Section 8 Promoting International Strategies for ICT

1. Summary

(1) Initiatives so far

Based on the "Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2025" (Decision by the Infrastructure Strategy Economic Cooperation Meeting on December 10, 2020), which is an overseas infrastructure promotion strategy of the entire government and the "MIC World Development Action Plan 2020" (formulated by MIC on April 30, 2020), MIC has energetically worked for the overseas development of ICT infrastructure systems through total support for enterprises, which includes human resource development, maintenance and finance in accordance with the development stage (project identification, proposal and formation).

MIC has also contributed to the formation of international frameworks through active participation in discussions on digital economy and the establishment of international rules in the ICT field, by taking opportunities of bilateral policy dialogues with the United States and other countries, and multilateral talks including the G7 and the G20.

While digital infrastructure, including optical submarine cables and 5G networks, has become essential for various social and economic activities, concerns about economic security have been increasing. To address these concerns, MIC has also been working to secure economic security through international cooperation, for example.

(2) Future challenges and direction

In the big trend of digitalization, competitions in developing digital technologies are further intensifying and competition in spreading such technologies to countries needing them is also rising. In these circumstances, it is important for Japan's economic growth to create an environment for the advancement and spread of digital technologies of Japan, improve our international competitiveness and show its presence to the world through bilateral and multilateral collaboration. Deploying high-quality infrastructure also contributes to solving social challenges in the world and leads to achievement of SDGs.

In this context, with the aim of strengthening the international competitiveness of Japan's digital technologies and solving global social challenges, MIC is working for overseas development in digital and other fields and for establishment of international frameworks through international cooperation. For overseas development, in particular, as part of the MIC World Development Action Plan 2020, it is necessary to contribute to the world's economic development and solution of social challenges by using Japan's technologies and experience through application of ICT solutions in the medical and agricultural sector including telemedicine in addition to 5G/optical submarine cables and other ICT infrastructure systems. Furthermore, in order to lead establishment of international rules in the digital field, it is necessary to actively participate in international discussions taking opportunities of international conferences, etc.

2. Overseas deployment of digital infrastructure, etc.

Considering the global increase in the demand for communication infrastructure services as a result of the progress of digitalization of society and economy, MIC is promoting support for overseas deployment of digital infrastructure with the aim of strengthening the international competitiveness of Japan's digital industry and solving global challenges by using digital technologies.

(1) Overseas deployment support tools at MIC

MIC supports overseas deployment of high-quality digital infrastructure of Japan in accordance with the phases from basic survey to demonstration projects depending on the situation and challenges of the respective countries.

In February 2021, MIC established the "Japan Platform for Driving Digital Development" that is a public-private partnership framework to support overseas ICT deployment of Japan with MIC's initiative. As of January 2022, over 100 members including ICT-related companies and relevant government agencies/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 4-8-2-1 Japan Platform for Driving Digital Development
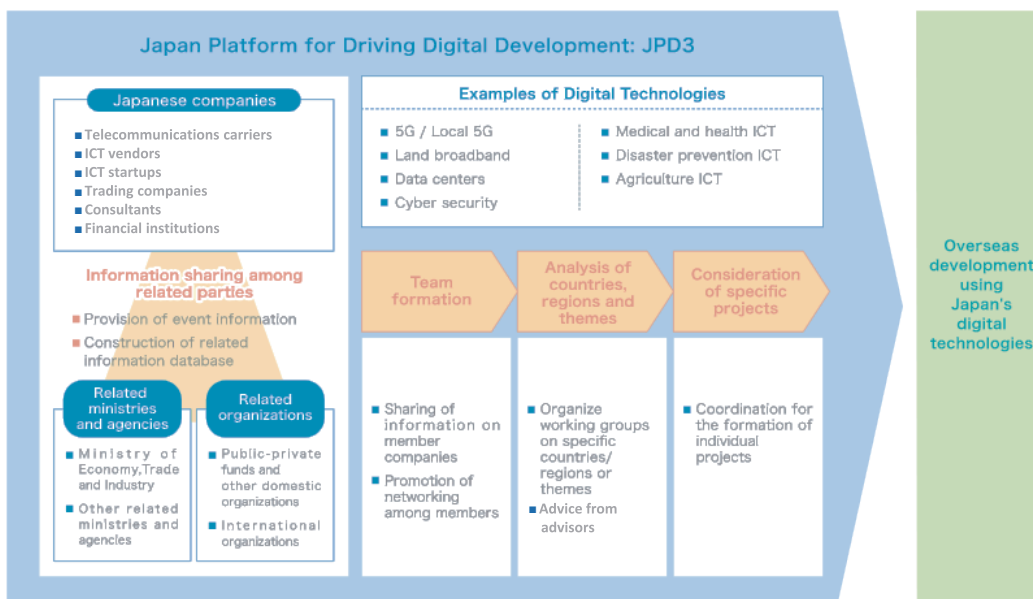
(2) Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT)

The Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT), which is a public-private fund under MIC's jurisdiction, supports investments and hands-on projects by entities providing overseas communication, broadcasting or postal services and those supporting them. As of the end of March 2022, funds and loans of 78.8 billion yen in total have been allocated for the support.

Considering the ICT development and needs, and policy trends of other countries in recent years, MIC decided to add medical ICT, cybersecurity and other ICT services that do not involve hard infrastructure development to JICT targets, while at the same time advancing LP investments in the fund.[50] Its support standards were amended in February 2022 (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Notice No. 34 of 2022).

(3) Initiatives toward overseas deployment for each field
i Core communications infrastructure

Mobile communication networks: The government of Ethiopia approved licensing of mobile phone service in the country to an international consortium including a Japanese enterprise in 2021. The service will be launched in 2022. MIC takes this opportunity to promote digital solution deployment in the country and African region.

Optical submarine cables: MIC through JIST has been supporting projects with a focus on Southeast Asia (decided to provide funds/loans up to 78 million dollars included in the total project costs of 400 million dollars). In addition, since September of 2021, Japanese companies have participated in a project to lay optical subma-

rine cables in the Indian Ocean, which was announced by Prime Minister Modi of India in August 2020. Moreover, MIC in collaboration with willing countries and relevant government agencies/organizations is working on improvement of the relatively less-developed communication environments of Pacific island nations.

5G/Local 5G: As the importance of safe and secure 5G network is discussed in the international arena, MIC is working for its overseas deployment using Open RAN that attracts attention as a technology to realize open and secure networks. For example, since fiscal 2021, MIC and a local communication carrier have jointly examined the possibility of overseas deployment through construction of a Local 5G network using 5G radio facilities based on Open RAN and demonstration experiments of Local 5G applications.

Japanese digital terrestrial TV broadcasting system: 20 countries including Japan (many of them are in Latin America) have adopted this system. MIC continues to support smooth transition to digital broadcasting.

ii Digital technology use models

Use in the medical field: Japanese companies have received orders for a telemedicine system using smartphone mostly from Latin America. Since fiscal 2021, MIC has conducted studies through demonstrations at local hospitals toward spread of endoscopes using high-definition video technology and AI diagnosis support systems to ASEAN countries.

