

Introduction

The White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan has been published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) since 1973 and this is the 47th issue. The purpose of this White Paper is to introduce the current status of information and communications in Japan and the trend of related policies. The English version compiles the summary of the original White Paper in Japanese.

The White Paper consists of two parts: Part 1 deals with the topics under the title of “Special Theme: Evolving Digital Economy towards ‘Society 5.0’ ” and reviews how ICT services, technologies, industry, and global economy have evolved and changed during the Heisei Era (1989-2019). Also this part provides the overview of the “Society 5.0”, which is placed ahead the evolution of the digital economy, by presenting features of the digital economy. Part 2 consists of Chapter 3, which shows the status of information and communications in Japan in the previous fiscal year with statistical data, and Chapter 4, which compiles policy trends in the information and communication field mainly for the previous fiscal year.