

## Section 8 Promotion of international strategies for ICT

### 1. Summary

#### (1) Initiatives so far

Based on the “Infrastructure System Overseas Promotion Strategy 2025” (decided by the Ministerial Meeting on Strategy relating to Infrastructure Export and Economic Cooperation on December 10, 2020, revised on June 17, 2021, and supplemented on June 1, 2023) and the “Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Overseas Promotion Action Plan 2025” (established by the MIC on July 21, 2022), the MIC has been actively engaged in the overseas expansion of ICT infrastructure systems. This includes activities such as project discovery, proposal, and formation, as well as providing comprehensive support for companies, including human resource development, maintenance, and finance, from the

#### (2) Future challenges and directions

The global spread of the novel coronavirus has accelerated the digitalization of society and the economy, leading to an increased demand for the development and enhancement of communication networks and effective digital solutions for problem-solving. Moreover, the importance of high-quality infrastructure has been highlighted in the context of discussions on economic security. In this context, leveraging bilateral and multilateral frameworks to expand our country’s high-quality infrastructure overseas not only contributes to addressing social issues in various countries but also helps tackle global challenges such as climate change, and further contributes to the realization of the SDGs. Additionally, enhancing the international competitiveness of our country through the dissemination and development of digital technologies is crucial for the economic development of our nation.

In light of these circumstances, the MIC aims to pro-

mote the strengthening of our country’s international competitiveness in digital technology and the advancement of global problem-solving through international cooperation. Specifically, as part of the promotion of the “Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Overseas Promotion Action Plan 2025,” we are placing emphasis on the overseas expansion of ICT infrastructure systems such as 5G and submarine optical cables, as well as the one-stop deployment of ICT solutions in fields such as healthcare and agriculture. We believe it is essential to leverage our country’s technology and experience to contribute to the economic development and problem-solving efforts worldwide. Furthermore, taking a leading role in international rule-making in the digital field is crucial, and we will actively participate in international discussions and utilize international conferences as platforms for engagement.

Furthermore, we have actively participated in policy dialogues between countries, including bilateral dialogues with the U.S., as well as multilateral forums such as the G7 and G20, contributing to the formation of international rules related to the digital economy and international rule-making discussions.

In addition, as digital infrastructures such as submarine optical cables and 5G networks have become essential infrastructures supporting national life and economic activities, we have worked to ensure their safety and reliability from the perspective of economic security through international cooperation.

### 2. Expansion of digital infrastructures overseas

In the context of the increasing global demand for communication infrastructure and services due to the advancement of digitalization in society and the economy, the MIC is promoting the enhancement of the inter-

national competitiveness of Japan’s digital industry and the promotion of global problem-solving using digital technology. This includes supporting the overseas promotion of digital infrastructure.

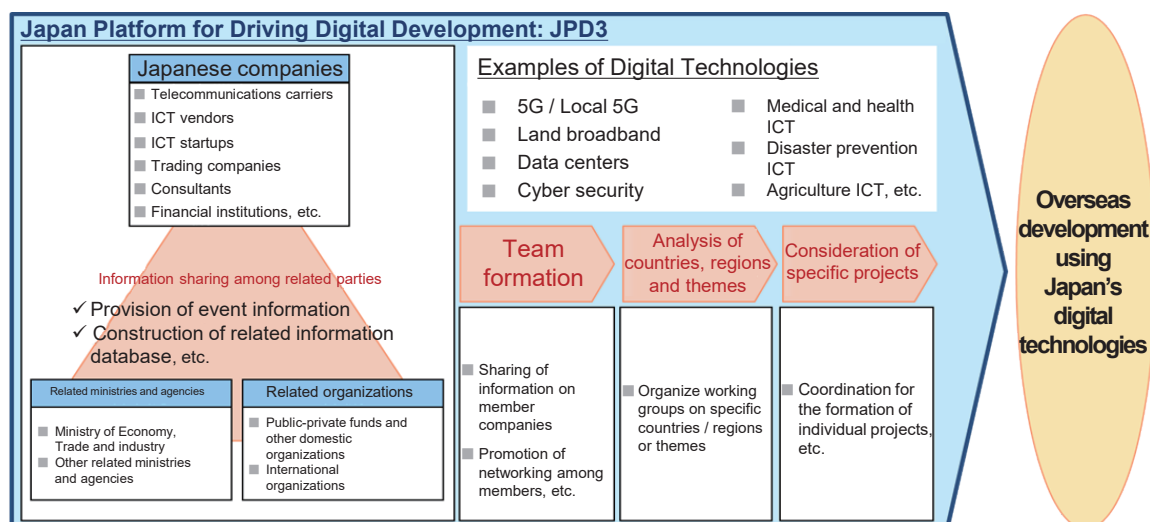
#### (1) Overseas promotion support tools by the MIC

The MIC is implementing initiatives that take into account the circumstances and challenges of each country, providing support tailored to each phase from basic research to demonstration projects for the overseas expansion of Japan’s high-quality digital infrastructure.

Additionally, in February 2021, the MIC established the “Digital Overseas Promotion Platform,” a public-private partnership framework to support the overseas ex-

pansion of Japan’s ICT (**Figure 2-2-8-1**). As of the end of March 2024, this framework includes over 200 members, primarily Japanese ICT companies, as well as related ministries and agencies. The platform facilitates information sharing on 71 countries and regions through a database, holds workshops, forms teams, and discusses specific projects.