Radio system: In Thailand, MIC is preparing for demonstration experiments of the Ground-Based Augmentation System (GBAS), which is an aircraft approach/landing system using positioning satellite including GPS. Through this and similar initiatives, MIC shares under-

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[50] According to the results of the review of the enforcement status based on the provision of Article 4, Supplementary Provisions of the Act on the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (Act No. 35 of 2015)

standing of Japan's technological advantages with other countries to promote international use of Japan's radio technologies with high frequency use efficiency and international cooperation in frequency use.

iii Broadcasting contents

MIC has continuously supported initiatives of Japanese broadcasters to produce broadcast contents conveying the appeal of Japan jointly with overseas broadcasters and to disseminate the contents to the world from fiscal 2014 to 2022 with a focus on Asia. As a result, exports of broadcasting contents more than tripled in the seven years from 13.78 billion yen in fiscal 2013 to 57.11 billion yen in fiscal 2020. In addition, overseas deployment of broadcasting contents has produced various effects including economic ripple effects such as development of the market for regional products and spread of the appeal of Japan.

iv Other
(i) Fire defense

MIC signed a memorandum of cooperation in fire defense with Vietnam in October 2018 and made arrangement for training on standards/conformity assessment system of fire equipment. In addition, MIC has disseminated information of quality and standards/conformity assessment system of fire equipment of Japan by obtaining authentication registration of Japan Fire Equipment Inspection Institute and the Fire Equipment and Safety

Center of Japan in the United Arab Emirates.

(ii) Postal service

In multiple countries mostly in Southeast Asia, MIC is promoting international cooperation and overseas deployment in public-private cooperation by identifying opportunities and challenges in efficiency improvement and modernization of postal services and sharing Japan's knowledge and experience contributing to their solution, for example. The efforts realized consultation for streamlining of operations and ordering of sorting machines for Vietnam Post. In addition, MIC is promoting new initiatives to expand business opportunities of postal business entities through ICT use.

(iii) Administrative counseling/statistics

In the field of administrative counseling, MIC cooperates with public ombudsman of individual countries and signed a memorandum of cooperation pertaining to redress of administrative grievances with Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Thailand. Based on the agreement, MIC accepted 270 trainees in total in the last eight years from Vietnam, for example.

In the field of statistics, MIC supports government digitalization by taking advantage of knowledge on construction of highly reliable e-government and statistic systems. For example, MIC supported construction of an information sharing system between the central and local departments of Vietnam.

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

(1) Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)

G7 Roadmap for cooperation regarding DFFT (Data Free Flow with Trust) was formulated at the Meeting of G7 Digital Ministers in April 2021 and approved by the G7 Summit in June of the same year. The Meeting of G20 Digital Ministers in August 2021 and the G20 Summit in October of the same year reaffirmed the importance and challenges of DFFT.

Based on the above, MIC actively participates in international discussions toward rule formation to promote DFFT in the concrete at occasions including G7, G20, OECD and bilateral discussions.

(2) Response to discussions on international rules of cyber space
i Making international rules of cyberspace

Regarding international rules of cyberspace, MIC emphasizes two points: (1) give maximum consideration to free flow of information, which not only supports democracy but also is a source of innovations to drive economic growth; and (2) ensure participation of all stakeholders including private enterprises, academia and civil society who are actually using the internet and managing networks (multi-stakeholder framework), in order to secure cyber security. Based on the two points, MIC took up related subjects in bilateral talks including the U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy (IED) and Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop to strengthen cooperation with like-minded countries. In

addition, MIC actively participates in discussions at multilateral meetings by issuing a "Declaration for the Future of the Internet" together with other core members (the United States, Australia, Canada, EU and the United Kingdom) and interested countries in April 2022, for example.

ii Bilateral and multilateral talks on cybersecurity

Bilateral talks for discussing cybersecurity were held in 2021 including "the Japan-US Cyber Dialogue" director-level meeting in May, "the 6th Japan-UK Cyber Talk" in June, "the 2nd Japan-Germany Cyber Talk" in May, and "the 4th Japan-Estonia Cyber Talk" in December. Through these talks on recognition of the situation, initiatives in the respective countries, cooperation in the international arena, support for capacity building, etc., Japan strengthens collaboration with these countries.

As for multilateral discussions on cybersecurity, opinion/information on the current status in the respective countries and capacity building support for ASEAN region are exchanged at ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Policy Meeting and other occasions. In addition, Japan, the United States, Australia and India agreed to cooperate for cybersecurity under the framework of QUAD. The entire government engages in discussions toward strengthening of cooperation with like-minded countries.

