

people exchange, and information exchange.

In addition, the Ministry will examine measures to ensure the availability of human resources in accordance with the development stage of the information and communications ventures and will conduct support and PR activities through various events, as a new scheme from fiscal 2006 onwards.

Section 6

● Efforts Contributing to Informatization of Administrative and Public Services

1 Promotion of Informatization of administrative and public services

(1) Realization of e-Government

The government has thus far steadily promoted the establishment of e-Government based on Program for Building e-Government, the Future Administrative Reform Policy, and the IT Policy Package-2005, with the aim to provide user-oriented administrative services and realize a cost-effective and simple government. In the future, efforts will be made to achieve a 50% online application rate and realize a small and effective government based on the New IT Reform Strategy, which follows the e-Japan Strategy, in pursuit of the most convenient and efficient e-Government in the world.

(2) Realization of e-Local Governments

Using such infrastructure as Local Government Wide Area Networks (LGWAN), the Resident Registration Network System, and the Public Certification Service for Individuals, MIC has been promoting effective e-Local Government and taking various measures from the financial and human resource viewpoints, to improve local services.

(3) Promotion of regional informatization

MIC has convened meetings of the Study Group on the Promotion of Regional Informatization since December 2003, in order to study the progress in regional informatization, systematically organize the nature of

future public networks linking municipalities, prefectures and the country, the nature of applications to upgrade the administrative services using the given public networks, and examine the deployment of measures from 2005. The Study Group issued a report in March 2005.

(4) Promotion of Telework

Telework is intended to improve business efficiency through a home office using information and communications technologies, while maintaining a healthy balance between work and personal life. It is expected to contribute toward resolving various issues, including ensuring of equal opportunities and treatment between men and women in the employment (formation of a gender-equal society), measures to address the declining birthrate and the aging population, and reduction of the environmental burden.

Thus, MIC has been taking promotional measures such as setting up the “Telework Promotion Forum”, developing an environment for private companies to adopt Telework, and implementation of a Telework program for government employees.