

# **Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications**

**～ Operations Guide for FY2024 Edition ～**







# The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications in Everyday Life

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), which has jurisdiction over the various institutional systems that form the foundation of the entire nation and the people’s lives across the nation, performs a particularly wide range of administrative functions compared with other government ministries and agencies.

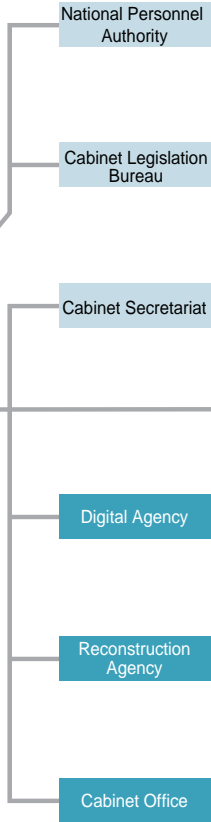
The scope of functions of the MIC includes the management and administration of Japan’s basic administrative structures, planning of the local government system, response to fire and disaster prevention, and promotion of various policies by taking advantage of information communications technologies (ICT).

In addition to addressing the challenges that Japan has faced for some time, such as the aging of society coupled with a low birth rate, the widening inequality between regions, and the need to strengthen international competitiveness, the MIC is implementing various policy measures in order to realize a secure and safe lifestyle by promoting regional DX and revitalization initiatives, disaster prevention and mitigation, and the strengthening of national land resilience and to secure the social infrastructure that constitutes the foundation of those activities.

Going forward, as the kanji of our ministry mean “serves all,” we will be responsible for the administration of our country in order to create a Japan that can adapt to this new age.



## Administrative Division of the National Government



Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission
Fire and Disaster Management Agency
Ministry of Justice
Immigration Services Agency of Japan
Public Security Examination Commission
Public Security Intelligence Agency
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Finance
National Tax Agency
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
Japan Sports Agency
Agency for Cultural Affairs
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
Central Labour Relations Commission
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Forestry Agency
Fisheries Agency
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Agency for Natural Resources and Energy
Japan Patent Office
Small and Medium Enterprise Agency
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
Japan Tourism Agency
Japan Meteorological Agency
Japan Transport Safety Board
Japan Coast Guard
Ministry of the Environment
Nuclear Regulation Authority
Ministry of Defense
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency
Imperial Household Agency
Fair Trade Commission
National Public Safety Commission
Personal Information Protection Commission
Japan Casino Regulatory Commission
Financial Services Agency
Consumer Affairs Agency
Children and Families Agency

(As of July, 2024)

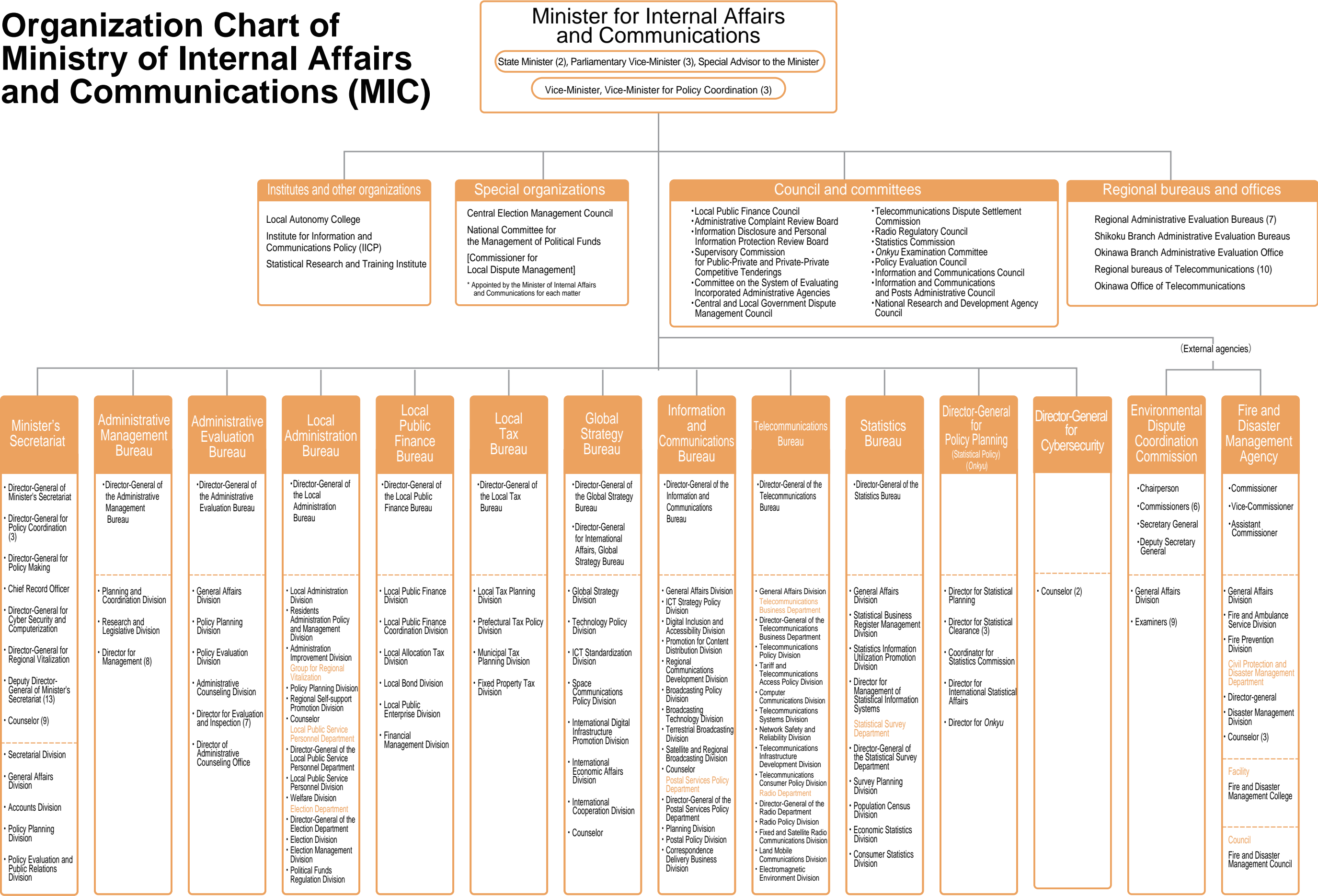
## Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

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# Organization Chart of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)



Note: The chart only indicates organizations established by either law or cabinet order. As of April 1, 2024

# Minister's Secretariat



**Mission**

The Minister's Secretariat (MS) plays the role of “leading the ministry” by determining the way the ministry should be headed during the planning process, when making the policies of the MIC, and during the process of drafting bills.  
The MS also oversees the entire MIC and coordinates administrative affairs within the ministry to ensure it is smoothly conducted to support the ministry.

**Leading the ministry**

The MIC oversees a wide range of policies that include the management and operation of Japan's basic administrative structures, local government and fire defense/emergency administration, and the achievement of growth policies through the use of information and communication technology (ICT). For this, it is of the utmost importance that the MS plays a leading role in consolidating the responses of the MIC, conferring between government ministries and agencies, and coordinating within the ministry in the planning and drafting processes for various policies. For example, the MS expresses opinions on behalf of the MIC and plays a leading role in executing policies under its purview with regard to policy issues handled at important governmental meetings, including the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy; the Headquarters for Creating a Society in which All Women Shine; the Advisory Council on Vitalizing Towns, People and Jobs; and the Council of New Form of Capitalism Realization.

