems. For example, in Vietnam, Japan has supported the construction of a system for information coordination between central and local ministries.

3. Contribution to establishment of international rules on the digital economy

(1) Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)

The G7 Action Plan to cooperate on promoting Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) was formulated during the Meeting of G7 Digital Ministers in May 2022 and approved during the G7 Summit in June of the same year. DFFT was also discussed during the Meeting of

G20 Digital Ministers in September of the same year.

MIC now actively participates in international discussions toward formulating concrete rules to promote DFFT, held during discussions such as G7, G20, OECD, and bilateral discussions.

(2) Response to discussions on international rules of cyberspace

a Creation of international rules of cyberspace

MIC attaches great importance to two points with regard to the creation of international rules of cyberspace. First, is giving maximum consideration to the free flow of information, which not only supports democracy but also serves as an engine for economic growth, as a source of innovation. Second is that it is crucial for private companies, academia, the local community, and all other relevant stakeholders utilizing the Internet to manage networks (multi-stakeholder framework) to participate in order to ensure cybersecurity. In addition to

strengthening cooperation with fellow countries by discussing relevant topics in bilateral discussions such as the U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy (U.S.-Japan IED) and the EU-Japan ICT Strategies Workshop, MIC also continue to actively participate in discussions in multilateral meetings. In April 2022 “Declaration for the Future of the Internet” was established in core member countries (Japan, U.S., Australia, Canada, EU, and UK) and willing countries.

b Bilateral and multilateral talks on cybersecurity

MIC continues to participate in bilateral government discussions on cybersecurity. The fourth “Japan-India Cyber Dialogue” was held in June 2022, the sixth “Japan-France Cyber Dialogue” in July 2022, and the seventh “Japan-UK Cyber Dialogue” in February 2023. MIC continues to strengthen its cooperation with these countries by discussing situations, efforts, cooperation in the international arena, and support for capacity building.

support for capacity building in the ASEAN region at meetings such as the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting. Cooperation on cybersecurity has also been agreed upon under initiatives of the so-called Quad consisting of Japan, the U.S., Australia, and India. Discussions have also been held to strengthen cooperation with fellow countries by the government as a whole, and the “Joint Principles of the Japan-U.S.-Australia-India Cybersecurity Partnership¹” were announced in a joint statement of the summit in May 2022.

MIC has also engaged in multilateral discussions on cybersecurity. MIC exchanges opinions and information on the state of each country's efforts and the state of

¹ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100347891.pdf>

(3) Promotion of trade liberalization in the ICT field

In order to complement a multilateral free trade system built around the World Trade Organization (WTO) and promote bilateral economic partnerships, Japan is actively working to conclude Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

Since 2018, MIC has participated in discussions on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11), the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (Japan-EU EPA), the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement, the Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Japan-UK EPA), and

(4) Promotion of strategic international standardization

International standardization in the ICT field is an important policy issue that can lead to the creation of a global market through common standards. Because strategic initiative in development of international standards is critically important for strengthening international competitiveness, MIC has been strategically promoting international standardization activities.

MIC has been conducting research on trends in de jure standards² as well as forum standards,³ training hu-

man resources for international standardization, and engaging in efforts to deepen understanding of the importance of standardization activities. MIC has also been conducting joint research with the EU, the U.S., and Germany with the aim of establishing international standards, and are conducting R&D and demonstration experiments in fields where there are high expectations for social implementation (such as wireless factories).

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4. Economic security in the digital field

In light of the economic security importance of the communications field including 5G, MIC is working with the U.S. and other fellow countries in the digital field to ensure the safety and reliability of global digital infrastructures, based on such efforts as the “Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDGP)” established during a summit meeting held between Japan and the U.S. in April 2021, and the “Memorandum of Cooperation on 5G Supplier Diversification and Open RAN” signed during a summit meeting held between Japan,

the U.S., Australia, and India (the Quad) in May 2022.