Figure 2-2-8-1 Digital Overseas Promotion Platform



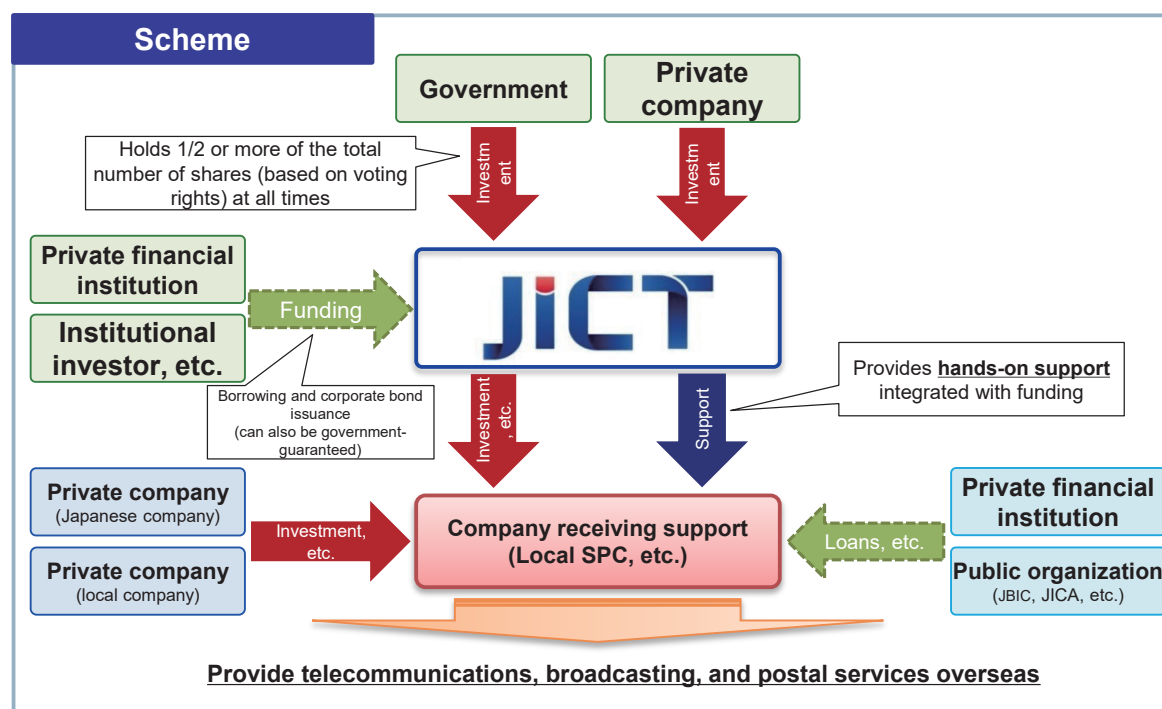
## (2) Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT)

The Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT), a public-private fund under the jurisdiction of the MIC, provides investment and hands-on support to those conducting or supporting communication, broadcasting, and postal services overseas (Figure 2-2-8-2). As of the end of March 2024, the JICT has decided to support a cumulative total of approximately 108.7 billion yen in investments and loans.

Furthermore, considering the recent developments in ICT, the needs, and the policy trends of various coun-

tries, the support criteria of the JICT were revised in February 2022 (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications Notification No. 34 of 2022). This revision allows the JICT to support projects that do not involve the construction of hard infrastructure (ICT service projects) and to make LP investments in funds. This has made it easier to support the overseas expansion of not only large enterprises but also medium-sized, small, and regional companies. In FY2023, three new support decisions were made.

Figure 2-2-8-2 Support through the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT)



### (3) Efforts for overseas expansion in each field

#### A Core communication infrastructure

Regarding mobile communication networks, in 2021, the Ethiopian government approved the granting of licenses to an international consortium, including Japanese companies, for the country's mobile phone business, and commercial communication services commenced in October 2022. This serves as an opportunity to promote the expansion of digital solutions in Ethiopia and the African region.

In the area of submarine optical cables, the JICT is supporting submarine optical cables projects in Southeast Asia, with a total project cost of approximately 400 million dollars, including support decisions for up to 78 million dollars in investment. Furthermore, Japan has been involved in a project in the Indian Ocean region announced by Prime Minister Modi of India in August 2020, with Japanese companies participating in the project, which was completed in July 2023. Efforts are also being made to improve communication environments in Pacific island countries with the cooperation of interested countries and relevant ministries and agencies. Additionally, Japan has signed a memorandum of cooperation with the European Commission for the establishment of safe, resilient, and sustainable global submarine cable connectivity<sup>1</sup>.

Regarding 5G, as the importance of safe and secure 5G network is discussed internationally, efforts are being made to deploy "Open RAN" which is focused on as a technology to realize open and secure network and systems that utilize it for overseas expansion. Surveys

on the potential for Open RAN deployment were conducted in Vietnam and the Philippines in FY2022, and in Australia and Indonesia in FY2023.

In the U.K., the test environment for Open RAN and the conformance of RAN devices to the interface specifications defined by the O-RAN Alliance were conducted in FY2022.

In the Philippines, based on the results of the previous year's survey, a demonstration was conducted in FY2023 (FY2023) to verify the usefulness of Open RAN devices.

Regarding data centers, since March 2021, Japanese companies have been participating in projects aimed at improving the telecommunications environment in Uzbekistan, including the development of data centers and other telecommunications infrastructure. Additionally, through the JICT, we have been supporting the development and operation of data centers in India, with a decision made in October 2022 to provide funding of up to 86 million dollars.

The Japanese digital terrestrial television broadcasting standard has been adopted by 20 countries, primarily in Central and South America. In October 2022, Botswana completed the transition to digital broadcasting nationwide, becoming the first country outside Japan to do so. Costa Rica and Chile are also scheduled to complete the transition in January 2023 and April 2024, respectively. Continuous supports for smooth transitions to digital broadcasting will be conducted.

#### B Utilization models for digital technology

Regarding the utilization in the medical field, we have been receiving orders for smartphone-based telemedicine systems, primarily in the Central and South American region. Since FY2020, we have been working on the dissemination and deployment of endoscopes and diag-

nostic support systems using medical AI, leveraging high-definition imaging technology in Southeast and Southwest Asian countries. This effort includes conducting demonstrations in local hospitals. In FY2022, we conducted a survey and demonstration in Vietnam.

#### C Broadcasting content

Our country's broadcasting companies have been collaborating with local governments to produce broadcasting content that showcases the appeal of Japan, and disseminating it through overseas broadcasting stations. They have also been continuously supporting the overseas expansion of broadcast content through international trade fairs, resulting in various effects such as expanding the sales channels for local products and increasing the penetration of Japan's appeal. Further-

more, starting from FY2023, efforts have been made to establish an online platform for disseminating information about Japanese broadcast content to overseas companies. The goal is to increase the overseas sales revenue related to broadcast content by 1.5 times by FY2025 compared to FY2020, aiming to further promote the overseas expansion of broadcast content and strengthen soft power through these initiatives.

#### D Other areas

##### (A) Fire prevention

Since the signing of the "Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Firefighting between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam" on October 8, 2018, we have been promoting the high quality of Japanese firefighting equipment through exchanges of opinions on preventive policies

and standards for firefighting equipment. Additionally, in February 2023, we conducted basic training on fire prevention technology. Moving forward, we will continue to engage with Vietnam and other Southeast Asian countries to promote the overseas expansion of firefighting equipment that meets Japanese standards.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu\\_news/s-news/01tsushin08\\_02000155.html](https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000155.html)

## (B) Postal service

Targeting mainly emerging and developing countries in Southeast Asia, Europe, and the Caucasus region, we are promoting the overseas expansion of the Japanese postal infrastructure system through a public-private partnership. This involves understanding the challenges and needs related to improving the quality of postal services and optimizing postal operations, and providing Japanese expertise, experience, technology, and systems to address and realize these needs. To date, we

## (C) Administrative consultation

In the field of administrative consultation, we have been collaborating and cooperating with public ombudsmen from various countries. We have signed memorandums of cooperation on administrative complaint resolu-

tion with four countries: Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Thailand. Based on these agreements, we have implemented initiatives such as accepting a total of approximately 310 trainees from Vietnam.