In reflecting any planned and drafted policy on a specific law, likewise, the MS plays the “role of leading” the entire ministry in drafting bills and in tasks related to the Diet. More specifically, the MS conducts its examination: namely, it examines the huge quantities of official documents and bills drafted within the ministry to see whether they conform to its policies, whether the regulations match one another well and whether the expressions are appropriate, thereby checking all the details. Moreover, the MS serves as the contact for receiving consultations from other ministries and agencies regarding laws and, conversely, as the contact for the MIC when the latter wishes to consult with other ministries and agencies.

Furthermore, the MS also sponsors liaison meetings between the MS and each department or bureau to ensure smooth communication within the entire ministry. In so doing, the MS is in charge of the key points in the ministry's decision-making.

**Making the MIC livelier**

The MS is in a position not only to lead but also to operate the whole of the ministry. By arranging and training the right personnel for the right positions, the MS builds an environment in which the personnel concerned can acquire an even higher education and work to develop their abilities and improve their welfare in a correct and lively manner. Another important role of the MS is to coordinate the organization of the entire MIC and the full number of personnel and to make budget requests for implementing the policies of the MIC, in order to ensure that the ministry is organized in a manner in line with the current times and environment.

The MIC is promoting DX at the ministry to coincide with the transition to a government-wide task environment using the most advanced digital technology (government solution services). While ensuring security, the MIC is striving to realize a more worker-friendly task environment through such measures as introducing flexible working styles, including telework, and improving productivity by proactive utilization of digital tools.

Moreover, to ensure an efficient and higher-quality administration, the MS assesses the policies of the MIC and makes public relations efforts that provide clarity in order to deepen understanding of the policies of the MIC.

The MS also deals with matters related to expressing the commemoration of civilians killed in air raids during World War II. It also undertakes tasks taken over by the national government from the former Public Foundation for Peace and Consolation. This includes storing, managing

and exhibiting invaluable materials on the hardships faced by former soldiers ineligible for *Onkyu* (pension for retired public officers under the former scheme) and those who experienced forced detention following the war, as well as people repatriated from overseas so as to ensure that those materials are passed down to future generations.



**Topic**

**Aiming for a workplace for a variety of staff**

The MIC, which has jurisdiction over the affairs concerning digitalization and the reform of the operations of national government agencies, advances working style reform by maximizing the utilization of digital technology.

In addition to striving to carry out working style reform in light of the voice of employees, Office for Work Style Reform and Work Review of the Secretarial Division of the MS supports the reform of the operations at individual departments and bureaus by holding training sessions, seminars and workshops regarding the reform.

The MS will continue its activities so that all employees can work in ways that deliver results as an organization while growing themselves and feeling a sense of fulfilment by fully demonstrating their abilities in accordance with their various background circumstances, including child care and family care.



A workshop



# Administrative Management Bureau



## Mission

The Administrative Management Bureau (AMB) aims to realize government administration that meets the needs of the times by securing appropriate enforcement of rules common across ministries and innovating administrative management in ways adapted to societal changes under a holistic approach.

- Ensures appropriate enforcement of general rules and laws in order to protect the rights of the people, secure administrative fairness and improve administrative transparency.
- Promotes public-sector innovation in order to adapt to rapid societal changes and the increasing complexity of issues related to public affairs.
- Ensures appropriate and smooth management of the Incorporated Administrative Agencies (IAAs) system in order to enhance the policy implementation functions of the national government.

## Planning of the administration-related general rules system and ensuring appropriate enforcement

The AMB plans a general system that administrative agencies should observe. It holds jurisdiction over the following laws and regulations that constitute the administration-related general rules system, which is intended to ensure the fairness and improve transparency of administrative operations.

### The Administrative Procedure Act and the Administrative Complaint Review Act

Administrative agencies conduct “administrative dispositions” that affect the rights and interests of the people, such as permission/authorization regarding passport issuance and other matters, and orders for business operators engaging in inappropriate business activity to halt business operations.

The Administrative Procedure Act establishes general rules (e.g., rules on the formulation of review standards, the presentation of grounds, and hearing procedures) that administrative agencies should follow when rendering dispositions, in order to prevent dispositions based on arbitrary judgments by the agencies from infringing on the rights and interests of the people.

The Administrative Complaint Review Act establishes a system that enables people to appeal and seek redress from administrative agencies when their rights or interests have been infringed due to illegal or unjust dispositions. This system has the advantages that the procedures are simpler, faster, and the costs are lower than they would be with administrative litigation handled in court.

➡ In order to raise awareness about the objectives of the Acts and the purpose of the system widely and to ensure that the prescribed procedures are implemented appropriately, the AMB develops guidelines and provides training programs for administrative agencies and also enhances the provision of information to the people as users of the system.

### Act on Access to Information Held by Administrative Organs

The Act establishes the right of anyone to request disclosure of documents and electronic or magnetic records, etc. held by

administrative organs for organizational use by its employees and relevant procedures in order to implement an administration open to the public. The number of requests for disclosure has been on an uptrend over the 20 years or so since the system was put into effect. In the most recent year (FY2022), the number of requests came to 190,000, so it may be said that this has taken hold as a system to ensure the accountability of activities by administrative agencies to the people.

➡ Amid the increase in the number of requests for disclosure, the AMB continues to ensure appropriate management at individual administrative agencies and also promotes digitalization and efficiency improvement of administrative work related to information disclosure so that requests can be smoothly processed.

### Research, surveys, and cooperation with international organizations

In response to societal changes and the transformation of challenges related to government administration due to the use of AI and other digital technologies, the AMB engages in research and surveys on a broad range of issues, from short-term to mid and long-term ones, regarding systems that will be the basis of general government administration in the future, while utilizing networks formed with researchers in the fields of public administration and administrative laws.

The AMB also disseminates information on government administration in Japan and collects information on the most up-to-date theories and practices overseas while overseeing government administration in Japan from a broad perspective, by cooperating with international organizations through attendance of meetings, such as those of the OECD and the International Institute of Administrative Sciences and the sharing of best practices.

## Promoting public-sector innovation

As improving overall productivity in society becomes a challenge in response to population decline, it is also important for the administration to correct inefficiencies in operations and create an environment where resources can be allocated to higher value-added tasks. It is also necessary to address complex and difficult issues that cannot be resolved with a single solution because one issue is interrelated with other issues in the current administration.

In light of this background, the AMB is conducting the following activities to promote public-sector innovation.



A cross-ministerial workshop

## Implementing innovation projects

The AMB, in collaboration with ministries and agencies aiming for transformation, has launched transformation projects and supports each ministry's transformation by implementing various methods. For example, under the project regarding the revision of tasks related to legislation planning, the AMB is promoting innovation through co-creation approaches with relevant organizations, such as establishing cross-ministerial communities involving working-level employees and finding issues and considering ways of resolving them within the communities. Furthermore, under the project to conceive new ways to utilize office space, the AMB held workshops for envisioning “future working styles” together with government employees working within the same building. At the workshop, the AMB came up with concepts using the foresight approach to think about a “desirable future state” from “future signs,” which led to the creation of multi-purpose spaces that can be used for co-working.