Four systems were also established by the Act on the Promotion of Ensuring National Security through Integrated Implementation of Economic Measures enacted in 2022, including the “System for Ensuring the Stable Provision of Specified Social Infrastructure Services,” which may regulate telecommunications, broadcasting, and postal services. Preparations are now under way to implement this system, including developing subordinate laws and regulations.

5. International cooperation in multilateral frameworks

MIC holds policy discussions through multilateral frameworks such as G7/G20, APEC, APT, ASEAN, ITU, the United Nations (UN), the WTO, and the OECD, and takes an active role in leading international cooperation efforts in the ICT field, such as promoting the free flow

of information, creating a safe and secure cyberspace, developing high-quality ICT infrastructures, and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN.

(1) G7-G20

As information distribution, businesses, and services continue to spread across borders due to globalization and the shift of socioeconomic activities to digital, active discussions on policies for the development of the digital economy have been taking place within the framework of the G7 since the April 2016 meeting of G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting held in Takamatsu, Kagawa, in which Japan served as Chair.

Discussions on the digital economy also continue to take place within the framework of the G20, including China and India. In June 2019, MIC, MFA, and METI

held the “G20 Ibaraki-Tsukuba Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy” in Tsukuba, Ibaraki, and agreed on AI principles based on a “human-centered” concept for the first time at G20. These principles were also agreed upon at the G20 Osaka Summit. The idea of promoting the free flow of reliable data (DFFT) was also supported at the summit level, and its importance was reaffirmed at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Digital Economy held in Saudi Arabia in 2020.

In May 2022, the Meeting of G7 Digital Ministers was held in Germany to express opposition to measures that

² Standards formulated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or other public international standardization organizations.

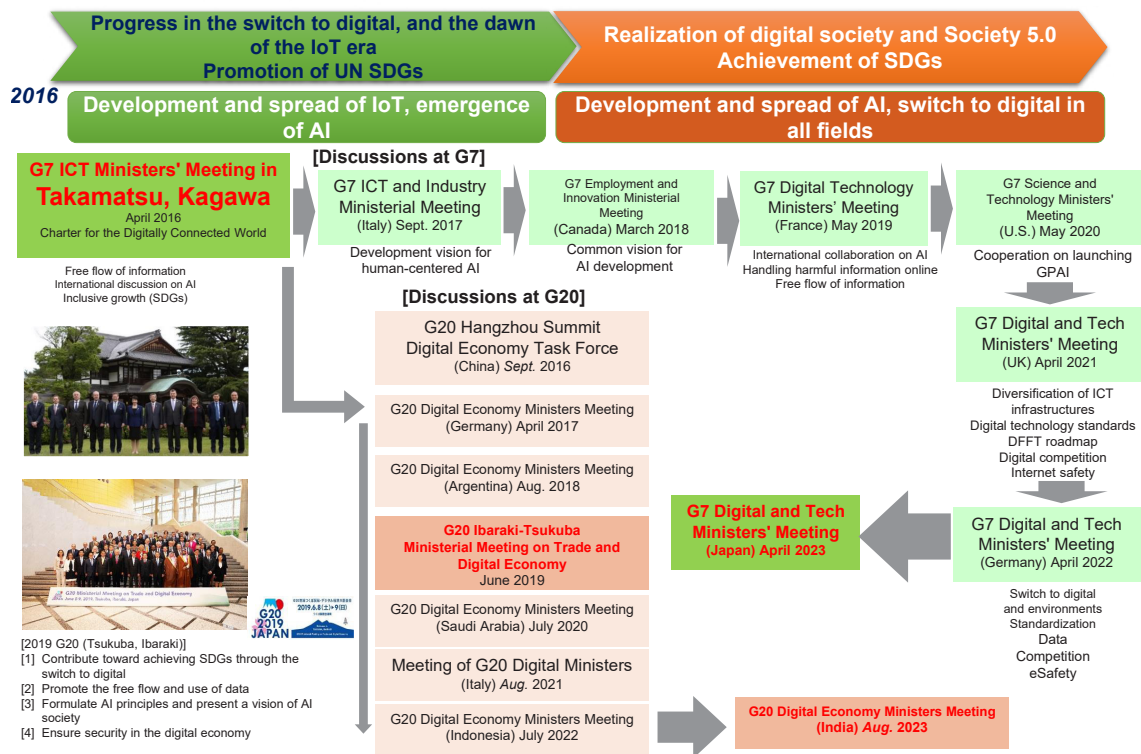
³ Standards formulated based on the agreement of multiple enterprises, universities, and other forum members.

