

Joint Working Plan
of the
Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) of Japan
and the
Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV) of Germany

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) of Japan and the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV) of Germany, and respective predecessors, have been continuing high-level policy dialogues over 30 years since 1991 and have closely cooperated in multilateral frameworks as well.

In today's global economic society, the importance of the internet, digital technologies, and data has increased significantly. Japan and Germany are both leaders in the ICT policy area in their respective regions, and their collaboration is essential for the creation of a prosperous and resilient social economy. Together with other like-minded countries, they must take on important roles in the international digital society.

On the occasion of the 2023 G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma, Japan, the ministries renewed their intention to further strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. This cooperation, including, but not limited to, the following areas, will be further discussed and embodied in the framework of Japan-Germany ICT Policy Dialogue:

Resilient Communication Infrastructure

The ministries confirm the importance of resilient communication infrastructure as the basis of socioeconomics and recognize that the resilience of communication infrastructure can be enhanced by network architecture that ensure and promote redundancy and interoperability. While the two countries and many other countries are developing and expanding 5G networks, the ministries recognize the importance of open and secure networks, and will promote cooperation for the deployment of resilient communication infrastructure by introducing such networks.

Specifically, while closely exchanging information and opinions on the progress in this field in the respective countries and on the issues to be addressed in the future, the ministries will seek ways to share of knowhow on testbeds related to innovative technologies in the two countries.

In addition, the ministries will cooperate with each other to promote the advanced use of 5G in pursuing actual use cases within their respective responsibilities.

Cooperation regarding Beyond 5G/6G and other emerging technologies

With a view to the 2030s, the ministries confirm the importance of deepening concrete cooperation for promotion to realize the next-generation communication technologies by sharing knowledge and practice of the countries. Beyond 5G (6G), in particular, is expected to become the basis of society and industry in the 2030s. The ministries will seek cooperation among related organizations while sharing vision and practice of Beyond 5G (6G) of each country.

Cooperation regarding ICT utilization, Smart City, etc.

In the process of the communication infrastructure development, both parties recognize that it is also important to support its effective utilization in socio-economic activities. The ministries aim to contribute to their utilization policy making by sharing respective practices which reflect their different economic and cultural backgrounds; for instance, the smart cities to improve urban and community functions in Japan, and smart factories in the industrial field and Private 5G network (Campus 5G network) in Germany.

Improvement of internet use environment

Both ministries - with the involvement of other relevant agencies as needed - will strengthen their cooperation for the development of safe and secure ICT environments for users. Because activities in the Internet, are not limited in one country, the ministries confirm the common understanding that it is essential for the countries to work together in areas such as policies related to illegal harmful information, to protect users, and to contribute to enhance respective efforts by sharing each other's practices. The parties will cooperate to make these efforts lead to enhance trust for information dealt by users and consequently contribute to promote DFFT (Data Free Flow with Trust).

Cooperation in the international arena

The ministries acknowledged in unison the importance to cooperate in the international arena. The ministries seek the development of a free and open Internet which supports democracy, and will promote cooperation and collaboration in international forums on Internet governance, including multi-stakeholder discussions. Also, for AI that can greatly expand the potential for future economic and social development, the ministries will drive discussions and other activities on the state of governance and other issues around its framework based on humancentric principle.

Crosscutting initiatives

To make their cooperation future-oriented, the ministries confirm the importance of continuous discussion when promoting cooperation mentioned above sharing values including the following viewpoints:

- From the viewpoint of "Green of ICT" and "Green by ICT," both sides recognize the importance of ICT in countering climate change. The ministries will cooperate to improve energy efficiency of the communication networks and to pursue how digital technologies contribute to greening of various sectors.
- The ministries will cooperate to establish resilient communication infrastructure and high-end and secure digital technology they will serve as a global benchmark, with a view to third-country deployment.
- The ministries will further promote public-private cooperation by encouraging Japanese and German companies to work together to drive the development of ICT technology and digital-related businesses. In this regard, both sides highly appreciate and will continue to support the successful and proven format of the Japan-Germany ICT Policy Dialogue, including its industry-government consultations, as well as other private-sector initiatives such as the Digital Event of the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan to promote cooperation between Japanese and German industry.

For the
Ministry of Internal Affairs and
Communication (MIC) of Japan

MATSUMOTO Takeaki, Minister

For the
Federal Ministry for Digital and
Transport (BMDV) of Germany

Volker Wissing, Bundesminister