We are also disseminating information and providing support for the introduction of digital tools by conducting seminars on how to utilize new business chat tools in operations, including insights from early implementation.

## Knowledge sharing and provision of information for public sector innovation

We are systematizing the practices of past transformation projects, as well as the content of domestic and international reports and case studies, to create knowledge for transformation in a form that is easy for each ministry to utilize.

By utilizing knowledge, the AMB also conducts human resource development programs for ministries and agencies to improve the efficiency and quality of administration.

## Ensuring appropriate and smooth management of the Incorporated Administrative Agencies (IAAs) system

The IAA system was introduced as part of the 2001 Central Government Reform. The system is intended to improve the quality of operations and implement policies effectively by separating some policy-implementing functions from competent ministries (ministries with jurisdiction over individual IAAs) and by granting status of a legal entity separated from the government to each IAA. The running of operations at IAAs is conducted independently and autonomously based on the objectives set by the competent ministers. The competent ministers evaluate operational performance on an ex-post basis.

When ministries incorporate new IAAs or when they introduce additional operations for existing IAAs, the AMB examines the validity of those actions. The AMB also designs systems common across IAAs, including formulation of the government's standardized guidelines, in order to ensure that the setting of objectives and evaluation of performance by the competent ministers is objective and strict.

The AMB also serves as the secretariat of the Committee on the System of Evaluating Incorporated Administrative Agencies. This committee is responsible for reviewing formulation of objectives and evaluation of performance by the competent ministers from its standpoint as a third-party organization. In the review, the committee's role is not limited to passive activities, such as examining and monitoring, but also includes proactive initiatives, such as promoting and supporting actions required across IAAs, including flexible response to changes in the social environment and digital transformation (DX) activities that realize

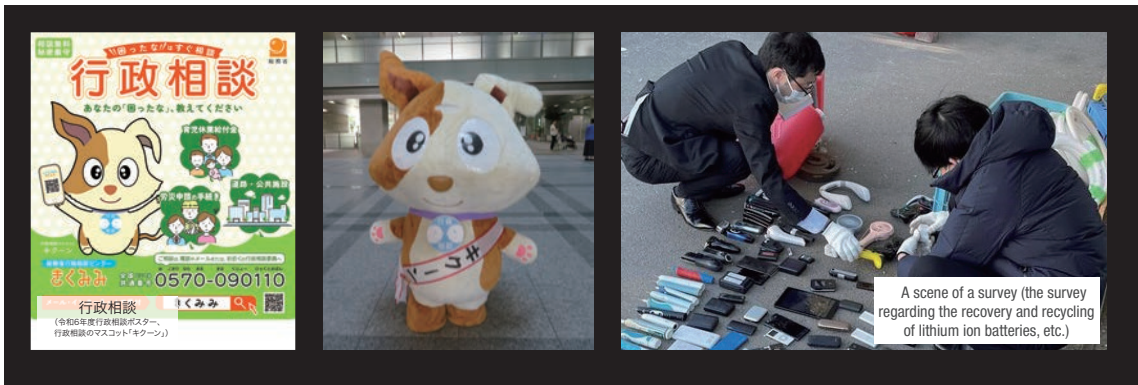
new value, so that IAAs' policy implementing functions can be exercised to the maximum extent. As one such initiative, the committee collects and disseminates advanced cases of resourceful activity that have led to successful operational achievements, such as promotion of DX, strengthening of internal controls, effective information dissemination, and promotion of social implementation of research results, as reference information useful for the running of the operations at IAAs. The AMB also informs the competent ministries and IAAs about the committee's initiatives and holds an “IAA symposium” as a forum for the active dissemination of advanced cases of resourceful activity by IAAs.



A panel discussion at an “IAA symposium”



# Administrative Evaluation Bureau



**Mission** By organically linking the functions of (1) policy evaluation system, (2) administrative management improvement survey, and (3) administrative counseling, and by grasping and analyzing the effects of policies to find bottlenecks in policy design and operation, and eliminate bottlenecks, the Administrative Evaluation Bureau (AEB) supports ministries and agencies in activities to further improve the effectiveness of their policies and moving their policies forward. In addition, through these activities, the AEB fulfills accountability to the public and increases the public acceptance of and trust in government administration.

## Administrative Counseling

### About administrative counseling service

Receive complaints, opinions, and requests from the people regarding the government administration/procedure/service and give advice/mediation to promote resolution

**Regarding public infrastructure**  
A complaint about a risk posed by piled-up driftwood

**Before**

**After**

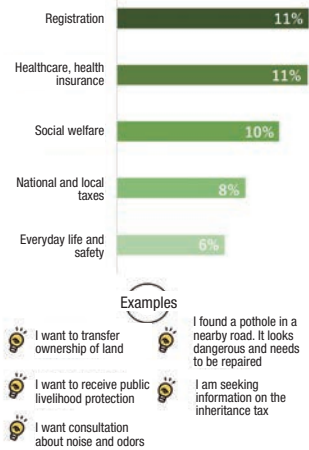
**Regarding administrative procedures**  
Requests for online acceptance of an application for the cancellation procedure concerning a deceased relative's telephone contract

Online cancellation procedure is now available.

**Administrative services / others**  
-Don't know where to go to seek advice, or the problem could not be resolved at the consultation office  
-Complaints about unsatisfactory responses from the consultation office

Mascot character for administrative counseling "Kikumimi" (Kikumimi)

### Frequently filed administrative counseling matters



### Countermeasures for the Noto Peninsula Earthquake (Occurred on 1 Jan. 2024, M7.6)

Opened special administrative counseling centers in cooperation with related administrative organizations, local governments and various associations of professionals that provide one-stop solutions to complaints, etc. from the people affected by the earthquake

Three months after the earthquake, the AEB has provided administrative counseling centers expanding to severely affected area.

Provision of a comprehensive guidebook that includes available government support measures, such as the issuance of disaster damage certificates, housing repair work, financial assistance, etc.

Latest version

Administrative counselors listening to earthquake victim explaining their troubles at a special administrative counseling center

Provide a toll-free telephone counseling service for victims (from January 12, 2024)

Detailed information on the administrative counseling service

### Contact point for filing your complaint/opinion/request

**"KIKUMIMI"**  
(meaning "listening ear")  
(MIC Administrative Counseling Office)  
Regional Administrative Evaluation Bureaus (AEB)  
Local branch offices (50 Offices nationwide)

By visiting the closest KIKUMIMI office

By calling Administrative Complaint Hotline  
**0570-090110**

Via email or other online media

**Via Administrative Counselors**  
(About 5,000 counselors nationwide)

- Private-sector counselors commissioned by the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications
- At least one in every municipality
- Periodically open counseling desks at a city hall or community centers

By visiting an administrative counselor stationed in your municipality

The official website of administrative counselors

## Administrative Management Improvement Survey

The AEB conducts surveys covering a broad range of fields with a different perspective from ministries and agencies responsible for policies and projects, identifies and analyzes the policy effects and issues related to the management of tasks in order to facilitate the resolution of the issues faced by individual ministries. When conducting surveys, the AEB strives to identify not only policy moves by ministries and agencies but also the issues faced by society and communities in a timely manner by using the nationwide networks comprised of regional administrative evaluation bureaus and the counseling function.