could undermine democratic values in the digital age, including internet shutdowns and network restrictions, and to develop an action plan to promote DFFT. The action plan proposed to jointly commit to action in five areas: (1) strengthening the evidence base, (2) building commonality to promote future interoperability, (3) continuing regulatory cooperation, (4) promoting DFFT in the context of digital trade, and (5) sharing knowledge on the international data space landscape, which was approved at the G7 Summit in June of the same year.

Japan chaired the G7 in 2023, and discussions were held at the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma held in April of the same year on six

topics: (1) promoting cross-border data distribution and the free flow of reliable data, (2) building a secure and resilient digital infrastructure, (3) maintaining and promoting a free and open Internet, (4) promoting economic and social innovation and emerging technologies, (5) promoting responsible AI and AI governance, and (6) setting competitive policies in digital markets. As a result, the “G7 Gunma Takasaki Ministerial Digital and Tech Declaration” including five annexes was adopted, contributing to international discussions on rulemaking on the digital economy, including the promotion of the DFFT⁴ (Figure 5-8-5-1).

Figure 5-8-5-1 History of G7/G20 ICT/digital discussions (overview)



(2) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an international conference of major countries and regions in the Asia Pacific region for sustainable development of the region. Discussions on the telecommunications field are led by the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) and the Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Industry (TEL-MIN).

As a result of the adoption of the “Aotearoa Plan of

Action” at the APEC Summit in 2021, TEL is now advancing studies for the promotion of the innovation and digital technologies field listed as one of the three economic drivers in the plan.

MIC actively contributes to TEL operation through participation in discussions and promotion of projects related to digital government at TEL held twice a year, and through dissemination of ICT policies in Japan.

(3) Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) is an international organization in the information and communications field of the Asia Pacific region established in 1979 with the aim of achieving the balanced development of telecommunications and information infrastructures in the

region. Its activities include human resource development through training and seminars, and regional policy coordination in standardization and radio communication. Masanori Kondo, a former senior MIC official from Japan is currently serving as secretary general.

⁴ Refer to Policy Focus “G7 Digital Tech Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma” for an overview and results of the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma, held in April 2023.

Through contributions to APT, MIC supports activities including accepting trainees and exchanging ICT engineers and researchers in broadband and wireless communications and other ICT fields where Japan has

(4) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional cooperative organization consisting of 10 Southeast Asian countries. Its major purposes are promoting economic growth and social/cultural develop-

a Contribution to achieving the goals of “ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025”

Japan is cooperating on efforts toward achieving the goals of “ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025” formulated in January 2021. Japan has been implementing joint projects with ASEAN countries utilizing the Japan-ASEAN Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

b Strengthening of systems of cooperation in the field of cybersecurity

MIC continues to conduct cybersecurity exercises including Cyber Defense Exercise with Recurrence (CYDER) for the cybersecurity personnel of government agencies and critical infrastructure operators in ASEAN countries online or at the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre⁵ (AJCCBC). Face-to-face exercises were resumed in October 2022, and a number of students exceeding the initial target of 700 completed these exercises over four years. Recognized by ASEAN, this activity has been carried out for about four years

c 50 years of collaboration by ASEAN and Japan

The year 2023 marks an important milestone as it is the 50th anniversary of Japan-ASEAN friendship and cooperation. Japan-ASEAN relations must be strengthened further, but it is also an opportunity to further develop Japanese digital technologies in the ASEAN region. In anticipation of the ASEAN-Japan Special Summit on the 50th anniversary of Japan-ASEAN friendship and cooperation scheduled to be held in Tokyo from December