(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).

Specifically, since 2018, MIC participated in discussions on the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP11), Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), The US-Japan Digital Free Trade Agreement, the Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), which were signed and came into effect. Currently negotiations on Japan-China-Korea FTA and other agreements continue. In each EPA negotiation, MIC demands relaxation/abolishment of restriction on foreign investments in the telecommunication sector, negotiates development of the rules for promoting competition including interconnection and discusses cooperation between contracting parties in order to obtain commitment to liberalization above the WTO level.

(4) Promotion of strategic international standardization

International standardization in the ICT sector is an important policy issue that can lead to 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.

Specifically, MIC implements trend research and standards establishment regarding forum standards[51] in addition to de jure standards[52], training of human resources engaged in international standardization, initiatives to deepen understanding of the importance of standardization activities. MIC also implements joint research aimed at international standardization with EU, the United States and Germany, R&D and demonstration experiments in promising fields for social implementation (ex. wireless factories).

4. Securing economic security in the digital field

Considering the importance of the communication sector including 5G in socioeconomic activities, MIC is working to secure and enhance economic security in the digital field through collaboration with the United States and other like-minded countries. One example of the efforts is establishment of the Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDCP) through the Japan-US summit in April 2021.

In the part of "Ensuring safety and reliability of core infrastructure," which is one of the four pillars of the Act on Promotion of Ensuring of Security by Taking Economic Measures in an Integrated Manner (Act No.43 of 2022) enacted in 2022, telecommunication, broadcasting and postal services are designated as one of the businesses related to key infrastructures. Preparation works are scheduled toward its enforcement. In addition, the government is strengthening the review system for inward direct investment based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949). In this way, enhancement of systems has been promoted also in the digital field.

5. International cooperation in multilateral frameworks

At policy consultations in multilateral frameworks including G7/G20, APEC, APT, ASEAN, ITU, UN, WTO and OECD, MIC actively leads international collaboration initiatives in the ICT field, which include promotion of free information distribution, safe and secure cyberspace, development of high-quality ICT infrastructure and contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

(1) G7/G20

As a result of globalization and digitalization of socioeconomic activities, cross-border data flow, businesses and services are progressing. In this context, the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa, that was chaired by Japan in April 2016 triggered vigorous discussions in the framework of G7 toward development of the digital economy.

Discussions on the digital economy have been continuously made also in the framework of G20 that includes China and India. Specifically, MIC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and METI held the G20 Ibaraki-Tsukuba Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy in June 2019. The ministers agreed on AI principles with "human-centric" approach for the first time in G20, which was followed by the top-level agreement at G20 Osaka Summit. The idea of Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) was also supported at the top level and its importance was reaffirmed at the 2020 G20 Digital Economy Ministers Meeting (Saudi Arabia).

In addition, the G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Meeting (UK) held in April 2021 declared their opposition to measures which may undermine democratic values, such as internet shutdowns and network restrictions by governments. The meeting formulated a roadmap for cooperation among G7 countries in specific promotion of DFFT and proposed actions in four areas for cooperation of the roadmap: (1) Data localization; (2) Regulatory cooperation; (3) Government Access to

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[51] Standards formulated based on the agreement of multiple enterprises, universities and other forum members.
[52] Standards formulated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) or other public international standardization body.

Data, and (4) Approaches to data sharing in priority sectors. The roadmap was approved in the G7 Summit in June of the same year.

Japan, which will chair the 2023 G7, continues to contribute to international discussions on rulemaking concerning the digital economy, which includes promotion of DFFT.

(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. In APEC, discussions on the telecommunication field are led by the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL) and the Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications and Information Industry (TELMIN).