When the issues related to policy designing and operation have become clear as a result of surveys, the AEB presents recommendations and provides information to relevant ministries. The AEB also seeks to steadily improve administrative management by conducting follow-up reviews as to how policy implementation has progressed and improved as a result of the recommendations.

(Example) Survey related to the introduction of solar power generation equipment, etc.—published on 26 March, 2024  
To promote the introduction of solar power generation equipment, etc. that coexists with local communities

**[Background]**

- While the introduction of renewable energy is being promoted in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, problems, such as soil and sandstone erosion, have occurred at some solar power generation equipment, etc., and local governments are struggling to respond to complaints about those problems from local residents.
- Conducted an inspection to consider corrective measures, necessary for obtaining local residents' understanding and promoting appropriate introduction of power generation facilities.

<Photo>

**[Result of Survey]**

- Conducted a paper-based survey with 943 local governments and a hearing survey with 121 local governments in light of the circumstances of the problems. It was found that the inadequacy of the drainage control measure taken for power generation equipment was the cause of soil and sandstone erosion and that problems involving the same business operators have occurred in different regions.
- In order to prevent problems and ensure prompt action to make improvement, it is necessary to take the following actions:
  - Power generation business operators should provide local residents with prior explanations about drainage control measures.
  - The government should strengthen onsite inspection of power generation equipment and appropriately take corrective measures if legal violations have been found. Therefore, the MIC called for the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry to implement the above corrective measures.

- Recently Conducted Administrative Management Improvement Surveys**
- Road clearance after natural disasters
  - Management and operation of land locks along rivers
  - Care monitoring activity for elderly people living alone
  - Support for children who are not attending school or are socially isolated
  - Project to provide support services for elderly people, such as identification reference
  - Administration related to cemeteries
  - Administration related to septic tanks
  - Support for children requiring constant medical care and their families
  - Introduction of solar power generation facilities, etc.
  - Entrustment of foster parenthood
  - Disaster risk prevention and mitigation for reservoirs

## Promoting policy evaluation

Policy evaluation aims to have each ministry and agency evaluate and analyze the effectiveness of their own policies, and reflect the results in policy formulation and implementation to promote efficient and high-quality administration, as well as to ensure accountability to the public.

The AEB has jurisdiction over the policy evaluation system and is responsible for planning and devising the basic elements of the system to promote policy evaluation in each ministry and agency.

In order to address the complex and challenging social and economic issues seen in recent years, it is recognized that constantly evaluating the effectiveness of policies and making agile and flexible adjustments is effective.

Under this recognition, the AEB supports each ministry and agency in understanding and analyzing policy effects by compiling new guidelines for policy evaluation (March 2024) and conducting empirical joint research projects for policy analysis with relevant ministries, agencies and experts.

You can find out the basic policy for policy evaluation and the results of evaluation conducted by each ministry and agency on the policy evaluation portal.

**Example of empirical joint research projects for policy analysis: measures for encouraging inmates' requests for employment support in prisons**

Empirical joint research project for policy analysis by the Ministry of Justice and MIC

**[Background]**  
Employment support services for inmates in correctional facilities are offered on a voluntary basis. However, the percentage of those who have used the services among all former inmates is only around 20%.  
➡ Distribute the flyers randomly, which promotes participation in employment support, and analyze its effectiveness using Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT).

**Diagram of the effectiveness of the through RCT**

**[Results]**  
While it was not clear whether or not the distribution of flyers was effective in encouraging inmates to receive employment support, it was found that this measure was effective to some degree in making them become more familiar with and better understand the employment support program.

**Topic** Resolving problems faced by victims of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake through administrative counseling service

- It has become possible for displaced people to reset the passwords of their Individual Number Cards in the municipalities where they are taking shelter -

**An inquiry from an earthquake victim via a toll-free telephone counseling service**

When I tried to apply for a disaster damage certificate via the Individual Number Portal (Mynaportal), my account became blocked because I entered the wrong password three times. To re-open my account, I need to reset my password at the city hall of my primary residence. As I am currently in an evacuation shelter in another city, I would like to be able to reset the password in the municipality of the evacuation shelter I am in.

**The AEB referred to and mediated the case with a relevant organization, and the system has been improved in line with the needs of the earthquake victims.**

As an exceptional measure, it has become possible for residents of some cities and towns in Ishikawa Prefecture, from which many people are supposed to evacuate outside the hometown, to reset the password of the electronic certification of their Individual Number Cards at the counters of the municipalities where they are taking shelter.



# Local Administration Bureau



**Mission**

The Local Administration Bureau (LAB) works to support the administrative operations of local governments that support local life by promoting the following range of measures:

Promoting decentralization, planning local government systems, various forms of cross-regional cooperation, making regions more active, standardization and commonization of information systems of local governments, globalizing regions, maintaining the local public employee system, and planning of the election system

## Developing local governments and providing sustainable administrative services

In 2000, the role of the Comprehensive Decentralization Law was expanded to clarify the division of roles between central and local governments, to eliminate the program for clerical work commissioned to outside agencies, to set up rules for the central government’s interference, and to promote unique administration by local governments. As a result of the nationwide promotion of municipal mergers since 1999, 3,232 municipalities as of March 31st, 1999, came to 1,727 as of March 31st, 2009. Municipal mergers have made considerable progress, strengthening the financial and administrative foundations of basic municipalities. (There are 1,718 municipalities as of January 1st, 2024)

Japan has entered the phase of population decline, and the elderly population will reach its peak in 2040. In order for basic municipalities to sustainably provide administrative services, Japan has recently been promoting the formation of “self-support settlement regions” and “core regional urban areas” and providing a framework for cooperation between a wide variety of areas that do not rely on mergers, including cooperation between municipalities and prefectures, thereby supporting efforts tailored to the state of a region.

Also, assuming that management resources necessary for providing administrative services will become considerably limited, the LAB has revised the scope of tasks performed by employees and promoted automation and labor-saving. In this way, the LAB actively supports continuous administrative reforms at individual local governments so that new administrative services that are not an extension of existing services can be provided.

## Promoting local e-governments

**[Basic Resident Registration Network System]**

The Basic Resident Registration Network System is an indispensable foundation for building electronic central and local government. This network allows people to follow various administrative procedures without attaching a copy of their resident record and to participate in various pension programs without submitting a report on their current pensioner’s status.

**[Social security and tax number (Individual Number) system]**

The Individual Number system has been introduced as the foundation of fairer and more just social security and tax systems and also as infrastructure for increasing convenience for the people and administrative efficiency in the digital society.

The Individual Number Card is a “passport in the digital society” that enables secure and reliable identity verification, irrespective of in-person or not. Therefore, the LAB promotes understanding regarding the Individual Number Card and strives to develop a favorable environment for application to acquire the Card so that all people who want the Card can acquire it and so the scope of its use can be expanded.

**[Promotion of DX at the regional level]**

Regarding administrative services provided by local governments and the resolution of regional problems, in order to increase convenience for residents, the government steadily promotes initiatives by local governments across the country while playing the leading role in using digital technology and data.