(5) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) that is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has 193 member countries and regions. Its purpose is to extend international cooperation for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications, and to promote the development and efficient operation of technical means to efficiently improve, popularize, and spread telecommunication services. ITU consists of the following three sectors, and is involved in various activities including allocating frequencies, standardizing telecommunications technologies, and providing development in the telecommunications field in developing countries (**Figure 5-8-5-2**).

strengths. In fiscal 2022, MIC supported eight training courses, four international joint research projects, and two pilot projects.

ment, ensuring political and economic stability, and cooperating on challenges in the region. Policies in the digital field are discussed during the “ASEAN Digital Ministers Meeting (ADGMIN).”

Fund, which was established with contributions from Japan. In fiscal 2022, Japan worked to implement initiatives to establish standards for disaster-related data and information exchange in the ASEAN region.

since 2018, and is scheduled to continue from 2023 to 2026 with the addition of new exercises.

MIC also regularly holds the ASEAN-Japan Cyber Security Workshop for ISP operators in ASEAN countries, in order to promote information sharing among stakeholders and to build and enhance collaboration systems. The first face-to-face meeting in three years was held in January 2023, along with an exhibition of Japanese cybersecurity products and services.

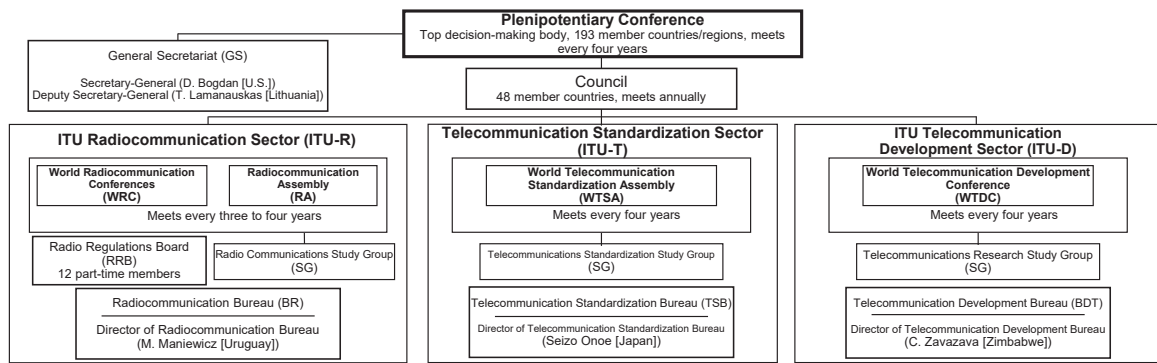
16 to 18, 2023, Japan will contribute to the deepening of ASEAN-Japan relations and bilateral relationships with ASEAN countries while providing support in a manner consistent with the digital policy goals of the ASEAN region through the use of the Japan-ASEAN ICT Fund, in light of “ASEAN-Japan Digital Work Plan 2023” approved during the ASEAN-Japan Digital Ministers' Meeting (February 2023, Philippines).

- (1) ITU-R: ITU Radiocommunication Sector
- (2) ITU-T: ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector
- (3) ITU-D: ITU Telecommunication Development Sector

An election was held during the Plenipotentiary Conference in September 2022, with Seizo Onoe (former Chief Standardization Strategy Officer [CSSO] of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation) of Japan being elected as Director of the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector. He then assumed office in January 2023 (four years per term, with a maximum of two terms).