As a result of the adoption of the Aotearoa Plan of Action at the APEC Summit in 2021, TEL is advancing studies for promotion of "innovation and digitalization" 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 regarding digital government at TEL held twice a year and dissemination of ICT policies in Japan.

(3) Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) is an international organization in the information and communication sector of the Asia Pacific region established in 1979 with the aim of balanced development of telecommunication and information infrastructure in the region. Its activities include human resource development through training and seminars, and regional policy coordination in standardization and radio communication. Currently Mr. KONDO Masanori (former MIC senior official) from Japan is its secretary general.

Through contributions to APT, MIC supports activities including acceptance of trainees and exchange of ICT engineers and researchers in broadband and wireless communication and other ICT fields where Japan has strength. In fiscal 2021, MIC supported eight online training courses, four international joint research projects and two pilot projects.

(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 promotion of economic growth and social/cultural development, political/economic stability and cooperations regarding challenges in the region. ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting (ADGMIN) discusses policies in the digital field.

i Contributing to achievement of the goals of ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025

Japan cooperates for achievement of the goals of the ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025 formulated in January

2021. Specifically, Japan and ASEAN countries implement joint projects using ASEAN ICT Fund established with contributions from Japan and other funds. In fiscal 2021, workshops in the field of Vehicle to X (V2X) and initiatives to formulate a best practice guide for development of 5G ecosystem were implemented.

ii Strengthening cooperation system in the field of cybersecurity

Currently, MIC implements cybersecurity exercises including Cyber Defense Exercise with Recurrence (CYDER) for cybersecurity personnel of government agencies and critical infrastructure operators in ASEAN countries online or at the ASEAN Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)[53] on a continual basis. In addition, considering the recent spread of COVID-19, since fiscal 2020 AJCCBC has provided online self-learning materials and expands exercise content through provision of teaching materials from third parties other than Japan or ASEAN.

Furthermore, MIC promotes information sharing and strengthens cooperation systems among related parties by regularly holding Japan-ASEAN Information Security Workshop for ISP services in ASEAN countries. Since fiscal 2020, MIC has developed an online information sharing system pertaining to cybersecurity between Japan and ASEAN.

(5) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU: headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with 193 member countries) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN). Its purpose is to extend international cooperation for improvement and rational use of telecommunication, and to promote development and efficient operation of technical means for efficiency improvement, increase in use and spread of telecommunication services. ITU consists of the following three sectors conducting allocation of frequencies, standardization of telecommunication technologies, telecommunication development support in developing countries and other activities.

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

Election of the next Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Sector is scheduled in September 2022 and Japan supports Mr. ONOE Seizo, currently serving as the CSSO (Chief Standardization Strategy Officer) of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation.

i Initiatives at ITU-R

In order to ensure rational, efficient, economical and fair use of the radio frequency spectrum by all radio communication services, ITU-R conducts research on use of frequencies and formulates standards related to radio communications. Radiocommunication Assembly

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[53] AJCCBC: https://www.ajccbc.org/index.html

(RA) that approves recommendations submitted by Study Groups and discusses issues and systems of the next SG period, and the World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) aimed at amendment of the radio regulations providing international frequency allocation and other matters are the largest ITU-R meetings held once every three to four years. MIC has actively contributed to the discussions.

ii Initiatives at ITU-T

ITU-T studies international standards of communication network technologies and operation methods, and conducts technical studies necessary for formulation of the standards.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which is the supreme decision-making meeting of ITU-T held once every four years, was held in March 2022. The assembly discussed appointment of chairs and vice-chairs of study groups and approval of resolutions. As a result, Japan obtained two chairs and 7 vice-chairs, and the assembly agreed on new resolutions on the review of reorganization of ITU-TSG and new telephone numbers common across Africa, and on revision of 36 resolutions.

