What is “policy evaluation”?

Policy evaluation is conducted for checking the effects of the policies of respective ministries and for evaluating the policies in terms of necessity, efficiency, validity, etc. to improve the planning and implementation process. For this purpose, the Government Policy Evaluations Act has been enforced since April 2002.

Objectives of conducting policy evaluations are following:
1. Realization of efficient and high quality public administration focusing on the citizens
2. Shift to performance-based public administration from the viewpoint of the citizens; and
3. Thorough accountability to the citizens

Respective ministries

Evaluate the policies concerned from the standpoint of the administrative organization responsible for planning and implementing them.
- Check the effects of the policies concerned and conduct ex-ante and ex-post evaluation in terms of necessity, efficiency and validity.
- In this regard,
  - Check the policy effects as quantitatively as possible
  - Use the knowledge of the learned and experienced according to the characteristics of the policies

For this purpose, it is required to prepare basic plan specifying the basic matters regarding policy evaluation of respective ministries every three to five years and implementation plan specifying the implementation of ex-post evaluation within respective ministries annually and implement evaluations in a planned manner.

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

- Planning of the basic matters and summarization of administrative work under the policy evaluation system
- Implementation of policy evaluation activities as organization specialized in policy evaluation
  - Evaluation to secure coherence or comprehensiveness of government policies
    (Latest example)
    “Evaluation of the program by Private Finance Initiative”
  - Evaluation activities for ensuring objectivity and strictness in the implementation of policy evaluations

Reflection of the evaluation results in budget request

Recent major efforts and trends
1. Legal report to the Diet regarding the status of implementing policy evaluation and reflecting the results in policymaking (June 8, 2007)
   The total number of policy evaluations conducted by respective ministries was 3,940. All the results were reflected in policymaking.
2. Situation of reflection of the results of policy evaluation in budget request for fiscal 2008 (October 17, 2007)
   Among 1,010 cases of policy evaluations conducted by respective ministries, 958 cases were reflected in budget requests for FY2008 (94.9%)
3 Policy evaluation forum (In December, 2006, held in Sendai, Takamatsu)
   These forums were held for open discussion where well-informed persons from various fields gather and debate from wide and different perspectives in order to vitalize the nation-wide discussion on the policy evaluation system
The Outline of the Policy Evaluation System in Japan

**Commission on Policy Evaluation and Evaluation of Incorporated Administrative Agencies**

Offer MIC opinion, if necessary

Check the plan, progress, and major results of MIC’s evaluation

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**Somusho (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications: MIC)**

**Role**

- Promotion of the system government-wide
  - Overall management of the Policy Evaluation System

- Evaluation activities as organization specialized in evaluation
  - Evaluation to secure Coherence/comprehensiveness of government policies (cross-cutting evaluation of inter-ministerial policies)
  - Evaluation activities to ensure objectivity and of strictness in the implementation of policy evaluations (examination of way and content of individual ministries’ evaluation)

Publication of the result of evaluation activities

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**Individual Ministries**

The principle of self-evaluation

Coordination

- Recommendation
- Opinion

Send the evaluation report

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**Citizen**

Publication of the evaluation report