⁵ AJCCBC <https://www.ajccbc.org/index.html>

Figure 5-8-5-2 International Telecommunication Union (ITU) organization



a Initiatives at ITU-R

In order to ensure the rational, efficient, economical, and fair use of radio frequencies in all radio communication services, ITU-R conducts research on the use of frequencies and formulates standards related to radio communications. The Radiocommunication Assembly (RA) aims to approve recommendations submitted by each Study Group (SG) and discuss issues and systems

b Initiatives at ITU-T

ITU-T studies international standards of communications network technologies and operation methods, and conducts technical studies necessary for formulating these standards.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) is the highest decision-making meeting of ITU-T. Held once every four years, the next meeting is scheduled to be held between October and December 2024. The Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) is responsible for providing advice on

c Initiatives at ITU-D

ITU-D assists in the development of the information and communications fields of developing countries.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) is the supreme decision-making meeting of ITU-D, and is held once every four years. Most recently, WTDC-22 was held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022.⁶ During the current SG period (2022-2025), activities such as implementing ICT development support

(6) United Nations

a United Nations General Assembly Second Committee, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

During the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee (dealing with economy and finance), the “Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)” established under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) leads discussions on issues such as promoting global digital cooperation toward an

for the next SG period, while World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) aim to revise radio regulations governing international frequency distribution. These are among the largest ITU-R meetings held every three to four years, and MIC has actively contributed to discussions.

WTSA resolutions and the standardization activities of ITU-T Study Groups (SGs). The group held its first meeting of this session in December 2022, in which it developed and agreed upon a project plan to discuss the possibility of restructuring the ITU-T by analyzing data indicators identified during discussions at the previous session.

In fiscal 2022, FG-MV (metaverse) was established as a Focus Group (FG) activity that is open to non-ITU members.

projects and conducting ICT human resource development are being promoted based on the strategic goals and action plans adopted at WTDC-22. ITU and MIC have been working together since 2022 on a separate project to implement the Connect2Recover initiative, in order to strengthen the resilience of digital infrastructures.⁷

inclusive digital society and the public nature of the Internet. Through participating in CSTD annual meetings and other activities, Japan contributes to international discussions on Internet governance and the information and communications field.

⁶ This was originally scheduled to be held in 2021, but was delayed by one year due to the worldwide spread of COVID-19.

⁷ Although support initially targeted Africa, where Internet connectivity is low, more countries began supporting the project and so the project has expanded to cover Asia Pacific island countries, Central and South America, Europe, and the whole world.

b Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is an international forum for dialogue on various public policy issues regarding the Internet.

In November and December of 2022, the 17th meeting was held in Ethiopia, in which Japan hosted an open forum on Internet shutdowns. During the closing ses-

sion, Takeaki Matsumoto (Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications) appeared in a video to announce that the IGF would be held in Kyoto in 2023, with the goal of maintaining and developing a free, open, secure, and undivided Internet. Thereby, Japan actively contributed to the meeting.

(7) World Trade Organization (WTO)

There has been no progress in the telecommunications field since the basic telecommunications negotiations agreed upon in 1997, due to the stagnation of the Doha Round negotiations that began in 2001. However, due to the recent increase in attention paid to the field of

e-commerce (which deals with the distribution of data on the Internet), negotiations on e-commerce officially began in 2019 as an initiative of willing countries in the WTO. As co-chair, Japan is now working together with Australia and Singapore on leading discussions.

(8) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Pioneering discussions on the ICT field are held at the Committee on Digital Economy Policy (CDEP) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). MIC provides personnel and financial support to the OECD Secretariat and actively contributes to policy discussions at OECD as exemplified by many MIC officials serving as CDEP chair (since January 2020) or vice-chairs of Working Parties under CDEP.

AI called “AI Policy Observatory (OECD.AI)” in January 2020 and establishing the Working Party on Artificial Intelligence Governance (WP AIGO) in May 2022.

CDEP has been working on AI-related initiatives since 2016. In May 2019, CDEP adopted and published the “Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence,” which is the first intergovernmental consensus document on AI, and provides principles to be shared by those involved in AI and matters to be addressed by governments. Since then, it has continued to work actively on initiatives, including launching an online platform on

In December 2022, a ministerial meeting on the digital economy was held in Gran Canaria, Spain, and a ministerial declaration on a reliable, sustainable, and inclusive digital future was adopted, which summarized issues and directions for DFFT, reliable AI, and next-generation infrastructure development.