### 3. Contribution to formulation of international rules on the digital economy

## (1) Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)

Regarding DFFT (Data Free Flow with Trust), an international framework for the realization of DFFT (Institutional Arrangement for Partnership: IAP) was agreed upon at the G7 Digital and Technology Ministers' Meet-

ing held in Gunma-Takasaki in April 2023. The establishment of the IAP was approved at the G7 Summit held in May, and the IAP was established under the OECD in December.

## (2) Response to discussions on international rules in cyberspace

## A Formulation of international rules in cyberspace

The MIC emphasizes two key points in the formulation of international rules in cyberspace: (1) ensuring the free flow of information, which not only supports democracy but also serves as a source of innovation and an engine for economic growth; and (2) the necessity of a multi-stakeholder framework that includes the participation of all the related stakeholders such as private companies, academia, and civil society, who actually use and manage the internet, to ensure sufficient cybersecurity. Based on these points, the Ministry has been ad-

ressing related topics in bilateral dialogues such as the U.S.-Japan Dialogue on Digital Economy (the U.S.-Japan DDE) and the Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop, strengthening cooperation with like-minded countries. Additionally, in April 2022, Japan, the U.S., Australia, Canada, the EU, and the UK, along with other willing countries, launched the "Declaration for the Future of the Internet," actively participating in discussions at multilateral meetings.

## B Bilateral and multilateral dialogues on cybersecurity

Regarding bilateral government discussions on cybersecurity, the "8th Japan-the U.S. Cyber Dialogue"<sup>2</sup> was held in May 2023, the "5th Japan-India Cyber Dialogue"<sup>3</sup> in September 2023, and the "7th Japan-France Cyber Dialogue"<sup>4</sup> in November 2023. These dialogues included discussions on situational awareness, initiatives in both countries, international cooperation, and capacity-building support, thereby strengthening cooperation with various countries.

In terms of multilateral discussions on cybersecurity, the Japan-ASEAN Cybersecurity Policy Meeting has

been a platform for exchanging opinions and information on the status of initiatives in each country and capacity-building support for the ASEAN region. Additionally, under the framework of the so-called Quad (Japan, the U.S., Australia, and India), cooperation on cybersecurity has been agreed upon, and discussions aimed at strengthening cooperation with like-minded countries have been conducted. The "Japan-the U.S.-Australia-India Cybersecurity Partnership: Joint Principles"<sup>5</sup> was announced in the joint statement of the Quad Leaders' Meeting in May 2022.

## (3) Promotion of trade liberalization in the ICT sector

From the perspective of complementing the multilateral free trade system centered around the World Trade Organization (WTO) and promoting bilateral economic

partnerships, Japan is actively working on concluding Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_009685.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_009685.html)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4\\_009785.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press4_009785.html)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press5\\_000160.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/press/release/press5_000160.html)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100347891.pdf>



Specifically, since 2018, Japan has discussed and reached the signing and enforcement of several agreements, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the Japan-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (Japan-EU EPA), the Japan-US Digital Trade Agreement, the Japan-UK Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Japan-UK EPA), and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Additionally, negotiations

#### (4) Promotion of strategic international standardization

International standardization in the information and communication sector is a crucial policy issue that leads to the creation of global markets through the unification of standards. Securing strategic initiatives in the formulation of international standards is extremely important from the perspective of enhancing international competitiveness. Therefore, Japan is strategically promoting

for the Japan-China-the Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement are ongoing. In all EPA negotiations, Japan aims to achieve liberalization commitments exceeding WTO standards in the telecommunications sector, including demands for the removal or relaxation of foreign investment restrictions, negotiations on the establishment of competition-promoting regulations such as interconnection rules, and discussions on cooperation among the signatory countries.

international standardization activities.

Specifically, Japan is conducting trend surveys on de jure standards<sup>6</sup> and forum standards<sup>7</sup>, fostering international standardization personnel, and implementing initiatives to deepen understanding of the importance of standardization activities.

## 4. Economic security in the digital field

In the MIC, in view of the importance of the economic security in the communication field, such as 5G, initiatives have been undertaken in the digital field. For example, the “Global Digital Connectivity Partnership” (GDGP) launched in April 2021 following the Japan-the U.S. summit, and the “Cooperation Memorandum on 5G Supplier Diversification and Open RAN” signed at the Japan-the U.S.-Australia-India (Quad) summit in May 2022. Building on these, in May 2023 at the Japan-the U.S.-Australia-India summit, a “Open RAN Security Report” was released, demonstrating efforts to ensure the safety and reliability of global digital infrastructure in

collaboration with allied countries, including the U.S.

Furthermore, under the Act on the Promotion of Ensuring National Security through Integrated Implementation of Economic Measures established in 2022, four systems were created. Among these, the system related to “Ensuring the Stable Provision of Specific Social Infrastructure Services” completed the establishment of the cabinet order and the ministerial ordinance<sup>8</sup> in November 2023. Under this system, specific operators in the telecommunications, broadcasting, and postal business that meet the designated criteria have been designated. The operation of this system commenced in May 2024.

## 5. International cooperation in multilateral frameworks

The MIC actively leads international cooperation efforts in the ICT sector through policy discussions within multilateral frameworks such as G7/G20, APEC, APT, ASEAN, ITU, the United Nations, WTO, and OECD. These efforts aim to promote the free flow of informa-

tion, ensure a safe and secure cyberspace, develop high-quality ICT infrastructure, and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

#### (1) G7/G20

Within the G7 framework, active discussions on policies for the development of the digital economy have been ongoing since the G7 ICT Ministers’ Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa in April 2016. Similarly, within the G20 framework, which includes countries like China and India, continuous discussions on the digital economy have been taking place. Specifically, at the “G20 Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy in Tsukuba, Ibaraki” held in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, in June 2019, the G20 agreed for the first time on AI principles based on a “human-centered” approach, which was also endorsed at the G20 Osaka Summit at the lead-

ers’ level. The concept of promoting the Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT) was also supported at the leaders’ level and reaffirmed at the G20 Digital Economy Ministers’ Meeting (Saudi Arabia) in 2020.