As regards the Focus Groups in which non-ITU members can participate, the Focus Group on "Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things for Digital Agriculture" (FG-AI4A) and the Focus Group on Testbed Federations for IMT-2020 and beyond (FG-TBFxG) were set up in fiscal 2021 to start new studies on AI and future networks.

iii Initiatives at ITU-D

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

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), which is the supreme decision-making meeting of ITU-D, is held once every four years. In the current Study Group Period (2018 to 2021), ITU-D implements ICT development support projects, ICT human resource development and other activities based on the strategic goals and action plans adopted by WTDC-17 held in 2017. Individual projects include the Connect2Recover[54] initiative that was launched by ITU and MIC in 2020 to strengthen digital infrastructure and ecosystem in the light of the global needs for enhancement of communication networks, which came to the surface as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(6) United Nations
i United Nations General Assembly Second Committee Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

In the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee handling economy and finance, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) set up under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) leads discussions on promotion of global digital cooperation toward inclusive digital society, public nature of the internet and other issues. Through participation in CSTD annual meetings and other activities, Japan contributes to international discussions regarding information and the communication sector including internet governance.

ii Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

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

In December 2021, the 16th meeting was held in Poland. Japan made active contributions to the meeting by organizing an open forum on global data governance, and MIC Minister Kaneko took the platform of its closing session in the form of a video letter announcing that Japan would host IGF in 2023 toward maintenance and development of a free, open, safe and segmentation-free internet.

(7) World Trade Organization (WTO)

There has been little progress in the telecommunication sector since the agreement of the Basic Telecommunication Negotiations in 1997 as a result of stagnation of the Doha Round that started in 2001. However, based on the recent rising attention to e-commerce handling data distribution on the internet, like-minded members formally started e-commerce negotiations at WTO in 2019. Japan as co-chair country together with Australia and Singapore leads the discussions.

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

Pioneering discussions on the ICT sector are made 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.

Since 2016 CDEP has been working on initiatives on AI and adopted and published the "Recommendation of the Council on Artificial Intelligence" in May 2019. The recommendation presents principles to be shared by people engaging in AI and the matters to be tackled by governments. This is the first inter-governmental consensus document on AI. CDEP continues active efforts including establishment of the "AI Policy Observatory (OECD.AI)" that is an online platform on AI (January 2020) and setting up of the "OECD Network of Experts on AI (ONE AI)" that is an AI expert group (February of the same year).

(9) ICANN

For IP addresses, domain names and other internet resources that are absolutely necessary for internet use,

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[54] At first, the initiative's target was Africa where internet connection rate was low, but with participation of the government of Saudi Arabia and declaration by the government of Australia to participate, it has expanded to a global scale.

it is important to ensure appropriate global management/coordination including prevention of overlapping assignments. International management/coordination of internet resources is currently handled by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) [55] that was launched as a nonprofit corporation in 1988. In addition to IP address assignment and domain name coordination, ICANN coordinates operation/deployment of route server/system and development of policy related to these technical services.

MIC actively contributes to ICANN activities as an official member of its Governmental Advisory Committee consisting of the representatives of the governments of the member countries. To address unauthorized use of DNS, for example, Japan proposed study of methods for the Registry-Registrar to observe the provisions of the contract with ICANN and identification of registrants of domain names in the 70th to 72nd ICANN meetings.

6. International cooperation in bilateral relationships

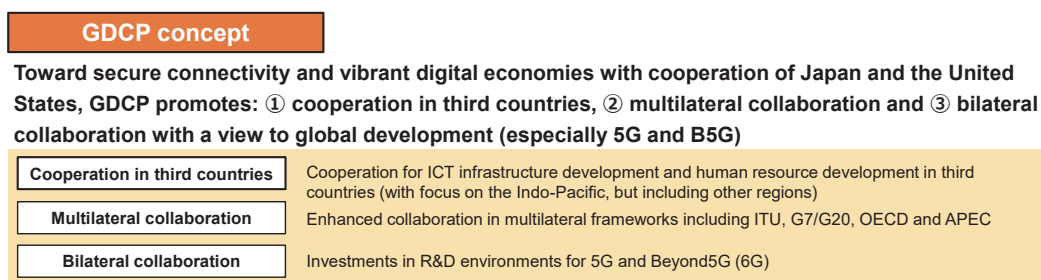**(1) Policy cooperation with the United States**