## Efforts to revitalize local communities, create new flow of people from urban areas to regional areas, and develop human resources who support respective regions

**[Promotion of creating local employment and expanding consumption by taking advantage of local materials]**

In order to maintain and strengthen regional vitality in regions where the population decline and aging of society are pronounced, the LAB supports business startups and new projects (local startups) that contribute to the resolution of regional problems using regional human, financial, and other resources. By taking advantage of community-oriented startups, the LAB will increase jobs and consumption at the regional level and expands virtuous circles created in regional economies. The LAB is also promoting distributed energy infrastructure projects that create energy systems suited for local production and local consumption in cooperation with ministries and agencies.

**[Further development of local human resources and organizations]**

In order to create a flow of people and information to regions, the LAB strives to create and expand a population of “concerned people” who become involved in a certain region on an ongoing basis and in various ways. Regarding Local Revitalization Cooperators, who aim to settle in regional areas while engaging in regional cooperation activities, the LAB develops an environment in which such cooperators can work closely with regional areas through enhancing training courses and supporting startups. The LAB is also promoting the regional revitalization entrepreneur initiative, which uses employees of companies located in urban areas as human resources capable of immediately contributing to regional revitalization.

In order to establish an initiative system for residents to solve local issues, the LAB supports the formation and sustainable operation of regional management organizations that bring together and coordinate various local bodies. In addition, for regions with unfavorable conditions, including depopulated areas, it supports the formation of Community Network Zones, placing core communities at the center. Also, the LAB supports business cooperatives that dispatch human resources depending on companies’ demand in rapidly depopulating areas in order to secure human resources who play a central role in regional industries.

**[Promotion of internationalization of regions]**

The LAB promotes various globalization measures, such as facilitating multicultural coexistence in regional areas, including the promotion of the JET program to invite young people overseas and advance international exchange at the regional level, the provision of administrative and everyday-life information to foreign residents, and the provision of further support to such residents in their

Topic

## Securing and training workers with digital skills

While local governments have a significant role to play in promoting regional DX, many small municipal governments are struggling to secure and train workers with digital skills amid the nationwide shortage of such workers. In light of that situation, the LAB promotes efforts to secure and train workers with digital skills at local governments, including the development of a framework of cooperation between prefectural and municipal governments.

## Enhancing the local public employee system

Local public employees, who have an important role of promoting decentralization and regional revitalization, need an environment in which they can maximize their performance and achieve efficient and effective administrative operations. To this end, the LAB aims to establish a local public employee system adaptable to changes in social situations and advance necessary reforms.

In recent years, various initiatives are being promoted, such as improving working conditions for local government employees, encouraging female local government employees to play an active role, establishing personnel evaluation systems, and having appropriate wages and staffing, as well as promoting the acquisition of childcare leave by male employees, implementing a mutual aid system for benefits and making safe and comfortable workplaces. In addition, efforts are being made to eliminate staff shortages at affected local governments in the event of a major natural disaster.

## Planning and drafting election and political fund systems

**[Planning and drafting an election system]**

Elections form the most important system for enabling citizens to participate in politics and is the basis of Japan’s democratic politics. The Election Department (ED) of the LAB plans and drafts policies to ensure that the will of citizens is reflected fairly and effectively in national and regional politics through the election system.

**[Managing and executing election appropriately]**

In collaboration with the electoral administrative commissions of prefectures and municipalities nationwide, the ED works to appropriately manage and execute national elections and other polls and makes the best efforts to create a situation where people can approach voting in elections smoothly and improve the convenience of electorates. The ED also provides the electorates with information about elections as well as encourages them to go to polls to express their opinions and takes measures to develop the electorate’s awareness of politics.

**[Operating the political fund system appropriately]**

For the sound development of democracy, the ED works to operate, plan, and draft the Political Funds Control Act, which regulates the publication, provision, and reception of the income and expenditure of political funds, and the Party Subsidies Act, which stipulates party subsidies.

# Local Public Finance Bureau



## Mission

In order to ensure that local governments provide basic administrative services for residents, such as welfare, education, police, fire and rescue services, and improvement of social infrastructure and to enable them to strengthen childcare policy and other child-related policies as well as promoting DX and GX initiatives with a maximum degree of autonomy and independence, the Local Public Finance Bureau (LPFB) strives to secure and adjust local resources by formulating the Fiscal Plan of Local Governments and strengthen local financial management.

## Roles of local finance

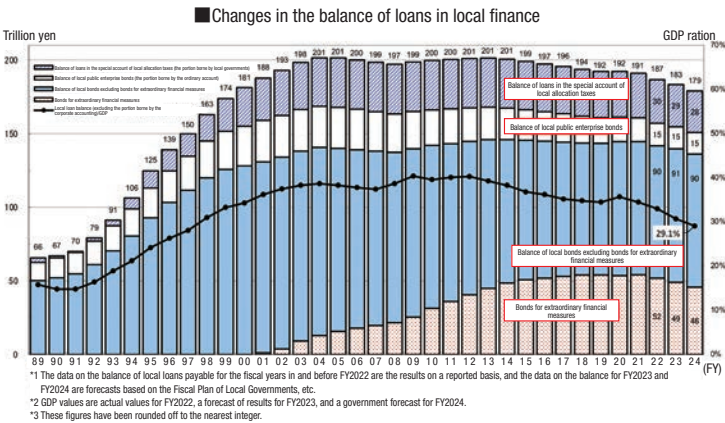
Administrative services closely related to residents' lives, such as welfare, education, police, fire and rescue services, and improvement of social infrastructure, including roads and river embankments, are implemented in most cases by local governments. Local finance therefore takes an extremely important role, so to speak, as one of the two wheels of a vehicle together with national finance. Consequently, the local finance relating to the ordinary budget for FY2024 totaled 93.6 trillion yen.

For local governments to continue promoting investment in the people and regional economic revitalization, to implement measures to address the aging of society coupled with a low birthrate, including childcare policy, and to take necessary actions in view of wage and price trends, among other matters, it is essential to secure necessary local tax revenue sources.

## Local finance today

Local finance is the totality of the finance of about 1,800 local governments, most of which are financially weak municipalities. The shortage of funds for local finance increased swiftly in and after FY1994 due to the decline in local tax revenues, tax cuts, and for other reasons. After that, fund shortages reached a record of 18.2 trillion yen in FY2010 due to the recession. Even in FY2024, with the increase in social security related expenses, there is still a shortage of 1.8 trillion yen.

Moreover, with this background of fund shortage, the balance of loans in local finance by the end of FY2024 is expected to be 179 trillion yen, accounting for a considerable 29.1% of GDP.



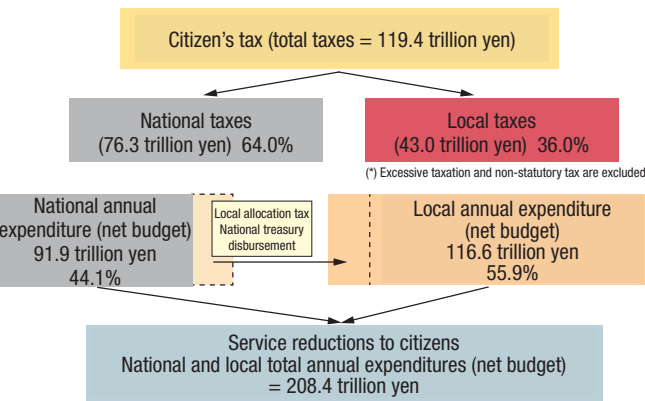
## Distribution of tax sources between the central and local governments

The ratio of central to local government distribution of tax revenue borne by the public is about 3:2.