In 2023, Japan chaired the G7, and at the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers’ Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma in April, discussions were held on six themes: (1) “Facilitation of Cross-Border Data Flows and Data Free Flow with Trust,” (2) “Secure and Resilient Digital Infrastructure,” (3) “Internet Governance,” (4) “Emerging and Disruptive Technologies in Innovating Society and Economy,” (5) “Responsible AI and Global AI Gover-

<sup>6</sup> Standards formulated by official international standardization organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

<sup>7</sup> Standards formulated through consensus among multiple companies, universities, and other stakeholders

<sup>8</sup> “Cabinet Order of the Act on the Promotion of Ensuring Security by Taking Integrated Economic Measures” and “Ordinance of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications on Specified Social Infrastructure Operators Based on the Act on the Promotion of Ensuring Security by Taking Integrated Economic Measures.”

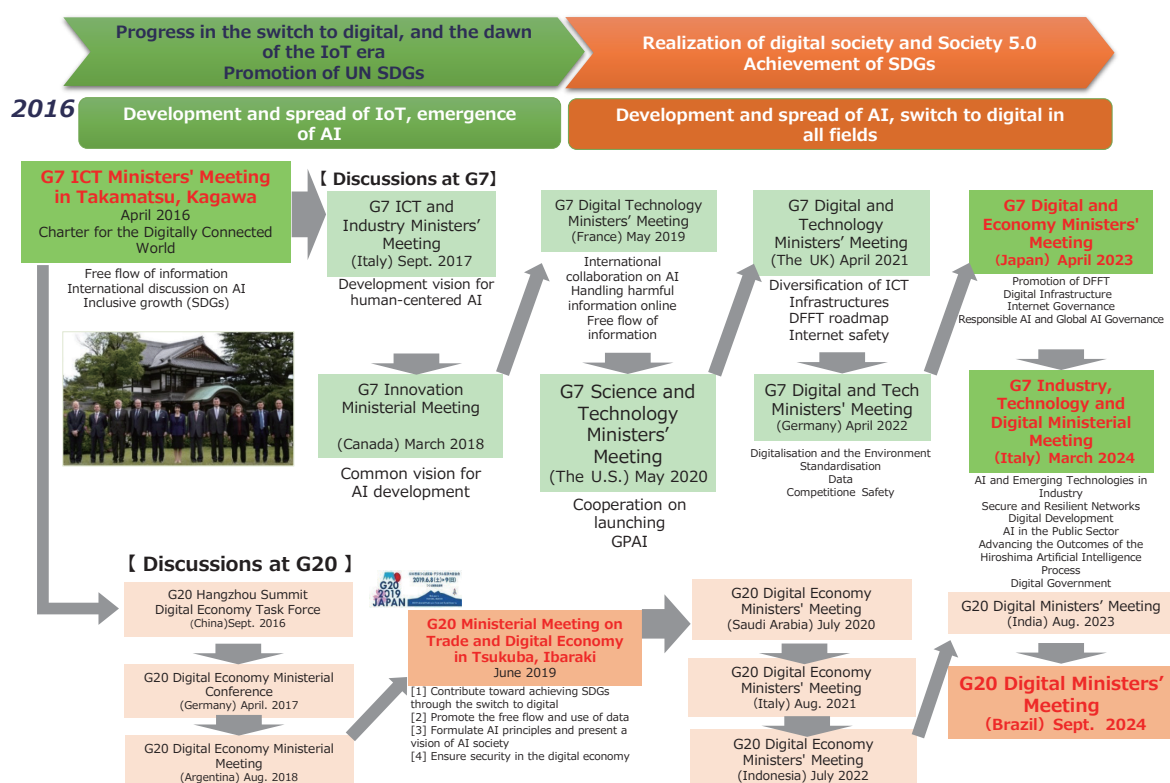
nance,” and (6) “Digital Competition.” As a result, the “Ministerial Declaration the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers’ Meeting,” including five annexes, was adopted, contributing to international discussions on rule-making for the digital economy (Figure 2-2-8-3).

Additionally, the “G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué” issued in May of the same year, reflecting the outcomes of the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers’ Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma, agreed on the importance of global governance for emerging technologies such as AI and the metaverse, support for efforts to materialize DFFT, the need to build safe and resilient digital infrastructure,

and addressing the digital divide.

In 2024, the G7 Industry, Technology, and Digital Ministerial Meeting (Italy) was held, discussing six themes: (1) “AI and Emerging Technologies in Industry,” (2) “Secure and Resilient Networks, Supply Chains, and Key Input Factors,” (3) “Digital Development - Growing Together,” (4) “AI in the Public Sector,” (5) “Advancing the Outcomes of the Hiroshima Artificial Intelligence Process,” and (6) “Digital Government.” The “G7 Industry, Technology, and Digital Ministerial Declaration,” including four annexes, was adopted.

Figure 2-2-8-3 Overview of discussion on ICT and digital policy in G7/G20



## (2) Hiroshima AI Process

In light of the rapid development and widespread adoption of generative AI becoming a significant issue for the international community, the “Hiroshima AI Process” was established to discuss international governance concerning generative AI. This process involved intensive discussions among G7 members starting in May 2023, culminating in the “G7 Hiroshima AI Process Digital and Tech Ministers’ Meeting” in September of the same year, where interim results were compiled. Subsequently, another G7 Digital and Tech Ministers’ Meeting was held in December 2023, under Japan’s G7 presidency, to finalize the “Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework,”<sup>10</sup> the first international policy framework addressing advanced AI systems like

generative AI. Additionally, the “Work Plan to advance Hiroshima AI Process” was formulated, outlining future G7 initiatives. These outcomes were endorsed in the G7 Leaders’ Statement issued in December. Based on this work plan, efforts will be made to increase the number of supporting countries and expand corporate support for international codes of conduct, further promoting the “Hiroshima AI Process.”<sup>11</sup>

Italy, the G7 chair for 2024, has expressed its commitment to continuing the “Hiroshima AI Process.” The “G7 Industrial, Technology, and Digital Ministerial Declaration” adopted in March welcomed actions to promote the dissemination, adoption, and application of the Hiroshima AI Process outcomes among key partner coun-

<sup>9</sup> Website of Hiroshima AI Process: <https://www.soumu.go.jp/hirosimaaiaprocess/>

<sup>10</sup> This policy framework consists of four components: the “OECD Report Towards a Common Understanding of Generative AI by the G7,” the “Hiroshima Process International Guidelines for All AI Stakeholders and Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems,” the “Hiroshima Process International Code of Conduct for Organizations Developing Advanced AI Systems,” and “Project-Based Cooperation.”

<sup>11</sup> Regarding the initiatives on AI guidelines for Business, also refer to Section 6 “Promotion of ICT usage” in Chapter 2, Part 2.

tries and organizations, including developing and emerging economies.

At the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting held in May 2024, a side event titled “Towards Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy AI: Promoting Inclusive AI Governance”

### (3) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an economic cooperation framework aimed at sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region, involving major countries and regions within the area. Discussions on telecommunications are primarily conducted through the Telecommunications and Information Working Group (TEL).

