

Section 6 Promotion of ICT Usage

1. Summary

(1) Initiatives so far

Since the establishment of the Information Technology Strategic Headquarters and the enactment of the Basic Act on the Formation of an Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society (Act No. 144 of 2000)¹ in 2000, Japan has promoted the use of ICT under various national strategies including the e-Japan Strategy. Based on these strategies, MIC has promoted

the use of ICT in various fields such as medical care and regional revitalization in order to deal with Japan's social/economic challenges including the declining birthrate and aging society and associated labor shortages, increases in medical and nursing care expenses, and intensified natural disasters.

(2) Future challenges and directions

As various social/economic issues such as the decline of the working-age population and the contraction of local economies become more serious, there is an increasing need to use ICT to solve these issues. For example, the use of remote work is expected to realize work styles that are independent of location and time, and the use of new communication technologies such as local 5G is expected to improve productivity. In particular, following the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020, the use of ICT in enabling non-contact and non-face-to-face lifestyles has once again become important, and it is necessary to take this opportunity to further promote the use of ICT throughout society.

realize the implementation of a safe and secure society.

The use of ICT throughout society has progressed. However, as discussed in Chapter 4, Section 11, there is some variation in the usage rate of the Internet due to factors such as age. In order to realize a shift to digital that leaves no one behind, it is necessary to narrow the digital divide by eliminating anxiety and resistance to digital technologies among the public including the elderly, and by advancing initiatives to improve people's ability to use digital technologies.

Although the use of AI and the metaverse by companies and others is expected to help improve the convenience of daily life and revitalize Japan's economy, it is necessary to gain a clear understanding of the impact of these on society and the problems that may arise, and

The use of various Internet services such as social media and video streaming services is increasing among users of a wide age range, and it will be important for all generations to acquire literacy to properly utilize ICT, such as critically viewing information and disseminating information with consideration for others, as information distributed on the Internet also includes illegal harmful information, disinformation, and misinformation.

2. Promotion of ICT usage to contribute toward solving social/economic issues

(1) Promotion of local 5G

a Overview of local 5G

Unlike nationwide 5G services provided by mobile carriers, local 5G is a 5G system that can be flexibly constructed by various entities including local enterprises and local governments in their building or premise

based on the unique needs of the community or industry. The use of local 5G in various fields, forms, and environments is expected to play an important role in handling various challenges and creating new value.

b Development demonstrations for realizing local 5G services to solve issues

As an effort to spread local 5G, MIC began to tackle “development demonstrations for realizing local 5G services to solve issues” in fiscal 2020, in order to implement technical studies on radio wave propagation under a variety of use environments assuming actual use situations, and to create solutions using local 5G. In fiscal 2020, 19 demonstrations were conducted, followed by 26 demonstrations in fiscal 2021 and 20 demonstrations in fiscal 2022.²

In order to promote the introduction of local 5G in various situations such as factories, farmland, transportation, medical treatment, construction sites, and disaster sites, the “Public-Private Liaison Conference to Spread Local 5G” was established in January 2021. Consisting of relevant organizations and others, the purpose of the conference is to disseminate information for the spread of local 5G.

c Promotion of development through the tax system

In order to promote the introduction of safe and reliable 5G and solve various social issues in local communi-

ties by using 5G, while at the same time strengthening the international competitiveness of Japan's economy, a

¹ This act was abolished by the Basic Act on the Formation of a Digital Society (Act No. 35 of 2021).