However, the ratio is reversed (2:3) when taken from the viewpoint of expenditure scale adjusting for the final spending of entities in both the central and local governments.

Accordingly, local allocation taxes and other fund sources whose usage is not limited, as well as government subsidies and funds for projects charged on the national treasury are transferred from the national government to local governments so that local governments can provide important administrative services.

■ Financial resource distribution between central and local governments (FY2022)



## Securing fund through Fiscal Plan of Local Governments

The LPFB secures funds for local governments, such as local allocation taxes and local bonds, through the Fiscal Plan of Local Governments (a set of plans that grasp the revenue and expenditure of local finance) so that local governments can provide important administrative services to the residents regardless of regional gaps due to the degree of population and industrial density or gaps in tax revenues between fiscal years due to business trends.

## Adjusting funding through local allocation taxes

Funding for local governments should ideally be done from their own funds, such as local taxes collected by themselves. However, in reality, fund sources are

regionally unevenly distributed. A mechanism is therefore needed for adjusting this uneven distribution and for ensuring general fund sources (fund sources used for any kind of expenses with their uses unidentified) to local governments with low local tax revenues. Established for that purpose is the local allocation tax.

The local allocation taxes in FY2024 totaled 18.6671 trillion yen.

## Securing local bond funds

The annual expenditures of local governments are, as a principle, covered by the annual revenues other than local bonds. However, local governments are eligible to issue local bonds in the case of necessary construction business expenses in terms of fair cost burden or necessary response to an emergency like a natural disaster. Therefore, the LPFB makes the local bond issuance plan as a projection of annual issuance of local bonds in order to secure local bond funds smoothly. In addition, the LPFB manages local bond funds appropriately through the approval of issuance.

## Planning and drafting systems for local public enterprises

Local public enterprises provide essential services for regional development and local residents, such as water works, traffic infrastructure, medical facilities and sewerage treatment. While the business environment is becoming severer due to population decline and the aging of facilities, the LPFB is promoting formulation of business strategies and expansion of service areas or other fundamental reforms to ensure that local public enterprises can stably provide services indispensable for local residents' lives.

## Making local finance soundness

Because of the increase in social security-related expenses due to the aging of population, the financial structure is becoming increasingly rigid, making the local financial situations extremely difficult. In this situation, in order to quickly achieve financial soundness or rebuild, the Act on Assurance of Sound Financial Status of Local Governments establishes new indexes and requires local governments to disclose them thoroughly. In addition, in order to realize more efficient and effective administrative and financial management, efforts to strengthen financial management, such as appropriate management of public facilities and management reforms of local public enterprises, are being promoted.

## Topic Promoting regional digitalization

Provincial regions are facing increasingly complex social issues that must be resolved, including revitalizing regional economies, correcting the overconcentration of population in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, responding to the population decline and the aging of society with a low birthrate, implementing disaster prevention and mitigation measures, maintaining and improving the quality of education, and securing an appropriate level of medical care. In this situation, to realize the Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation, local governments are required to put digital technology into practical use in various fields and use digital expertise to resolve diverse regional social issues.

In order to further promote efforts to resolve regional issues through the practical application of digital technology, the FY2024 Local Fiscal Plan once again set aside funds, worth 250 billion yen, as “expenditure for promoting regional digital society.” In addition, in view of the discussions at the meeting on digital administrative and fiscal reform, which was inaugurated in October 2023, digital administrative and fiscal reform efforts are underway in order to reconsider administrative and financial management from users' viewpoint and to maintain and strengthen public services and revitalize regional economies by making maximum use of digital technology. Further progress is expected in regional efforts toward digitalization.



# Local Tax Bureau

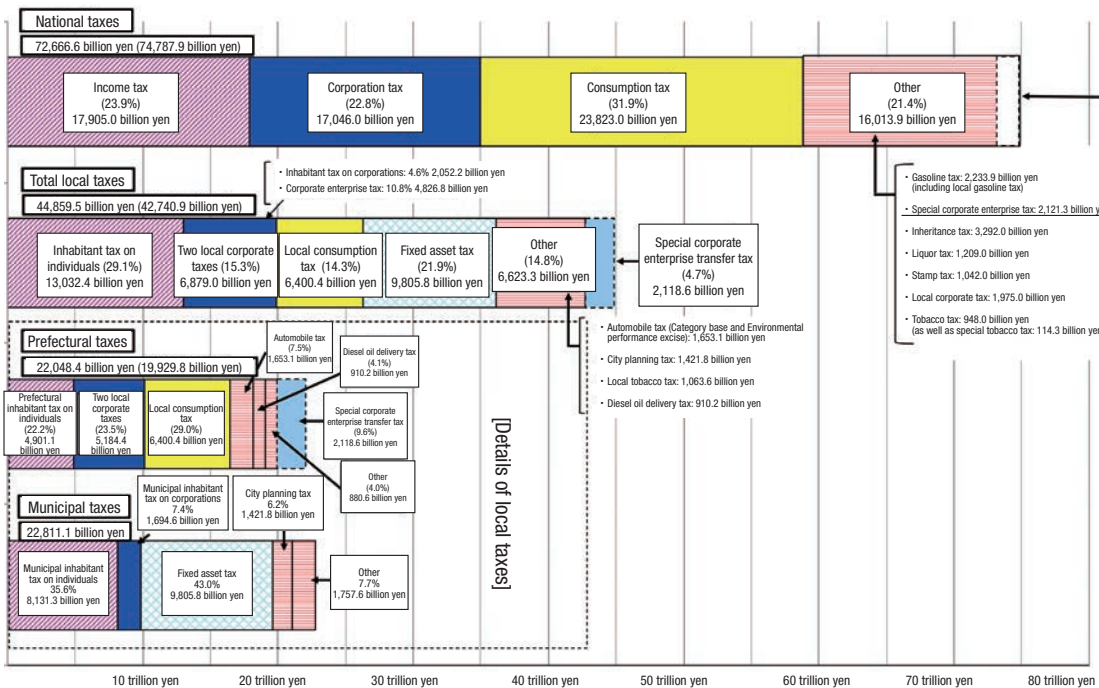
## Mission

Local Taxes are an important financial source for the administrative services of local governments. By enhancing and securing local taxes, which are a sort of community membership fee, the Local Tax Bureau (LTB) proceeds with decentralization reforms and plans and drafts local taxation revisions corresponding to changes in the Japanese socioeconomic community.

## As a player in running the system of local taxes

Education, welfare, fire defense, rescue, garbage management, and most of the local services closely related to our daily lives are provided by municipalities and prefectures. Local taxes are a source of funding for such services, borne widely and jointly by the inhabitants of the community and other interested parties, and imposed by prefectures and municipalities according to ordinances. The LTB has jurisdiction over the local tax law that defines this local tax framework.

### ■Details of tax revenues for national and local taxes (amount in the budget and amount specified in the Fiscal Plan of Local Governments for FY2024)



Notes) 1. The percentage in each tax item is the percentage based on the sum of percentages at 100% in each of the graphs.  
2. National taxes include special accounting. Local taxes exclude excess taxes, non-statutory taxes, etc.  
3. National taxes exclude special corporate enterprise tax. Local taxes include special corporate enterprise transfer tax. With regard to the figures in parentheses, national taxes include special corporate enterprise tax, and local taxes exclude special corporate enterprise transfer tax.

## Enhancing local taxes

The revenues of local governments (amount of the FY2024 Fiscal Plan of Local Governments: 93.9 trillion yen) include local taxes, as well as local allocation taxes, amounts financed by government subsidies, local bonds, and other sources. Local taxes amounted to 44.9 trillion yen, accounting for 47.8% of the total.

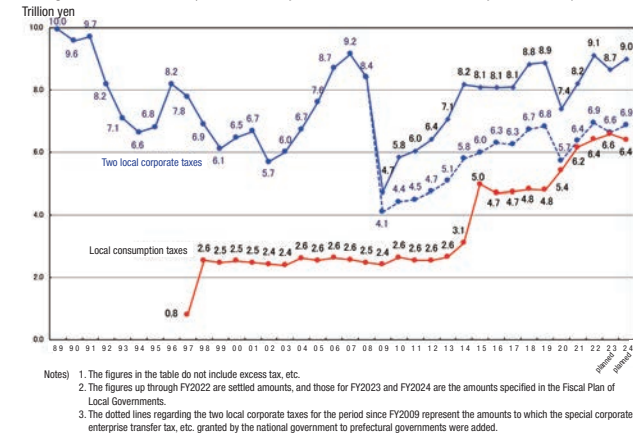
In order to enable local governments to create communities with unique characteristics with their own ideas, it is necessary to promote decentralization and enhance local taxation, which constitutes the foundation of communities. In view of the division of roles between the national and local governments, the LTB has so far made efforts to enhance local taxation. For example, it transferred tax revenue sources worth 3 trillion yen from national taxation (income tax) to local taxation (individual inhabitant tax) in 2007 and raised the local consumption tax rate in FY2014 and FY2019 (in terms of the consumption tax rate: 1.0%⇒1.7%⇒2.2%). In addition, from the viewpoint of securing local tax revenue sources necessary for forest development in a stable manner, the LTB introduced the forest environment tax and the forest environment transfer tax in FY2019.

## Building a local tax system with little uneven distribution and stable tax revenues

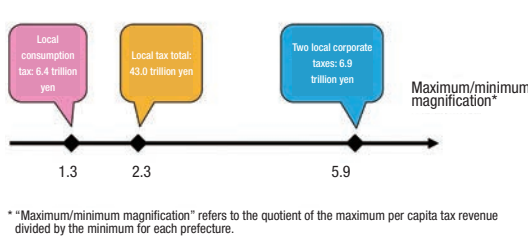
In order to enable local governments to provide administrative services that suit the actual circumstances of their communities, it is necessary to secure the general financial sources necessary for stable financial management. To do so, it is ideal to obtain the necessary financial sources through local taxes, which are collected by local governments themselves. However, it is necessary to keep in mind that when tax revenue sources are unevenly distributed, fiscal capacity gaps may arise between local governments if local taxation is enhanced. Therefore, it is necessary to develop a local tax system with little uneven distribution of tax revenue sources and with stable tax revenues at the same time as making sure to enhance local taxation.

In addition to raising the local consumption tax rate as mentioned above, the LTB has secured tax revenue stability and strengthened benefit taxation by introducing (FY2004) and expanding (FY2015 and FY2016) pro-forma standard taxation under the framework of corporate enterprise tax. In FY2019, in light of the expansion of financial capacity gaps between regions and changes in socioeconomic structures, the LTB introduced the special corporate enterprise tax and special corporate enterprise transfer tax in order to address the structural problem of tax revenues being concentrated in large cities and help cities and rural areas support each other and achieve sustainable development together.

### ■Changes in tax revenues (local consumption taxes and two local corporate taxes)



### ■Disparity in per capita tax revenue (FY2022)



\* "Maximum/minimum magnification" refers to the quotient of the maximum per capita tax revenue divided by the minimum for each prefecture.

## Topic Non-statutory taxes

Local taxes that local governments can levy include corporate enterprise tax, automobile tax, individual inhabitant tax, and fixed asset tax, and these are called statutory taxes. For statutory taxes, taxable items and tax calculation methods are specified by the Local Tax Act. Meanwhile, apart from the taxes specified by the Local Tax Act, local governments may levy their own taxes under local ordinances. Such taxes are called non-statutory taxes and can be divided into non-statutory general taxes and non-statutory taxes for specific purposes, depending on whether their usage is specified by ordinance or not.

When a local government intends to introduce a non-statutory tax, it needs to consult with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications and obtain consent therefrom in advance. The Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications must give consent unless the non-statutory tax that the local government intends to introduce falls under any of the following: (i) its tax base is the same as that of national taxes or other local taxes and its burden on residents is extremely heavy; (ii) the tax is likely to seriously hinder the distribution of goods among local governments; or (iii) the tax is not appropriate in light of national economic policies.

By April 2024, more than 50 local governments introduced non-statutory taxes, such as industrial waste tax (Mie, Nagasaki, and Okinawa Prefectures, etc.), nuclear fuel tax (Hokkaido, Fukui, and Ehime Prefectures, etc.), were introduced. "Accommodation tax," which is recently often taken up by media, is also a non-statutory tax (for specific purposes).

Accommodation tax, which was first introduced in Tokyo in FY2002 in order to secure the funds necessary for tourism promotion measures, has since then been introduced by nine local governments, including Osaka Prefecture (FY2016) and Kyoto City (FY2018). In November 2024, accommodation tax is scheduled

to be introduced in Niseko Town, Hokkaido. In the future, more and more local governments are expected to consider introducing accommodation tax given the growing tourism demand and needs for administrative services due to increases in overseas tourists visiting Japan amid the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

A non-statutory tax for securing a new tax source is to be introduced based on each local government's responsibility and judgment and is considered to be very significant also from the perspective of decentralization of authority.



# Global Strategy Bureau



Mission

In the digital age, ICT (Information & Communications Technology) is the engine of economic growth and competitiveness. The Global Strategy Bureau (GSB) is in a comprehensive manner working on the research & development, international standardization, and overseas promotion of ICT products and services, as well as development of international rules from a global perspective.

## Promoting technology policy in the information and communication field

It is becoming increasingly important to strategically promote research and development (R&D) in the ICT field and social implementation of the R&D results from the viewpoint of strengthening Japan's international competitiveness.

In this situation, the MIC is strategically promoting R&D and international standardization concerning beyond 5G (6G), AI technology, quantum technology, space ICT and other advanced information and communication technologies that are expected to constitute the foundation of all industrial and social activities as the next-generation information and communication infrastructure. The MIC is also engaging in basic and foundational R&D concerning the world's most advanced technologies through the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), the only Japanese public research institution specialized in the information and communication field.

Regarding Beyond 5G (6G) in particular, in order to strengthen international competitiveness and ensure economic security, the MIC established a fund at NICT in March 2023 and is using it to promote R&D and international standardization with a view to social implementation and global developments.

Regarding AI technology, quantum technology, and space ICT as well, the MIC is promoting initiatives to prepare datasets for enhancing the capability to develop large language models (LLMs), to realize simultaneous translation for use at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, and to create highly reliable quantum communication technology and advanced space networking technology.

