

Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Japan

Information and Communications in Japan

Building a “New, Japan-Inspired IT Society”

c o n t e n t s

Chapter 1

Feature: Building a “New, Japan-Inspired IT Society”

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction | 4 |
| Section 1 Development of the World’s Highest-Level Network Infrastructure | |
| 1. Growth of Information and Communications | 5 |
| 2. Prospects and Problems of Next-Generation Information and Communications Networks | 9 |
| Section 2 Strengthening Competitiveness of Companies and Developing Industry | |
| 1. Trends in Macro-Economy and the Information and Communications Industry | 13 |
| 2. Trends in IT Investment and Companies’ IT Utilization | 14 |
| 3. Trends in Internet Business | 18 |
| Section 3: Enriching National Life and Resolving Social Problems | |
| 1. Advanced Use of the Internet | 19 |
| 2. Lifestyles Changing Through Use of the Internet | 20 |
| 3. Digital Divide and Its Resolution | 20 |
| 4. Information and Communications that Contribute to Resolving Social Problems | 21 |
| 5. Promotion of e-Government and e-Local Governments | 24 |
| Section 4 Developing Digital Network Culture and Distributing Contents | |
| 1. Significance of Information and Communications in Cultural Activities and in Sending Out Information to the World | 26 |
| 2. Distribution of Attractive Contents on the Internet | 27 |
| Section 5 Ensuring Information Security and Building a Securer IT Society | |
| 1. Necessity of Ensuring Information Security | 30 |
| 2. Trends in Information Security Infringements, etc. | 30 |
| 3. Status of Internet Security Incidents | 31 |
| 4. Information Security Measures and Future Tasks | 32 |
| 5. Trends in Information Security Business | 34 |
| 6. Safety and Reliability of the Information and Communications Networks | 34 |
| 7. Measures Taken in Other Countries | 35 |

Chapter 2

Current Status of Information and Communications

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Section 1 Trends in the Information and Communications Industry, etc. | |
| 1. Market Size | 38 |
| 2. Amount of Additional Value | 38 |
| 3. Employment | 38 |
| 4. Productivity | 38 |
| 5. Contribution of the Information and Communications Industry and IT Investment to the Macro-Economy | 39 |
| 6. Capital Investment | 39 |
| 7. Information and Communications Venture Businesses | 39 |
| 8. International Trade/Investment | 40 |
| Section 2 Telecommunications Business | |
| 1. Telecommunications Carriers | 41 |
| 2. Telecommunications Services | 41 |
| 3. Telecommunications Rates | 42 |
| 4. Status of Use of Telecommunications Media | 42 |
| 5. Telecommunications Networks | 43 |
| 6. Complaints and Inquiries on Telecommunications Services | 43 |
| Section 3 Broadcasting Business | |
| 1. Broadcasters | 44 |
| 2. Broadcasting Services | 44 |
| 3. Status of Use of Broadcasting Media | 45 |
| Section 4 Postal Service | |
| 1. Finance of Postal Service | 46 |
| 2. Mail Volume | 46 |
| 3. Post Office Network | 46 |
| Section 5 Information Flow | |
| 1. Information Flow in Japan | 47 |
| 2. Regional Information Flows | 47 |
| Section 6 Human Resources Development | |
| 1. IT Education in Public Schools | 48 |
| 2. Development of IT Experts | 48 |
| Section 7 Digitization of Homes and Companies | |
| 1. Digitization of Homes | 49 |
| 2. Digitization of Companies | 50 |

Section 8 R&D

1. R&D in the Information and Communications Industry . 51
2. R&D in the Information and Communications Field. . . . 51

Section 9 Trends Abroad

1. IT National Strategies of Other Countries 52
2. Status of Use and Market Size of Telecommunications in the World 52
3. Trends in Communications Carriers and Broadcasters Overseas 52
4. Trends in IT Policies in the United States 52
5. Trends in IT Policies in the EU 52
6. Trends in IT Policies in Asia 52
7. Status of International Digital Divide 53

Chapter 3

Trends of Information and Communications Policies

Section 1 Achieving a Society of Advanced Information and Communications Networks

1. Building a New, Japan-Inspired IT Society 56
2. Promoting the IT National Strategy 56
3. Budget Related to e-Japan 56
4. Implementation of the “e!Project”. 56

Section 2 Development of Information and Communications Policies

1. Development of Telecommunications Policies 57
2. Development of Broadcasting Policies 57
3. Promotion of Policies Concerning Effective Radio Spectrum Use 58

Section 3 Upgrading Information and Communications Networks

1. Promoting Improvement of the Network Infrastructure. . . . 59
2. Promoting Advances in Broadcasting 59
3. Convergence of Communications and Broadcasting. . . . 59

Section 4 Promoting IT in Private Companies

1. Establishment of Tax Incentives for Promoting Investment in IT Networking 61
2. Formulation of IT Strategy toward Increasing International Competitiveness of Japanese Companies 61
3. Expansion of Support for IT Venture Companies 61

4. Diffusing and Promoting Electronic Signatures and Certification Services. 61

Section 5 Promoting IT in Administration and Public Services

1. Promoting IT in Local Areas 62
2. Revitalizing Local Economies through Utilization of IT. . . 62
3. Accomplishing an e-Government 62
4. Achieving e-Local Governments 63

Section 6 Promoting Network Contents Distribution and Developing Human Resources

1. Promoting Production and Distribution of Network Contents. . 64
2. Developing Human Resources 64

Section 7 Protecting Information and Communications Users

1. Protecting Telecommunications Users. 65
2. Promoting Measures for Information Security and Privacy Protection 65
3. Overcoming the Digital Divide 66
4. Improving the Environment for Radio Spectrum Use . . . 66

Section 8 Promoting R&D

1. Developing R&D Policies in the Information and Communications Field. 67
2. Implementing Selective R&D 67

Section 9 Promoting International Strategies

1. Promoting International Policies 70
2. Promoting International Cooperation. 70
3. Promoting International Standardization Activities. . . . 70

Section 10 Evolution of Postal Administration

1. Launch of “Japan Post” 71
2. Promoting Smooth and Appropriate Correspondence Delivery Business 71
3. Promoting One-Stop Service at Post Offices. 71