Based on the outcome document [56] issued after the Japan-U.S. summit meeting between Prime Minister Suga and President Biden of the United States on April 16, 2021, the Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDCP) [57] was launched in May of the same year in order to promote secure connectivity and vibrant digital economies. With the launch of GDCP, the Japan-U.S. Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy (IED) is positioned as the framework to promote GDCP.

The 12th Japan-US IED intergovernmental and public-private meetings were held on November 11 and 12 combining face-to-face and online methods. Participants of the meetings discussed a broad range of issues including 5G/B5G and cybersecurity, cooperation in the international arena, AI, and global free flow of data. As an outcome of the meetings, the Joint Statement on the 12th U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy was released. [58] At the meetings, following expert-level working group meetings of the GDCP in May and October 2021, the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to promoting secure connectivity and a vibrant global digital economy.

At the private sector meeting on November 5, 2021, Keidanren, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan (ACCJ) and other participants from American industry issued the "Joint Statement 2021 by the US-Japan Internet Economy Private Working Group." The Joint Statement was submitted to the two governments at the Japan-US IED public-private meeting.

Figure 4-8-6-1 Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDCP)

GDCP concept	
Toward secure connectivity and vibrant digital economies with cooperation of Japan and the United States, GDCP promotes: ① cooperation in third countries, ② multilateral collaboration and ③ bilateral collaboration with a view to global development (especially 5G and B5G)	
Cooperation in third countries	Cooperation for ICT infrastructure development and human resource development in third countries (with focus on the Indo-Pacific, but including other regions)
Multilateral collaboration	Enhanced collaboration in multilateral frameworks including ITU, G7/G20, OECD and APEC
Bilateral collaboration	Investments in R&D environments for 5G and Beyond5G (6G)

(2) Cooperation with Europe

i Cooperation with the European Union (EU)

MIC and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission hold "Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogues" (the 27th dialogue in February 2022 was the latest) for exchange of information and opinion on ICT policy, and "Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshops" (the 13th workshop in April 2022 was the latest) to promote public-private collaboration/cooperation in the digital field.

At the 27th Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue, the two sides discussed 5G/Beyond 5G (6G), regulatory reform, AI, DFFT and cybersecurity, and reaffirmed the importance of in-depth discussions by like-minded countries for establishing international rules including DFFT.

In addition, the Japan-EU Digital Partnership was launched in May 2022. The partnership covers digital priorities shared by Japan and the EU, with the Digital Agency, MIC and METI playing leading roles from Japan and the European Commission (EC)'s Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG Connect) doing so from the EU.

ii Cooperation with European countries

(i) The United Kingdom

In May 2022, MIC, the Digital Agency and METI launched the UK-Japan Digital Group with the UK as a framework to tackle common digital priorities of the two countries. The group will hold a director-general-level meeting, and MIC will be in charge of the coordination.

(ii) Germany

MIC holds Japan-Germany ICT policy dialogue with the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV)

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[55] Mr. MAEMURA Akinori (Japan Network Information Center: JPNIC) from Japan has been ICANN board member since November 2016.
[56] https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/na/na1/us/page1_000951.html
[57] https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000119.html
[58] https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000126.html

of Germany to deepen the mutual understanding between Japan and Germany on policy aspects in the ICT field and promote the collaboration and cooperation of the two countries. At the 6th meeting held as a web conference in March 2022, the two countries discussed the governments' initiatives to promote Open RAN, the status of progress in R&D toward Beyond 5G, global digital governance, digital platform policies and data utilization/AI. Through the discussions, Japan and Germany confirmed that the two countries continue the collaboration. In addition, public-private sessions were held to exchange information on 5G and other initiatives in Japanese and German industries.