Following the adoption of the “Aotearoa Plan of Ac-

### (4) Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) is an international organization in the Asia-Pacific region established in 1979, focusing on balanced development in telecommunications and information infrastructure. It aims to foster human resources through training and seminars and coordinate regional policies on standardization and wireless communications. Currently, Mr. KONDO Katsumori from the MIC serves as the Secretary-General.

### (5) Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The Association of South - East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional cooperation organization comprising ten Southeast Asian countries. Its main objectives are to promote economic growth, social and cultural develop-

ment, ensure political and economic stability, and foster cooperation on regional issues. Policies in the digital field are discussed at the “ASEAN Digital Ministers’ Meeting (ADGMIN).”

#### A Contribution to achieving the goals of the “ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025”

To achieve the goals set out in the “ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025,” formulated in January 2021, Japan annually proposes the “Japan-ASEAN Digital Work Plan” for cooperation and collaboration in the ICT field over the coming year. This plan is implemented with the ap-

proval of the ASEAN side. For example, utilizing the Japan-ASEAN ICT Fund established with contributions from Japan, various joint projects with ASEAN countries are carried out. In FY2023, the “Japan-ASEAN Open RAN Symposium” was held.

#### B Strengthening cooperation in the field of cybersecurity

Currently, the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)<sup>12</sup> continuously conducts practical cybersecurity defense exercises (CYDER) and other cybersecurity exercises, both online and in-person, targeting cybersecurity personnel from government agencies and critical infrastructure operators in ASEAN countries. From 2023, under a new project framework, activities will continue until 2027, with ef-

forts to enhance exercise content.

Additionally, the MIC regularly holds Japan-ASEAN Information Security Workshops for ISP operators in ASEAN countries to promote information sharing and strengthen cooperation frameworks among stakeholders. A meeting was held in March 2024 to maintain and develop cooperative and collaborative relationships in the field of cybersecurity between Japan and ASEAN countries.

#### C 50th Anniversary of Japan-ASEAN Relations

The year 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of Japan-ASEAN friendship and cooperation, a significant milestone that calls for further strengthening of Japan-ASEAN relations and presents an excellent opportunity to expand Japan’s digital technology in the ASEAN region. The MIC, based on the “Japan-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2023” approved at the Japan-ASEAN Digital Ministers’ Meeting (February 2023, Philippines), utilized the

Japan-ASEAN ICT Fund to hold the “Japan-ASEAN Open RAN Symposium” as part of the 50th-anniversary projects. This support was aligned with the digital policy goals of the ASEAN region, contributing to the deepening of Japan-ASEAN relations and bilateral relations with ASEAN countries. Additionally, at the Japan-ASEAN 50th Anniversary Special Summit held in Tokyo in December 2023, a Joint Vision Statement on Japan-ASEAN

<sup>12</sup> AJCCBC: <https://ajccbc.ncsa.or.th/>

Friendship and Cooperation was adopted, which included support for access to innovations such as Open RAN

#### (6) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) with 193 member countries and regions. Its mission is to promote international cooperation for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications, enhance the efficiency of telecommunication operations, and promote the development and efficient operation of technical means to increase the use and dissemination of telecommunications. The ITU is composed of the following three sectors, which engage in activities such as frequency allocation, telecommunication technology standardization, and

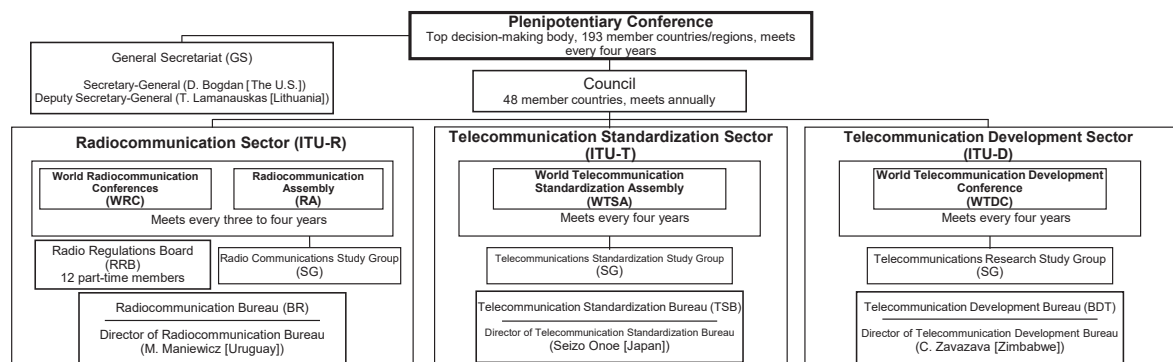
in ASEAN member countries.

support for the development of telecommunications in developing countries (**Figure 2-2-8-4**).

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

In September 2022, elections were held at the Plenipotentiary Conference, and Mr. ONOE Seizo from Japan (former Chief Standardization Strategy Officer of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation) was elected as the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau. He assumed office in January 2023 (the term is four years, with a maximum of two terms).

**Figure 2-2-8-4 Organizations in ITU**



\* As of April 2023

#### A Initiatives in ITU-R

In ITU-R, activities are conducted to ensure the effective, efficient, economical, and fair use of radio frequencies by all radiocommunication services. This includes conducting studies on frequency usage and developing standards related to radiocommunication. Among these activities, the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA), which approves draft recommendations submitted by various Study Groups (SGs) and deliberates on issues and structures for the next study period, and the World

Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC), which aim to revise the Radio Regulations governing international frequency allocation, are the largest meetings held by ITU-R every 3-4 years. The MIC has actively contributed to these discussions. At RA-23, held in Dubai, the UAE, in November 2023, draft recommendations, including those providing an overall picture of the capabilities and use cases required for the next-generation mobile phone systems expected to be realized around 2030, were approved.

#### B Initiatives in ITU-T

ITU-T conducts technical studies necessary for the formulation of international standards related to communication network technologies and operational methods.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), the highest decision-making meeting of ITU-T, is held every four years, with the next WTSA-24 scheduled to be held in New Delhi, India, from October 15 to October 24, 2024. The Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG), which advises

on WTSA resolutions and the standardization activities of various ITU-T Study Groups (SGs), held two meetings in FY2023. At the third meeting of this study period, held in January 2024, Japan submitted a contribution to integrate SG9 (Broadband cable and TV) and SG16 (Multimedia and related digital technologies) to improve the efficiency of ITU-T's standardization activities, which was approved, and work towards the reorganization of SGs at WTSA-24 was advanced.

#### C Initiatives in ITU-D

ITU-D provides support for the development of the information and communication technology (ICT) sector in developing countries.