(9) GPAI

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is an international public-private cooperation organization established to realize the development and use of responsible AI based on a human-centered approach. The launch of GPAI was advocated at the Biarritz Summit (France) in 2019, and the organization was then established in June of the same year after the G7 agreed to cooperate on the launch at the G7 Science and Technology Ministers' Meeting in May 2020.

In March 2023, the fourth OECD Global Forum on Digital Security for Prosperity was held jointly by MIC and OECD in Paris, France. Panel discussions were held on the topics of digital security for IoT products, digital security for AI, and interaction between policymakers and engineers.⁸

(10) ICANN

IP addresses, domain names, and other internet resources are absolutely necessary for Internet use, and it is important to ensure that these resources are managed and coordinated appropriately throughout the world, including preventing overlapping assignments. The international management and coordination of Internet resources is currently handled by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which was launched as a nonprofit corporation in 1998. In addition to assigning IP addresses and coordinating domain names, ICANN coordinates the operation and deploy-

The third annual meeting of GPAI Summit 2022 was held in November 2022, and Japan has held the presidency since then. During the Council of Ministers, the GPAI Summit adopted a Ministerial Declaration at the initiative of the chairing country, Japan. In the declaration, countries agreed to promote the use of AI based on human-centered values, oppose the illegal and irresponsible use of AI, and contribute to a sustainable, resilient, and peaceful society. It was the first declaration of its kind.

ment of root servers and systems, and establishes policies related to these services.

Representing Japan in this area, MIC actively contributes to ICANN activities as a member of its Governmental Advisory Committee, consisting of the representatives of the governments of member countries. For example, during the 70th to 77th meetings of ICANN, countermeasures against DNS misuse was considered in cooperation with other organizations within ICANN and made proposals for revising the terms of contracts between ICANN and registrars.

⁸ <https://www.oecd.org/digital/global-forum-digital-security/>

6. International cooperation in bilateral relationships

(1) Policy cooperation with the U.S.

Based on the “U.S.-Japan Competitiveness and Resilience (CoRe) Partnership⁹⁾ issued after the Japan-U.S. Summit Meeting on April 16, 2021, the “Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDCCP)¹⁰⁾ was launched in May of the same year to promote secure connectivity and a vibrant digital economy (Figure 5-8-6-1). With the launch of GDCCP, the “U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy” (U.S.-Japan IED) is now positioned as a framework to promote GDCCP.

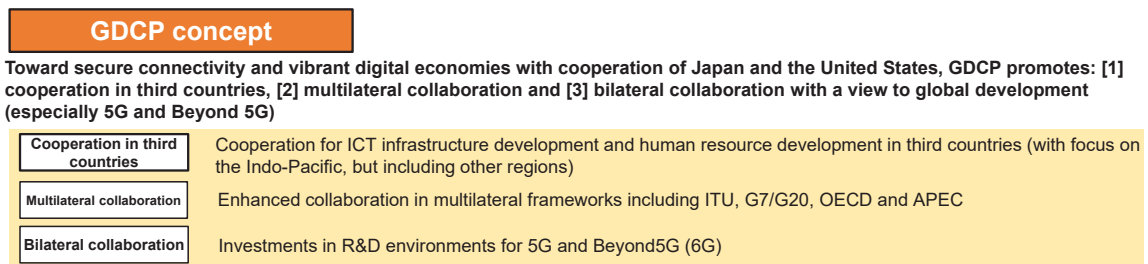
A fact sheet on the “U.S.-Japan Competitiveness and Resilience (CoRe) Partnership” was released among the documents resulting from the summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Kishida and U.S. President Joe Biden held on May 23, 2022, in which both countries agreed to cooperate on open wireless access networks (Open RAN) and cybersecurity.

