

Preface

On the Publication of the 2024 White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan



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In this White Paper, we present the current state of information and communications, as well as digital technologies.

Special Feature 1 in Part 1 focuses on the **“The Status of Information and Communications related to the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake”**.

Immediately after the earthquake, communication and broadcasting infrastructure were damaged, and public and private sectors collaborated to swiftly restore services. **Media, including broadcasting, played a significant role** in promptly and accurately disseminating information to the affected areas and contributed to addressing dis-/mis-information. **Information sharing through social media** was also widespread. Additionally, **communication infrastructure and digital technologies were utilized in rescue and recovery efforts**. This topic reaffirms the importance of information and communications and digital technologies, and outlines efforts to **strengthen communication and broadcasting infrastructure based on the challenges and lessons learned**.

Next, Special Feature 2 in Part 1 focuses on **“Living in Harmony with Evolving Digital Technologies”**.

The rapid advancement of technologies, including AI, has a significant impact on society and the economy. **Generative AI, in particular, affects all areas from industry to daily life**, presenting new opportunities while also posing risks. To **ensure the safe and secure use of AI**, we aim to **lead international discussions** on AI governance, interoperability in a borderless digital space, and the responsible use of generative AI, balancing the expansion of opportunities with risk mitigation.

This topic also covers the history of progress in the field such as the **metaverse and robotics**, and challenges and countermeasures related to the intensified spread of dis-/mis-information and the increasing influence of big tech companies.

Looking towards the future, we explore necessary initiatives for **enhancing Japan's international competitiveness, ensuring the healthiness in the information space** with consideration for freedom of expression, realizing Beyond 5G, and promoting international cooperation and rule-making.

Part 2 **analyzes the data on the latest market trends in the information and communications field**, and it summarizes the current state and future direction of information and communications policies.

Based on the analysis of this White Paper, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will continue to make every effort to advance the development of optical fiber and mobile base stations based on the **“Infrastructure Development Plan for a Digital Garden City Nation”**, **promote communication infrastructure** with large capacity, low latency, and low power consumption using cutting-edge technologies such as Photonics Electronic Convergence technology, lead the formation of international rules, including the dissemination and expansion of the **“Hiroshima AI Process”**, and **address dis-/mis-information for the benefit of the public**.

In the expanding global market for information and communications and digital technologies, we will **support the activities of related industries in Japan, ensure high-quality access at appropriate costs through universal service**, and strive to provide the public with diverse and accurate information without interruption.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the citizens in the cooperation of the information and communications administration. I hope that this White Paper will be widely used by everyone to help further deepen their understanding of information and communications, as well as digital technologies.

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