The World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), the highest decision-making meeting of ITU-D, is held every four years, with the most recent



WTDC-22 held in Kigali, Rwanda, in June 2022<sup>13</sup>. During the current study period (2022-2025), activities such as the implementation of ICT development support projects and ICT human resource development are being promoted based on the strategic goals and action plans adopted at WTDC-22. Specific projects include the Connect2Recover initiative, which has been ongoing since 2022 in cooperation with the ITU and the MIC to

strengthen digital infrastructure and resilience<sup>14</sup>. Additionally, from 2023, various projects aimed at providing technical support and entrepreneurship support through the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance and strengthening ICT infrastructure resilience and cybersecurity human resource development in the Asia-Pacific region are being supported.

## (7) United Nations

### A United Nations General Assembly Second Committee, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The United Nations General Assembly Second Committee, which deals with economics and finance, focuses on discussions related to the promotion of inclusive global digital cooperation and issues such as the public nature of the internet, primarily through the “Commission on Science and Technology for Development”

(CSTD) established within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Japan contributes to the advancement of international discussions on information and communication fields, including internet governance, through its participation in the annual CSTD meetings.

### B Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is one of the most important international conferences in the field of internet policy, where governments, private sector, technical and academic communities, and civil society engage in dialogue on various public policy issues related to the internet on an equal footing.

In October 2023, Japan hosted the 18th meeting at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, with a record number of over 6,000 local participants attending the meeting. During the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Kishida emphasized the importance of the internet as the foundation of democratic society and expressed strong support and commitment to “multi-stakeholder approach discussions” to maximize the benefits of the internet and address its negative aspects.

Additionally, during a special AI session following the opening ceremony, Japan shared the Hiroshima AI Process, which it leads, with the international community. In his keynote speech, Prime Minister Kishida emphasized “leading international rule-making to ensure that the entire international community, including the Global South, can enjoy the benefits of trustworthy and secure AI and achieve further economic growth and improvements in living environments”. Furthermore, Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications Suzuki intro-

duced the status of discussions on “International Guiding Principles and Code of Conduct for AI Developers” and expressed the intention to continue seeking opinions from various stakeholders. Through this session, voices of support and expectations for the Hiroshima AI Process were received from panelists representing multi-stakeholders, including governments, industries, international organizations, and academia from countries beyond the G7.

In addition, the MIC hosted 10 sessions covering diverse themes for discussions (themes of each session: Beyond 5G, HAPS (High Altitude Platform Station), Resilience, Security, Metaverse, AI, Disinformation, DFI (Declaration for the Future of the Internet), O-RAN, WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society)).

Furthermore, an exhibition area called the “IGF Village” was set up during the IGF, with 72 companies and organizations from around the world participating. Japan had 25 companies and organizations, including telecommunications companies and research institutions, showcasing remote robots and measures against manga piracy, actively promoting Japan’s technological capabilities and initiatives through interactions with participants from various countries who visited the booths.

## (8) World Trade Organization (WTO)

In the field of telecommunications, progress has not been observed since the basic telecommunications negotiations agreed upon in 1997, due to the stagnation of the Doha Round negotiations that began in 2001. However, in light of the increasing attention to electronic

commerce, which handles data flows on the Internet, a group of like-minded countries initiated electronic commerce negotiations at the WTO in 2019. Japan, along with Australia and Singapore, has taken the lead as co-chair in these discussions.

## (9) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Digital Policy Committee (DPC, former Committee on Digital Economy Policy (CDEP)) of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been conducting pioneering discussions in

the field of ICT. The MIC actively contributes to policy discussions at the OECD by providing personnel and financial support to the OECD Secretariat, as well as appointing the chair of the DPC (from January 2020) and

<sup>13</sup> The event, originally scheduled to be held in 2021, was postponed by one year due to the global spread of COVID-19.

<sup>14</sup> Originally, the main focus of support was on the low internet connectivity rates in the African region, but the project has expanded to include support from countries in the Asia-Pacific islands, Central and South America, Europe, and worldwide.

vice-chairs of various working groups from the ministry.

The DPC has been working on initiatives related to AI since 2016, outlining principles that those involved in AI should share and the issues that governments should address. In May 2019, the first intergovernmental agreement on AI, the “Council Recommendation on AI,” was adopted and made public. Subsequently, proactive initiatives have been undertaken, such as the launch of the online platform “OECD.AI” for AI policy (February 2020) and the establishment of the AI Governance Working Group (AIGO) (May 2022).

In December 2022, a ministerial meeting on the digital economy was held in Gran Canaria, Spain, where a ministerial declaration on “A Reliable, Sustainable, and Inclusive Digital Future” was adopted, outlining the challenges and directions for DFFT, trustworthy AI, and the development of next-generation infrastructure.

#### (10) GPAI

The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) is an international public-private partnership organization established to realize the development and utilization of “Responsible AI” based on a human-centric approach. The launch of GPAI was proposed at the Biarritz Summit (France) in 2019, and after the G7 Science and Technology Ministers’ Meeting in May 2020 agreed on G7 cooperation for its establishment, it was officially founded in June of the same year.

In November 2022, Japan hosted the GPAI Summit 2022 and served as the chair country for one year start-

In March 2023, the 4th OECD Global Forum on Digital Security for Prosperity, co-hosted by the MIC and the OECD, was held in Paris, France. It focused on three themes: digital security for IoT products, digital security for AI, and the exchange between policy makers and technologists<sup>15</sup>.

In May 2024, the Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level (MCM) was held in Paris, France, with Japan, celebrating its 60th anniversary as an OECD member, serving as the chair country. Discussions were held in the MCM, taking into account the achievements of the “Hiroshima AI Process,” and the ministerial declaration expressed the support of the OECD member countries for its achievements and the cooperation in advancing practical efforts, as well as the revision of the “Council Recommendation on AI.”

ing from that month. At the Ministerial Council, under the initiative of Japan as the chair country, the first-ever ministerial declaration at a GPAI Summit was adopted. This declaration included agreements among countries on promoting AI based on human-centric values, opposing the illegal and irresponsible use of AI, and contributing to a sustainable, resilient, and peaceful society.

In December 2023, the GPAI Summit 2023 was held in India, and at the Ministerial Council, it was approved to establish the first GPAI Expert Support Center in the Asian region in Tokyo.

#### (11) ICANN

For internet resources such as IP addresses and domain names, which are essential for internet use, it is crucial to manage and coordinate them globally to prevent duplicate allocations. Currently, the international management and coordination of these internet resources are carried out by ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), a non-profit organization established in 1998. ICANN is responsible for the allocation of IP addresses, coordination of domain names, operation and deployment of the root server system, and the formulation of policies related to these ac-

tivities.