(iii) France

MIC and the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery of the French Republic hold Japan-France ICT Policy Dialogues to share information on the latest initiatives regarding important ICT topics. The latest meeting was the 21st Dialogue in June 2021.

(3) Cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries

MIC cooperates with information and communication departments of Asia-Pacific countries in the ICT field including communication infrastructure development and ICT usage.

i India

In September 2021, MIC, the Ministry of Communications of India and other organizations held the "Japan-India intergovernmental consultation and public-private workshop in the field of 5G," shared the current status of intergovernmental and public-private 5G and Beyond 5G (6G) initiatives in the two countries and directions of future initiatives, and exchanged opinions.

ii Southeast Asian countries

MIC has held ICT Joint Working Groups between Vietnam and Japan since 2018. In the 5th Working Group, the two sides exchanged opinions on digital transformation, cybersecurity, 5G and other matters and agreed to continue Japan-Vietnam cooperation.

In November 2021, MIC held an online meeting with the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) of Thailand to share information and exchange opinions on 5G policy and other topics and deepened understanding of the recent information and communication administration including 5G development in the two countries.

In July 2021, MIC and the Ministry of Communications and Information of the Republic of Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the information and communications field. The two countries agreed to further strengthen cooperation in the field (ex. digital economy, AI, cybersecurity).

Philippines is the only ASEAN country adopting the Japanese terrestrial digital television standard. MIC continues support for smooth transition to terrestrial digital in the country with a view to support through ODA.

(4) Cooperation with Latin American countries

In Latin America, following Brazil, which adopted the Japanese terrestrial digital television standard (ISDB-T) in 2006, 14 countries adopted ISDB-T. Currently, MIC supports activities to end analog broadcasting in the countries and introduction of the Emergency Warning Broadcast System (EWBS) that is one of the functions of ISDB-T in Peru, Ecuador and other countries.

MIC also holds 5G seminars in Latin American countries to explain the importance of constructing open and secure 5G networks, in particular, and supports Japanese enterprises having excellent technologies in this field to expand their business in this region.

Furthermore, in order to encourage initiatives to use Japan's excellent ICT to solve social challenges in these countries, MIC conducts: demonstration of Smart City including protection of World Heritage in Cartagena, Colombia; demonstration of agriculture ICT solutions to improve operational efficiency of agricultural producers in Ecuador and Brazil, and; demonstration of medical ICT solutions using Local 5G in Chile.

(5) Cooperation with other regions
i Cooperation with Africa

Cooperation with African countries in the ICT field has progressed starting from the adoption of the Japanese terrestrial digital television standard (ISDB-T) by Botswana (2013) and Angola (2019). The Japan-Africa ICT High-level Round Table, an official side event of the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) held in Yokohama 2019 adopted a joint statement that includes Japan-Africa cooperation in the field of ICT.

Toward realization of the agreed matters in the joint statement, since fiscal 2019 MIC has implemented demonstration experiments of communication infrastructure (Senegal and Kenya), agricultural ICT (Botswana and Ethiopia), and medical ICT (Ghana, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo) to contribute to solving of social issues in Africa, while at the same time supporting development by Japanese enterprises. The results will be reported at the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) scheduled in 2022.

ii Cooperation with Middle East

MIC has strengthened the cooperative relationship with Saudi Arabia. Based on "Japan-Saudi Vision 2030" (2017) and the memorandum of cooperation with Saudi Arabia on cooperation in the ICT field signed with the Minister of Communications and Information Technology of Saudi Arabia (2019), MIC has established cooperative relationships between enterprises of the two countries and supported technology deployment by Japanese enterprises through dispatch of 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. In fiscal 2021, MIC implemented a demonstration experiment of medical ICT using VR technology of Japan.