The 13th U.S.-Japan IED intergovernmental and pub-

lic-private meetings were held on March 6 and 7, 2023, combining face-to-face and online methods. Participants discussed a wide range of topics, including 5G and Beyond 5G (6G), cross-border privacy rules (CBPR), Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), cooperation in the international arena, and future cooperation between Japan and U.S. This was followed by the release of the “Joint Statement on the 13th U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy.”¹¹⁾ In this document, both sides agreed to change the name of the U.S.-Japan IED to “U.S.-Japan Dialogue on the Digital Economy.”

The fifth expert-level working group meeting of the GDCCP was held in April 2023. Opinions were then exchanged on further promoting Japan-U.S. cooperation with third countries, based on the results of this meeting.

Figure 5-8-6-1 Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDCCP)



(2) Cooperation with Europe

a Cooperation with the European Union (EU)

MIC and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission hold a series of meetings to discuss related topics. The “EU-Japan ICT Policy Dialogue” is held to exchange information and opinions on ICT policy, with the latest being the 28th meeting held in February 2023. The “EU-Japan ICT Strategies Workshop” is held to promote public-private collaboration and cooperation in the digital field, with the latest being the 13th meeting held in April 2022.

During the 28th EU-Japan ICT Policy Dialogue, discussions were held on smart cities, 5G and Beyond 5G (6G), cybersecurity, secure and equitable online environments, and AI. More specifically, the social concept

and use cases of Beyond 5G (6G) were explained, along with the ideal network to achieve. The establishment of a new research and development fund and the status of activities of the Beyond 5G Promotion Consortium were introduced as the latest initiatives. Participants from the EU explained the budget for research and development projects, and exchanged opinions on future cooperation.

The EU-Japan Digital Partnership was also launched in May 2022. The partnership covers priorities in the digital field shared by Japan and the EU, with the Digital Agency, MIC, and METI (from Japan), and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission, playing leading roles.

b Bilateral cooperation with European countries

(a) The UK

MIC, together with the Digital Agency and METI launched the UK-Japan Digital Group with the UK in May 2022, as a director-level meeting based on a framework for addressing joint priorities between Japan and the UK in the digital field. The first meeting was held in

October of the same year. In order to accelerate cooperation between Japan and the UK at a high level, a minister-level meeting of relevant ministries and agencies was held between Japan and the UK in December of the same year. The meeting was positioned above the direc-

⁹⁾ https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/na/na1/us/page1_000951.html

¹⁰⁾ https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000119.html

¹¹⁾ https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000149.html

tor-level meeting, re-establishing the UK-Japan Digital Partnership. MIC will continue to serve as the secretari-

(b) Germany

MIC holds ICT policy dialogues with the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport of Germany, in order to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and Germany on policy aspects in the ICT field, and to promote collaboration and cooperation between both countries. The sixth meeting was held online in March 2022. During the meeting, both countries discussed government initiatives to promote Open RAN, progress in research and development toward Beyond 5G, global digital gov-

(c) France

MIC holds ICT policy discussions with the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and the Recovery of France,¹² in order to share information on the latest initiatives re-

(3) Cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries

MIC cooperates with the information and communications ministries and agencies of Asia-Pacific countries in

a India

In May 2022, the seventh meeting of the Japan-India Joint Working Group was held online between MIC and the Ministry of Communications of India, in order to

b Southeast Asia

Japan and Vietnam have been holding meetings of the Japan-Vietnam ICT Joint Working Group since 2018. During the sixth meeting of the working group (held in December 2022), Japan and Vietnam shared information and exchanged opinions on digital transformation, 5G, and postal services, and agreed to strengthen cooperation between Japan and Vietnam in the future.

c Australia

The “Australia-Japan Policy Dialogue for Telecommunications Resilience” was established in response to a joint statement made in July 2022. This framework consists of MIC and the Department of Home Affairs and Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts of Australia, and is designed to ensure and improve digital connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region with the aim of realizing a “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) through regular information sharing and discussions in the information

(4) Cooperation with Central and South America

With regard to Central and South America, Japanese digital terrestrial broadcasting has been adopted in 14 countries, starting with Brazil in 2006. Japan continues to support efforts in each country to switch over from analog broadcasting, as well as the introduction of the Japanese Emergency Warning Broadcast System (EWBS) in countries such as Peru and Ecuador.