The MIC actively participates and contributes to discussions in ICANN’s Governmental Advisory Committee, which includes participation from national governments and international organizations. For example, regarding the DNS Abuse, the MIC has submitted opinions on proposed amendments to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) between ICANN and registrars and has raised the need for ongoing discussions within ICANN to mitigate illegal activities on the Internet.

## 6. International cooperation in bilateral relationships

### (1) Policy cooperation with the U.S.

Following the “the U.S.-Japan Competitiveness and Resilience (CoRe) Partnership”<sup>16</sup> issued after the the U.S.-Japan Summit on April 16, 2021, the “Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDGP)”<sup>17</sup> was launched in May of the same year to promote secure connectivity and a vibrant digital economy (Figure 2-2-8-5).

The MIC, in cooperation with relevant ministries and

agencies, has been continuously holding the “the U.S.-Japan Dialogue on Digital Economy (the U.S.-Japan DDE)”<sup>18</sup> with the U.S. Department of State since 2010. Since the launch of the GDGP, the the U.S.-Japan DDE has been positioned as a framework for promoting the GDGP.

The 14th the U.S.-Japan DDE public-private and inter-governmental meetings were held in a hybrid format

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/digital/global-forum-digital-security/>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/na/na1/us/page1\\_000951.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/na/na1/us/page1_000951.html)

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu\\_news/s-news/01tsushin08\\_02000119](https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000119)

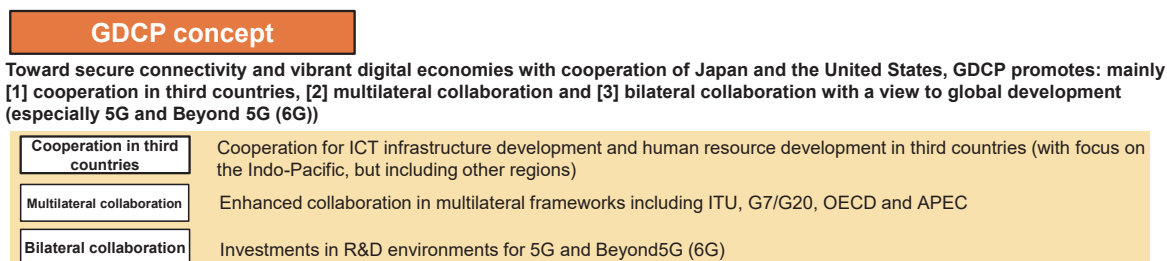
<sup>18</sup> In the joint statement issued at the “13th the U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy” held on March 6 and 7, 2023, it was decided to rename the meeting to the “the U.S.-Japan Dialogue on Digital Economy.”

(both in-person and online) on February 6 and 7, 2024. During these meetings, a wide range of topics were discussed, including 5G and Beyond 5G (6G), AI governance, Cross-Border Privacy Rules (CBPR), cooperation on government access, international cooperation, and cooperation within the United Nations. As a result of these discussions, a “Joint Statement from the 14th the U.S.-Japan Dialogue on Digital Economy” was published<sup>19</sup>.

At the the U.S.-Japan Summit held in April 2024, a joint statement by the leaders and a fact sheet were published<sup>20</sup>, confirming further collaboration between the U.S. and Japan in the field of information and communication.

In May 2024, the 8th GDCP Expert-Level Working Group was held, where opinions were exchanged on further promoting the U.S.-Japan cooperation with third countries.

**Figure 2-2-8-5 Global Digital Connectivity Partnership (GDCP)**



## (2) Cooperation with Europe

### A Cooperation with the European Union (EU)

The MIC has been holding the “Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue” (the most recent one was the 29th in February 2024) as a platform for exchanging information and opinions on ICT policies, and “Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop” (the most recent one was the 13th in April 2022) to promote collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors in digital field, with the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission.

During the 29th Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue, discussions were held on topics such as 5G/Beyond 5G (6G), cybersecurity, online platforms, AI, and submarine cables.

Furthermore, in May 2022, the Japan-EU Digital Partnership was established between Japan and the EU. On the Japanese side, the Digital Agency, the MIC, and the METI are the main participants, while on the EU side, the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission takes the lead. This partnership addresses joint priorities in the digital field between Japan and the EU. At the 2nd Ministerial Meeting held in April 2024, discussions were conducted on 5G/Beyond 5G (6G), AI, and submarine cables, among other topics. As a result of this meeting, a joint statement<sup>21</sup> was issued.

### B Bilateral cooperation with European countries

#### (A) The UK

In May 2022, the MIC, along with the Digital Agency and the METI, established the Japan-UK Digital Group to address joint priority areas in the digital field. The first meeting was held in October of the same year. Subsequently, in December, a ministerial-level meeting was conducted to accelerate cooperation between Japan and

the UK, leading to the launch of the Japan-UK Digital Partnership. The 2nd ministerial-level meeting was held in January 2024, resulting in the issuance of a document<sup>22</sup> outlining the progress and future direction of initiatives in the aforementioned areas.

#### (B) Germany

In March 2023, a “Japan-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations” on economic security was held in Tokyo, with a participation of the Japanese and German leaders, along with relevant ministers including the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, where a joint statement was announced, emphasizing the importance of protecting critical infrastructure, including communication infrastructure.

Additionally, in April 2023, the MIC and the Federal

Ministry for Digital and Transport signed a memorandum of cooperation on ICT<sup>23</sup>, agreeing to promote collaboration in areas such as building open and secure communication infrastructure for 5G network development and deployment, promoting Beyond 5G/6G, and cooperation in the field of AI.

Furthermore, to deepen mutual understanding in the policy aspects of the information and communication field and promote cooperation between Japan and Ger-

<sup>19</sup> [https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu\\_news/s-news/01tsushin08\\_02000172.html](https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000172.html)

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/na/na1/us/pageit\\_000001\\_00501.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/na/na1/us/pageit_000001_00501.html)

<sup>21</sup> [https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu\\_news/s-news/01tsushin08\\_02000175.html](https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000175.html)

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu\\_news/s-news/01tsushin08\\_02000167.html](https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000167.html)

<sup>23</sup> [https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu\\_news/s-news/01tsushin08\\_02000152.html](https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin08_02000152.html)

many, the MIC has been holding the “Japan-Germany ICT Policy Dialogue” with the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport.

The 7th meeting was held in June 2023, where discussions on various topics, including Open RAN, progress in research and development towards Beyond 5G, AI, illegal and harmful information (defamation, disinformation, etc.) and the utilization of ICT in smart cities and

#### (C) France

The MIC has been holding the “Japan-France ICT Consultations” with the Ministry for the Economy, Finance, and the industrial and digital Sovereignty of the

### (3) Cooperation with Asian-Pacific countries

The MIC is engaged in cooperation with information and communication authorities of Asian-Pacific coun-

#### A The Republic of Korea

In December 2023, the MIC held the “Japan-the Republic of Korea ICT Policy Dialogue” with the Ministry of Science and ICT of the Republic of Korea. The dia-

#### B India

In May 2022, the MIC and the Ministry of Communications of India held the 7th Japan-India Joint Working Group meeting online to share the progress of initiatives in the field of ICT, such as 5G/Beyond 5G and Open RAN, and exchanged views on future cooperation be-

#### C Southeast Asian countries

With the Philippines, a memorandum of cooperation regarding ICT cooperation, including the construction of Open RAN and support for building 5G networks, was signed in February 2023. Additionally, during the Japan-US-Philippines Summit in April 2024, a “Joint Vision Statement by Japan, the Philippines, and the United States” was announced, confirming the strengthening of cooperation in the field of information and communication, including cooperation related to Open RAN.

With Indonesia, a memorandum of cooperation in the field of information and communication technology was signed in October 2023, adding the construction of Open RAN as a new area of cooperation and agreeing to further deepen cooperation in 5G, AI, and big data.

With Cambodia, a joint record of discussions on future cooperation in the digital field was exchanged in December 2023, aiming to further promote cooperation

#### D Australia

Following a joint statement in July 2022, the “Japan-Australia Telecommunications Resilience Policy Dialogue” was established. This framework involves the MIC from Japan, and the Department of Home Affairs, and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the Arts from Australia. The dialogue aims to regularly share information and hold discussions on information and com-

the metaverse, took place.

Moreover, joint research and development cooperation for the advancement of 5G has been ongoing with the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action since FY2022. In May 2023, a letter of intent on Beyond 5G/6G and future communication technologies<sup>24</sup> was signed with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

French Republic to facilitate information sharing on important themes in the ICT field. The most recent meeting was the 22nd session in November 2023.

tries in the field of ICT, including communication infrastructure development and the utilization of ICT.

logue aimed to exchange views on mutual interests in the field of ICT, such as AI and Open RAN, and agreed to hold regular dialogues in the future.

tween Japan and India. In August 2023, a sub-group meeting on Open RAN, with the participation of Japanese and Indian companies, was held to facilitate specific cooperation.

between the two countries for the development of the digital economy and society.

With Malaysia, a memorandum of cooperation regarding information and communication cooperation was signed in November 2023, agreeing to further strengthen cooperation in the field of information and communication, including 5G security and future advanced networks. In March 2024, the “Japan-Malaysia” ICT Joint Working Group meeting was held to share the progress of initiatives in the fields of ICT, broadcasting, and cybersecurity, and exchange views on future cooperation between the two countries. In conjunction with the working group, the Japan-Malaysia ICT Collaboration Conference was held, providing an opportunity to introduce the initiatives of Japanese and Malaysian companies to both governments and share the latest efforts in broadcasting and ICT.

munication fields, including Open RAN, 5G, submarine optical cables, and satellite communications, and to consider the implementation of joint projects as needed. The dialogue also aims to achieve “Free and Open Indo-Pacific” (FOIP) by ensuring and improving digital connectivity in the Indo-Pacific region.

The second meeting of this policy dialogue was held in April 2024, where information sharing and exchange

<sup>24</sup> [https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu\\_news/s-news/01tsushin04\\_02000145.html](https://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_news/s-news/01tsushin04_02000145.html)



of views on initiatives in the field of information and communication, such as Open RAN, Beyond 5G (6G), submarine cables, cybersecurity, and inter-operator

#### (4) Cooperation with countries in Central and South America

In Central and South America, the adoption of Japan's terrestrial digital broadcasting standard (ISDB-T) was implemented in Brazil in 2006, and the Japan standard has been adopted in 14 countries. Currently, support is provided for efforts towards the cessation of analog broadcasting in each country, as well as assistance in the introduction of disaster prevention ICT utilizing the Emergency Warning Broadcast System (EWBS), a feature of the Japan standard, in countries such as Costa Rica and El Salvador.

Furthermore, seminars on 5G have been conducted in various Central and South American countries, emphasizing the importance of establishing open and se-

roaming during emergencies, took place. Both countries agreed to continue collaborating on common policy issues in the future.

cure 5G networks. Support is also provided for the deployment of Japanese companies with advanced technology in this field in Central and South America. In FY2023, a demonstration of the 5G environment using Open RAN was conducted in Peru.

Additionally, to promote the use of Japan's advanced ICT to address social issues in each country, recent efforts include conducting demonstrations of agricultural ICT solutions in Brazil, utilizing IoT data and AI to streamline the work of agricultural producers. Furthermore, demonstrations of disaster prevention solutions utilizing local 5G with Open RAN have also been carried out.

#### (5) Cooperation with other regions

##### A Cooperation with African regions

Cooperation in the ICT sector with African countries has progressed, starting with the adoption of the Japanese standard for terrestrial digital broadcasting in Botswana (adopted in 2013, fully digitized in October 2022) and Angola (adopted in 2019). In August 2022, the 8th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD8) was held in Tunisia. The MIC hosted an online seminar on DX and an online exhibition to promote Japanese companies as official side events. As a result of the conference, the "TICAD8 Tunis Declaration," which includes cooperation between Japan and Africa in the ICT field, was adopted. In May 2023, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in the fields of ICT

and postal services was signed with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt. In February 2024, a MoC in the field of ICT was signed with the Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy of Kenya.

Since FY2019, various demonstration projects have been conducted to address social issues in Africa and support the expansion of Japanese companies. These projects include communication infrastructure (Kenya, Senegal), agricultural ICT (Ethiopia, Botswana), medical ICT (Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo), remote education (Senegal, Rwanda), and smart cities (Egypt).

##### B Cooperation with Middle Eastern regions

The MIC has been strengthening its cooperative relationship with Saudi Arabia. Based on the "Japan-Saudi Vision 2030" (2017) and the MoC on ICT cooperation signed with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Saudi Arabia (2019), various initiatives have been undertaken. These include dispatching a public-private mission to Saudi Arabia (October 2018), holding ICT public-private workshops (January 2022), and participating in LEAP, the largest technology exhibition in the Middle East, with a Japanese booth and local public-private workshops (March 2024). These ef-

forts aim to build cooperative relationships between companies from both countries and support the deployment of Japanese technologies. Additionally, demonstration projects utilizing VR technology for ICT healthcare were conducted in FY2021, and projects related to perinatal remote healthcare were conducted in FY2022.

Taking the opportunity of the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Israel, a MoC in the fields of telecommunications technology and postal services was signed with the Ministry of Communications of Israel in April 2023.