² Go! 5G <https://go5g.go.jp/>

tax system to promote the introduction of 5G was established in fiscal 2020. The fiscal 2022 tax reform extended special measures to allow tax credits or special write-offs for corporate and income taxes until the end of fiscal

(2) Promotion of remote work

a Overview of remote work

Remote work is a flexible way of working that uses ICT to make effective use of time and place. It is effective for realizing a variety of working styles that suit each person's life stage and lifestyle, including those raising children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, and for ensuring business continuity in the event of disasters or infectious diseases. People can work where they wish to live while maintaining income, so this work style can bring about various benefits throughout society such as creating a flow of people from urban areas to rural areas. Since 2020 and the spread of COVID-19, remote work has been widely used as a means of reducing the number of workers at worksites, especially in urban areas. However, as notions on preventing the spread of COVID-19 have spread, the implementation rate of remote work has dropped along with the number of infections. According to a survey of companies conducted by Tokyo Shoko Research, Ltd., the rate rose from 25.3% to 55.9% during the first emergency declaration, and then fell to 31.0%. The rate rose again to 38.4% during the second declaration, but has remained around 30%³ since 2022.

With this in mind, MIC established the “Task Force for the Investigation of Remote Work Post-COVID-19” in April 2021 to receive opinions from experts on further expanding and establishing remote work, and investigating how remote work should function in Japan in the future. A proposal issued in August of the same year ar-

b Support for the spread of remote work

With the aim of supporting the introduction of remote work in SMEs and rural areas where the remote work implementation rate remains low, MIC in collaboration with local chambers of commerce and industry and social security labor attorney associations has established remote work support networks across Japan, and is now conducting public relations activities in collaboration with regional bureaus of telecommunications and others. MIC is also working to spread better remote work practices by providing free individual consultation by experts (remote work managers) for enterprises and other organizations considering introducing or improving remote work practices. Since fiscal 2022, support has been provided integrated with labor-related remote

2024 along with special measures for property taxes until the end of fiscal 2023, after reviewing the plan to promote the development of base stations in rural areas in order to realize the “Digital Garden City Nation Concept.”

gued that “Japanese-style remote work,” such as enhancing communication through the use of ICT tools while maintaining good Japanese employment practices and business styles, should be the future of Japan.

In order to build momentum for remote work, the Remote Work Month Executive Committee (Cabinet Secretariat Bureau of Personnel Affairs, Cabinet Office for Promoting Regional Revitalization, Digital Agency, MIC, MHLW, METI, MLIT, Japan Tourism Agency, Japan Telework Association, and Japan Telework Society) advocates that November of each year be designated as “Remote Work Month” (an intensive period for remote work), conducts surveys of efforts to measure the effects of implementing remote work (such as contribution to work style reform and operational efficiency), and holds events and seminars runs by relevant ministries and agencies. In order to increase incentives for companies and others to introduce remote work through the selection and publication of advanced cases, and to accumulate reference cases for companies considering introducing remote work, MIC has been conducting the “Top Hundred Telework Pioneers” program since 2015 to award companies that have been recognized for their satisfactory use of remote work. The “MIC Minister Award” is also given to companies that have made particularly excellent efforts from the viewpoint of management results, ICT utilization, and contribution to local revitalization.

work consultation provided by MHLW as “one-stop telework support projects.”

In order to address information security concerns often cited as challenges for introducing remote work, MIC formulated “Telework Security Guidelines” and “Telework Security Guide for SMEs (Checklists)” for reference by enterprises and other organizations when implementing remote work. The revised version released in fiscal 2022 features updated checklists and the addition of the “Employee Handbook.”

In order to promote the spread and establishment of remote work in local areas, MIC began conducting demonstrations in fiscal 2022 to build a model that uses remote work to solve cross-field policy issues facing local areas.



Figure (related data) Ensuring remote work security

URL:https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/cybersecurity/telework/index.html

³ The 22nd “Survey on COVID-19 (Tokyo Shoko Research, Ltd.)”: https://lp.tsr-net.co.jp/rs/483-BVX-552/images/20220622_TSRsurvey_CoronaVirus.pdf

(3) Promotion of smart city vision

Since fiscal 2017, MIC has been promoting the concept of smart cities in order to solve various problems faced by cities through the use of digital technology and data, leading to regional revitalization. The “Smart City Promotion Project for Solving Local Issues” is being implemented in cooperation with relevant ministries and agencies to support local governments and others working to implement smart cities using “Urban OS,” a data

(4) Promotion of ICT use in the education field

In order to further promote the use of ICT in education, MIC in cooperation with MEXT implemented the “Smart School Platform Demonstration Project” using data from the “school affairs system” used by teachers and the “lesson/learning system” used also by students to examine safe, effective, and efficient methods of linking data between systems from fiscal 2017 to 2019. In fiscal 2020, MIC released “Smart School Platform Tech-

(5) Promotion of ICT use in the medical field

Japan is becoming a super-aging society and is facing challenges such as increasing medical and nursing care costs and uneven distribution of medical resources. For this reason, MIC has been promoting the spread of remote medical care and the use of PHR⁵ data in order to improve and streamline medical and health services by building and upgrading infrastructures for utilizing medical, nursing, and health data.

The Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) launched a research project in fiscal 2022 to develop and demonstrate an 8K endoscope system and continues to prepare communications environments and network conditions necessary for realizing remote surgery, with the goal of developing remote medical care, which is expected to serve as a powerful means of

(6) Development of disaster prevention information systems

Japan is one of the world's top nations in terms of natural disasters and has sustained severe social/economic damage each time it was hit by a large-scale natural disaster. As large-scale natural disasters including Nankai

a Development of disaster resistant communications networks for firefighting and disaster prevention

Collecting and sharing information pertaining to damage situations requires a communications network that can guarantee communication in times of disaster. Communications networks connecting the state, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA), local governments, residents, and others have been constructed for this purpose. The networks consist of (1) the Cabinet Office's Anti-Disaster Radio Communication System collecting and conveying information within the government, (2) fire defense disaster prevention radio networks

linkage platform which serves as the foundation for smart city services. In fiscal 2022, the project provided support to 12 organizations.

Efforts were also made to promote the spread of smart cities by creating and releasing videos and interview articles that introduce examples of smart city initiatives in the region, as well as case studies of smart city services.⁴

“Technical Specifications” on its website and engaged in efforts to popularize and promote this information. During fiscal 2021 to 2022, MIC has been studying technical specifications (reference models) required to realize a “digital education platform” to serve as the basis of information sharing between digital learning systems owned by business operators outside of schools.

resolving the uneven distribution of doctors throughout the country. Since fiscal 2023, it has also been conducting research and development to establish a data distribution platform necessary for obtaining PHR data requested by physicians from various PHR services, in order to enhance medical care and improve the accuracy of medical examinations.

The “Safety Management Guidelines for Information Systems and Service Providers Handling Medical Information” (MIC and METI) and related documents will be revised in fiscal 2023 in light of the increasing complexity and diversity of information systems and services handling medical information, the damage caused by new threats such as ransomware attacks, and experiences during actual use.

Trough earthquakes are anticipated in the future, it is necessary to reduce human and physical damage from disasters by efficiently using ICT.

connecting FDMA and prefectures, (3) prefectural disaster management radio communications systems connecting prefecture and municipalities, (4) municipal disaster management radio communications systems connecting the municipality and residents, and (5) satellite communications networks connecting the state and local governments as well as local governments to local governments. Regarding satellite communications networks, MIC is promoting measures to introduce high-performance and inexpensive next-generation systems.

⁴ Case study videos and interview articles <https://www.mlit.go.jp/scpf/efforts/index.html>
Smart city service case studies https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000808085.pdf

⁵ Abbreviation for Personal Health Record and generally refers to lifelong personal health/medical information (e.g., health examination results, vaccination/medication history, inspection results, vital signs checked by the person). It is expected that individuals will use it as a digital record to promote their own health.

b Deployment of mobile communications devices for disaster management

In order to guarantee communications in afflicted areas when communication by mobile phone or other means is unavailable, MIC lends mobile communications devices for disaster management to local governments and others. As of February 2023, 417 satellite mobile phones, 179 MCA radios, and 1065 convenience radios have been deployed in regional bureaus of tele-

c Securing means of emergency communication during disasters

In preparation for situations where it is difficult to use telecommunications services through a public telecommunications network during a disaster, attaché case type ICT units developed by MIC have been deployed in regional bureaus of telecommunications nationwide since fiscal 2016. A system has been established to help se-

d Stable operation of Nationwide Instantaneous Alert System (J-Alert)

FDMA has established the “Nationwide Instantaneous Alert System (J-Alert)” to instantaneously transmit information on situations requiring immediate response (including ballistic missile information, early earthquake warnings, and tsunami warnings) from the government to residents through such means as emergency alert emails to mobile phones and municipal di-

e Promotion of the use of L-Alert

MIC is promoting the use of L-Alert, which is a common platform for unified transmission of disaster information including evacuation orders issued by local governments to diverse media including a large number of broadcast stations and Internet business operators. It has spread across the country throughout all 47 prefectures and now plays an important part in the disaster information infrastructure.

communications and other entities across the country. Use of these devices is expected to complement communications of information essential for a range of activities from collecting and circulating disaster information during the initial response, to conducted prompt and smooth emergency restoration activities.

cure necessary means of communication by lending the units at the request of local governments and other disaster prevention organizations. A total of 25 units have been lent out to regional bureaus of telecommunications as of April 2023.

saster management radio communications systems. In order to quickly and reliably transmit emergency information by J-Alert, municipalities are urged to thoroughly check the operation of J-Alert devices so that they do not cause problems, and the multiplexing of the J-Alert information transmission means being promoted.

To further promote the spread and use of L-Alert, MIC engaged in demonstrations to map disaster information provided through L-Alert to help visitors and other people who are not familiar with the region to understand information such as evacuation areas easily. MIC has also provided training on L-Alert for local government officers and other users.

3. Promotion of data distribution/use and new businesses

(1) Social implementation of personal data trust banks

In order to promote the appropriate use of personal data including personal information, MIC and METI launched a study group to investigate a scheme for certifying information trust functions, and compiled the “Guidelines on Accreditation of Information Trust Function Version 1.0” on the voluntary certification of personal data trust banks by private organizations and others in June 2018. The guidelines focus on the use of data originating from individual users and consist of (1) accreditation criteria, (2) what to include in model agreements, and (3) the accreditation scheme. Based on the guidelines, an accreditation organization called the Information Technology Federation of Japan administered the first “personal data trust bank” accreditation in June 2018. Four companies have been accredited as “personal data trust banks” as of February 2023.

(2) Promotion of cashless payment

The “Follow-up on Growth Strategy” (Cabinet Decision in June 2019) was formulated to promote cashless payment toward the goal of doubling the percentage of

The guidelines have been continuously reviewed since then. Most recently, the handling of personal information requiring special attention in the health and medical fields by personal data trust banks has been under review by the “Personal Information Requiring Special Attention Working Group” established under the study group since November 2022, and the “Guidelines on Accreditation of Information Trust Function Version 3.0” are scheduled to be published around the summer of 2023. Since fiscal 2023, MIC has been studying how personal data trust banks should function in smart cities to promote cooperation and utilization of various regional data including personal data retained by local governments, in order to promote regional DX including the creation of new local services and the realization of administrative efficiency.

cashless payment to about 40% by June 2025.

A type of cashless payment called code payment can be difficult to use for shops introducing multiple servic-

es. To address this issue, “Payments Japan” was established with MIC and METI as observers as an organization to promote cashless payment by concerned bodies and business operators, and formulated “Guideline for Unified Technical Specification of Code Payment” in March 2019. Codes based on this guideline are referred to as “JPQR.” Since then, JPQR has been promoted with a focus on restaurants, retail stores, barber shops, beau-

(3) Acceleration of adoption of secure and reliable cloud services

With the spread of cloud services including ASP, SaaS, PaaS, and IaaS and users have more service options, it has become necessary to create an environment for users to obtain sufficient information for comparison, assessment, and selection of cloud services. With this in mind, MIC began formulating and publishing a total of eight guidelines referred to as “Information Disclosure Guidelines for Safety and Reliability of Cloud Services” in 2011 (partially revised in 2022), and has continued to add to and revise these guidelines as cloud services become increasingly diverse, such as adding “Information Disclosure Guidelines for Safety and Reli-

(4) Discovery and development of ICT startups

Japan set 2022 as the “first year for the creation of startups,” and the government formulated a “Five-Year Plan for the Development of Startups” on November 24, 2022 with the goal of increasing investment in startups by 10 times in five years and is now working to create an ecosystem that produces and nurtures startups.

In order to nurture the next generation of industries through the creation and utilization of cutting-edge ICT, MIC plans to begin implementing the “Start-up Creation and Emerging R&D Support Program” in fiscal 2023,

(5) Promotion of the spread of AI

AI is expected to be linked and networked with other AI, information systems, and other resources over the Internet (AI networking), thereby dramatically increasing both benefits and risks as it spreads widely across space.

“The Conference toward AI Network Society” launched by MIC in October 2016 studied social, economic, ethical, and legal issues for the promotion of AI networking. The conference compiled and released “Draft AI R&D Guidelines for International Discussion⁶” summarizing the matters to be noted in AI development in July 2017 and “AI Utilization Guidelines⁷” summarizing the matters to be noted in AI utilization in August 2019. Since then, a report has been published every year since 2020⁸ summarizing ambitious initiatives in AI by companies and other organizations. Under the “Social Principles of Human-Centric AI” (determined by the In-

ty salons, taxis, and other industries highly compatible with JPQR, as well as local government service desks that handle fees for issuing various documents including resident cards. By the end of fiscal 2022, about 14,000 shops in total have introduced JPQR. In fiscal 2023, the payment of local taxes using a unified local tax QR code will start, with the standard for this QR code also being a unified standard of JPQR.

ability of Cloud Services Using AI (ASP/SaaS Edition)” in 2022. Based on this, the ASP-SaaS-AI-IoT Cloud Industry Association (ASPIC) has established and now operates a system whereby a third party certifies whether cloud operators are taking measures in line with the above guidelines, with more than 300 services having been certified so far.

In order to further popularize cloud services, efforts are being made to disseminate and publicize good practices for cloud services in cooperation with industry associations.

which will provide comprehensive support from research and development to commercialization under the shared roles of the public and private sectors.

MIC and NICT also hold “Entrepreneurs' Koshien” and “Entrepreneurs' EXPO” to award and support excellent business plans by students and start-up companies aiming to start their own businesses, with the aim of solving local issues and revitalizing the economy by creating ICT start-ups originating in the region.

egrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on March 29, 2019), MIC will continue to work to promote the social implementation of safe, secure, and reliable AI.

MIC has also actively participated in international discussions on AI at G7, OECD, and other international conferences. In particular, the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI), an international initiative established in June 2020 to promote the development and use of responsible AI based on human-centered ideas, held its third annual meeting (GPAI Summit 2022) from November 21 to November 22 in 2022 at Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo. During GPAI Summit 2022, it was also decided that Japan will serve as the Chair for one year beginning in November 2022. Japan will continue to disseminate information through initiatives related to GPAI and actively contribute to international discussions.

(6) Identification of issues related to the utilization of the metaverse and other resources

Recent increases in the speed of communication and improvements in the rendering performance of comput-

ers have seen the spread of the “metaverse,” a virtual digital space that can be accessed by users through net-

⁶ Draft AI R&D Guidelines for International Discussion https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000499625.pdf

⁷ AI Utilization Guidelines https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000809595.pdf

⁸ “Report 2020” https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01iicp01_02000091.html

works such as the Internet in order to communicate. Various regions around the country have been reproduced on the metaverse, and even economic activities have been carried out, attracting much attention. Since the metaverse is free from various constraints such as distance, time, and range of activities in cyberspace, it has great potential for social transformation for the future development of Japan, and the market is expected to expand in the future.

With the understanding that it is necessary to promote innovation related to the metaverse and to take measures to ensure that cyberspace is safe and secure while taking care not to become an excessive constraint on its spread, MIC has been holding meetings of the "Study Group on the Utilization of Metaverse in the Web3 Era"⁹ since August 2022, in order to identify and

understand what issues related to cyberspace might exist, rather than examining them only after they become problems, with an eye toward the future spread of the metaverse.

With regard to the utilization of virtual spaces such as the metaverse, the study group has been working to resolve issues related to information and communications administration with various use cases in mind in order to gain a clear understanding of users and digital infrastructure environments, with the goal of improving user convenience, providing appropriate and easy access, and creating innovation. In February 2023, the study group released an interim report¹⁰ that summarizes discussions to date. The study group has continued to study the issue since then and the report will be compiled around the summer of the same year.

4. Creation of environments where everyone can enjoy the convenience of ICT

In order to make use of digital technologies in a way that leaves no one behind by bridging the digital divide caused by disabilities or age, MIC is actively promoting

(1) Support for R&D on information accessibility

In order to bridge the digital divide caused by disabilities or age, MIC provides partial subsidies to promote information accessibility in the communication and broadcasting fields. Specifically, the "R&D on Technologies to Bridge the Digital Divide" program provides necessary funds to enterprises conducting R&D on technologies regarding communications and broadcasting services for people with disabilities and the elderly. The subsidy was granted to three entities in fiscal 2022.

Furthermore, based on the Act on Advancement of

(2) Provision of phone relay service as a public infrastructure

Phone relay services are services where sign language interpreters mediate in communications between persons with hearing impairment (persons having difficulty communicating due to a disability of hearing, language functions, phonetic functions) and persons without hearing impairment by.

In order to ensure the proper provision of phone relay services, the Act on Facilitation of the Use of Telephones for the Persons with Hearing Impairments, etc. (Act No. 53 of 2020) came into effect in December 2020. The ser-

(3) Improvement to accessibility of public agency websites

In order to facilitate the use of public agency websites by everyone including the elderly and persons with disabilities, MIC formulated "Guidelines for Operation of Public Websites for Everyone (2016 Edition)" in April 2016 to support improving the accessibility of websites of national and local governments and other public orga-

(4) Support for the use of digital technologies by the elderly and others

In order to bridge the digital divide and create an en-

vironment in which everyone can benefit from digital

Facilitation Program for Disabled Persons' Use of Telecommunications and Broadcasting Services, with a View to Enhance Convenience of Disabled Persons (Act No. 54 of 1993), MIC through NICT provides partial subsidies to promote the provision and development of information accessibility communications and broadcasting to enterprises providing or developing communications or broadcasting services for disabled persons. The subsidy was provided to three entities in fiscal 2022.

vice began operating as a public infrastructure in July 2021 by the Nippon Foundation Telecommunication Relay Service, which is designated as a phone relay service organization. In order to further promote the spread of phone relay services, MIC is working with relevant ministries and agencies to publicize these services, and is cooperating in efforts to conduct phone relay service seminars and registration meetings held nationwide by phone relay service providers. As of the end of fiscal 2022, 12,307 users have been registered.

nizations. In fiscal 2022, MIC conducted a questionnaire survey on the current status of website accessibility at public organizations, conducted a survey on JIS compliance of public organization websites, and held seminars for public organizations at three locations nationwide.

⁹ Establishment of the "Study Group on the Utilization of Metaverse Towards Web3 Era" (press release) https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01iicp01_02000109.html

¹⁰ https://www.soumu.go.jp/main_content/000858216.pdf

technologies as society as a whole goes increasingly digital, MIC has been engaged in the “Project on Digital Utilization Support for Users” since fiscal 2021. This project provides assistance in the form of training sessions for the elderly and others who are concerned

about using digital technologies, including advice and consultation on online administrative procedures using smartphones. In fiscal 2022, seminars were held mainly at mobile phone shops in 4,804 locations nationwide.

5. Promotion of improving literacy for ICT utilization

(1) Implementation of tests to evaluate the Internet literacy of young people

In fiscal 2011, MIC developed the “Internet Literacy Assessment indicator for Students (ILAS)¹¹” to evaluate the online literacy of young people. It is designed specifically to measure the ability to respond to dangers and threats on the Internet, and tests seven risks including risks related to illegal information, inappropriate use, and privacy. A test to measure the Internet literacy of young people has been conducted each year since fiscal 2012, targeting first-year high schools students and oth-

er young people of equivalent age. In fiscal 2022, a total of 15,333 students from 100 schools were tested, and the overall correct answer rate was 71.1%. The correct answer rate for improper use risks (such as walking while using smartphones and violations of manners) was higher than that for other risks at 79.7%, while the correct answer rate for improper transaction risks (such as problems due to phishing or online transactions) was lower than that for other risks at 60.3%.

(2) Promotion of the spread of community ICT clubs

MIC has been conducting a demonstration project using “community ICT clubs” to provide local children with opportunities to learn applied ICT skills such as programming, and also to contribute to the development of local human resources by setting local issues as topics of study and discussion. Information on activities implemented in various parts of the country throughout fiscal 2018 and 2019 can be found on the project website.

In FY 2022, MIC conducted surveys on how local learning should be conducted in online environments and held online and community exchange meetings for the purpose of sharing information and exchanging opinions among community ICT clubs, with the aim of promoting the spread of these clubs by creating model examples of local online learning.

(3) Awareness raising to improve literacy for ICT use

In order to raise awareness about the safe use of the Internet by children, MIC runs the “e-Net Caravan,” a series of free onsite lectures held at schools for individuals such as students, parents/guardians, and teachers. MIC also prepares and publishes “Internet Trouble Case Studies,” a document that provides information on preventing trouble on the Internet.

The “Let’s Go Online! Staying Safe and Secure on the

Internet¹²” website was launched in 2021 to raise awareness about safe and secure Internet use. This website is tailored to each generation and contains content for preschoolers and their parents/guardians, young people, parents/guardians and teachers, and the elderly. It also features seasonal topics such as “social media slander,” “measures against Internet piracy,” and “false information and misinformation” to improve literacy.¹³

(4) Promotion of improving literacy based on the concept of “digital citizenship”

In order to respond to changes in the environment surrounding ICT, such as increasing opportunities to use ICT for a wide range of generations and the emergence of the distribution of false information and misinformation on the Internet, MIC began holding meetings of the “Review Committee on Improving ICT Literacy¹⁴” in November 2022 and the “Working Group on Improving Juvenile ICT Literacy” in December 2022. The groups have since been studying ways to promote literacy and measures to improve the level of literacy required

of the digital society of the future, based on the concept of “digital citizenship” (engaging autonomously with digital society on one’s own initiative). Based on the discussions of the review committee and working group, a roadmap for identifying the pillars supporting measures that must be taken will be formulated, indicators for measuring proficiency of literacy will be established, and efforts toward developing content to improve literacy will be promoted around the summer of 2023.

¹¹ https://www.soumu.go.jp/use_the_internet_wisely/special/ilas/

¹² Let’s Go Online! Staying Safe and Secure on the Internet https://www.soumu.go.jp/use_the_internet_wisely/

¹³ Refer to Chapter 5, Section 2

¹⁴ Establishment of the “Review Committee on Improving ICT Literacy” (press release) https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01ryutsu02_02000348.html