MIC also holds 5G seminars in various countries in

at for Japan.

ernance, digital platform policies, data utilization, and AI. Japan and Germany agreed to continue collaborating during these discussions. Public-private sessions were also held to exchange information on 5G and other initiatives in Japanese and German industries.

Cooperation in joint research and development upgrading 5G has been underway with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action since fiscal 2022.

garding important topics in the ICT field. The 21st such meeting was the latest to be held, in June 2021.

the ICT field, including communications infrastructure development and ICT usage.

share information on efforts in the ICT field such as 5G, Beyond 5G, and Open RAN, and to exchange views on future cooperation between Japan and India.

In February 2023, Japan signed a memorandum of understanding on ICT cooperation with the Department of Information and Communications Technology of the Philippines and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the ICT field, including support for the construction of 5G networks including Open RAN.

and communications field using 5G, optical undersea cables, and satellite communications, including Open RAN.

The first policy dialogue was held in February 2023. The meeting covered a wide range of topics in the field of information and communications, and both countries agreed to establish the “Track 1.5 Meeting” subordinate to the policy dialogues in order to engage in active public and private sector discussions in the information and communications field.

Central and South America to explain the importance of constructing open and secure 5G networks, and helps Japanese enterprises with excellent technologies in this field to expand business in this region.

In order to encouraging initiatives to use Japan's advanced ICT technologies to solve social challenges in these countries, MIC conducts smart city demonstration projects including the protection of world heritages

¹² Ministries were restructured in 2022, and this ministry is now called the Ministry of Economy, Finance, Industry and Digital Sovereignty.

in Cartagena, Colombia, and demonstrations of agriculture ICT solutions using IoT data and AI to improve the operational efficiency of agricultural producers in Ecua-

(5) Cooperation with other regions

a Cooperation with Africa

ICT cooperation with African countries has progressed with the adoption of Japanese digital terrestrial broadcasting in Botswana in 2013 and Angola in 2019, and the complete switchover to digital in Botswana in October 2022. In August 2022, the eighth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 8) was held in Tunisia. MIC held an online seminar on digital transformation (DX) and an online exhibition to promote Japanese companies as official side events, and adopted the “TICAD 8 Tunis Declaration” following the

b Cooperation with the Middle East

MIC has strengthened its cooperative relationship with Saudi Arabia. Based on “Japan-Saudi Vision 2030” (2017) and a memorandum of cooperation with Saudi Arabia on cooperation in the ICT field signed with the Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Saudi Arabia in 2019, MIC has established cooperative relationships between enterprises in both countries and supported the development of technology by Japanese enterprises by dispatching a public-private mission to Saudi Arabia in fiscal 2018 (the mission was suspended from fiscal 2019 to 2020 due to the COVID-19

pandemic) and public-private online ICT workshops in January 2022. Demonstration experiments for ICT medical treatment using VR technology were also conducted in fiscal 2021 and perinatal remote medical care in fiscal 2022.

dor and Brazil. Demonstrations of medical ICT solutions using local 5G has been conducting in Chile.

meeting, which includes a statement on cooperation between Japan and Africa in the ICT field.

Since fiscal 2019, demonstration experiments on communications infrastructures were conducted in Kenya and Senegal; agricultural ICT in Ethiopia and Botswana; medical ICT in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo; remote education in Senegal; and smart cities in Egypt, in order to contribute toward solving social issues in Africa and to support Japanese companies expanding into the area.

In April 2023, a memorandum of cooperation in telecommunications technology and postal service was signed with the Ministry of Communications of Israel, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel.