

Section 3 Responding to Increasingly Severe Disasters

In recent years, as disasters become more severe and frequent in Japan, which makes it important to take more advanced disaster prevention measures than ever before, disaster prevention and reduction through the use of digital technologies are expected to have great effects. In addition, although telecommunications and broadcasting networks have been made more resilient in response to frequent disasters, such as earthquakes, it is still required to make digital infrastructure more resilient.

For example, in order to utilize digital technologies for disaster prevention and reduction, a robust digital infrastructure is necessary. Of these, broadcasting networks play a major role as a method of transmitting information during disasters, but in the earthquake that occurred in the Noto region of Ishikawa Prefecture in January 2024, terrestrial television broadcasting, radio broadcasting, and cable television were all disrupted due to power outages, damage to relay station equipment, and cable breaks. Learning from this experience,

the MIC reinforced its support projects for strengthening broadcasting networks. In addition, cooperation among broadcasting companies is also being promoted in order to respond to disasters.

Furthermore, to support the strengthening of communication networks, the MIC plans to launch a “Project to strengthen mobile phone base stations in the event of disasters” in FY2025. Moreover, to strengthen the resilience of communication networks and recovery systems, telecommunications carriers are expanding their measures by developing mobile base stations and utilizing ¹unmanned aerial vehicles and low-orbit satellites.

In addition, with regard to data centers and submarine cables, which are important digital infrastructures that support a digital society, promoting regional decentralization has become an important issue from the perspective of disaster prevention, and efforts are being made to address this².

There is a continuing need to build digital infrastructure that is resilient to disasters.

¹ Refer to “Utilization of NTN” in Section 1, 2 (1), Chapter 2, Part I for the utilization of NTN

² Refer to “Decentralization of data centers and submarine cables” in Section 1, 2 (1) (i), Chapter 2, Part I for the decentralization of data centers and submarine cables