### Overview of Innovative Information and Communication Technology (Beyond 5G (6G)) Fund Project

The cumulative amount of budgets so far allocated to the fund:  
2022 supplementary budget: 66.2 billion yen + 2023 initial budget: 15.0 billion yen + 2023 supplementary budget: 19.0 billion yen + 2024 initial budget: 15.94 billion yen

Total: **116.14 billion yen**

**<Network architecture of Beyond 5G>**

**<Draft programs under consideration>**

The program name, etc.	Grant or commissioned projects	Object of research and development	TRL #1
(i) Strategic program for social implementation and global deployment	Grant projects (to be 1/3 of the total project cost for the entire implementation period to be granted)	Support for strategic research and development by individual companies (support in competitive domains)	Achieve a certain level of TRL within a certain period
(ii) Program for elemental technologies and seeds creation	Commissioned projects (new projects*)	Research and development on cross-industrial common network infrastructure (public investment in cooperative domains)	Achieve a TRL level of around 6 within four years and to around 7 within five years, for example
(iii) Program for research and development of effective utilization of radio spectrum	Commissioned projects	Research and development for establishing elemental technologies and creating technological seeds from a medium- to long-term perspective	TRL level at between 1 and 3 at the start of the project.
	Commissioned projects	Research and development on technologies that contribute to effective use of radio waves	—

\*1. Prepared by the MIC based on the TRL indicator developed by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).  
\*2. The grant rate is determined in accordance with the evaluation at the time of adoption. The grant rate may vary from business year to business year, with the upper limit set at two-thirds of the total cost.  
\*3. A new type of support that the MIC is considering adopting under the FY2023 supplementary budget (19.0 billion yen).

**<Example of implementation>**

## Promotion of overseas developments and economic security

As social and economic digitization has accelerated due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the need for the development and advancement of digital infrastructure and digital solutions for social issues is growing around the world. The international situation is becoming more and more complex, with various risks, including economic security issues, emerging.

While grasping those global trends, the MIC is promoting efforts to strengthen international competitiveness in the ICT field and ensure economic security by not merely engaging in promoting R&D and international standardization regarding ICT but also by engaging in overseas development and international rule-making across various fields under a holistic approach.

For example, under the Global Promotion Action Plan 2025, formulated in July 2022, the MIC is providing comprehensive support to companies, including personnel training, maintenance, and finance, in accordance with the stages of business development, such as discovery, proposal and development of

projects, in cooperation with Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (JICT), a public-private fund, and other relevant organizations, with emphasis placed on digital infrastructure, such as 5G/Open RAN, optical undersea cables and data centers and the development of one-stop ICT solutions in the healthcare and agricultural fields.

From the viewpoint of ensuring the safety and reliability of global digital infrastructure, the MIC, in cooperation with like-minded countries, is striving to diversify 5G suppliers by promoting Open RAN and is also increasing the resilience of optical undersea cables.

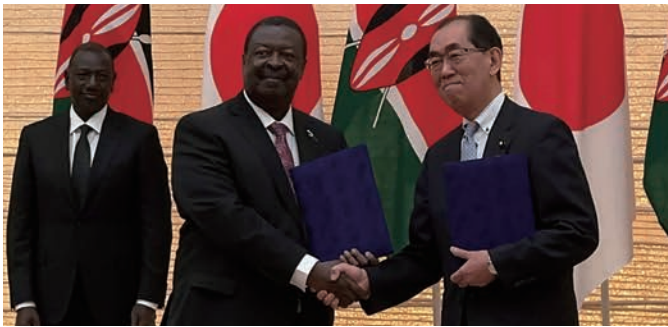
## Policy coordination and cooperation with foreign governments and international organizations and international rule-making

Amid the increase of cross-border transfer of information and business services due to the globalization of social and economic activities, the MIC is holding policy consultations not only under bilateral frameworks but also under multilateral frameworks, including the G7, the G20, the United Nations, APEC, the OECD, the ITU, and the APT and is promoting international collaborative activities in the ICT field, including promoting the free flow of information, realizing safe and secure cyberspace, developing high-quality ICT infrastructure, and contributing to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For example, regarding generative AI, which is described as a technological innovation comparable to the internet and is rapidly penetrating in the society, the risk of causing social and economic threats, such as social turmoil triggered by sophisticated fake videos and disinformation, is being pointed out. In such a situation, Japan led the discussion on international AI governance, under its G7 Presidency in 2023, and the G7 reached an agreement on the Hiroshima AI Process Comprehensive Policy Framework, the first international policy framework for advanced AI systems. This is one example where Japan made a great contribution to discussions held in the international community with the aim of realizing safe, secure, and trustworthy AI.

Moreover, through negotiations at the WTO and Economic Partnership

Agreements (EPAs), the MIC is working to establish a trade framework that meets the needs of Japanese industry by eliminating and relaxing foreign investment regulations in other countries, and to improve the environment for the smooth data flow.



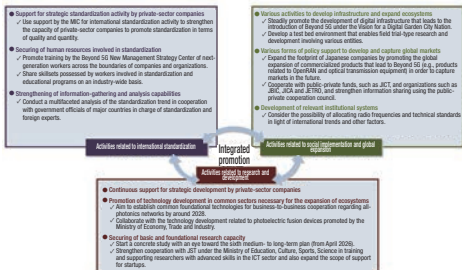
H.E. Mr. MATSUMOTO, the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications exchanging Memorandum of Cooperation with H.E. Dr. MUDAVADI, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign and Diaspora Affairs of the Republic of Kenya.

## Topic Strategy for promoting Beyond 5G

The Information and Communications Council conducted deliberations with an eye to a new strategy for more effectively promoting initiatives to realize Beyond 5G at an early time and strengthen international competitiveness and submitted a final report in June 2024.

In view of changes in the circumstances, including the progress in existing initiatives by the public and private sectors in Japan, international trends concerning the independence of and technological supremacy regarding information and communication networks, structural changes in the communications industry, and the explosive spread of AI, the final report set forth the following four viewpoints, on which emphasis should be placed in various future initiatives to realize Beyond 5G: accurate understanding of changes in the industrial structure, and a game change; the creation and expansion of global ecosystems; promotion of an open approach; and change in attitudes toward social needs.

The final report characterized projects implemented by business operators with a certain degree of resolve as “strategic products” of Japan for realizing a game change. Noting that it is essential to adopt the stance of comprehensively conducting various initiatives related to R&D, international standardization, social implementation and global developments while organically coordinating them, the final report recommended that those various initiatives should be implemented under a holistic approach.





# Information and Communications Bureau



## Mission

The Information and Communications Bureau (ICB) cooperates with companies and research institutions, local governments and National administrative bodies to achieve smooth exchange of information in society via Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in order to improve our quality of life.

- Planning and designing general ICT strategies
- Resolving social issues using ICT
- Planning and designing broadcasting methods that match the times
- Securing the appropriate and reliable implementation of postal services

## Planning and designing general ICT strategies

In the age of VUCA (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity), characterized by a super-aging society, a low-growth economy, crises as the new normal, and growing concerns over social sustainability, ICT plays an increasingly vital role, through AI-based data processing, the fusion of cyber and physical spaces, and the creation of new cyberspace.

The ICB formulates comprehensive ICT strategies to resolve social issues and realize a vibrant society.

## Resolving social issues using ICT

Japan faces a challenging economic environment, including a declining workforce due to an aging population and a projected shrinkage of the domestic market. Additionally, there are mounting challenges, such as coping with severe and frequent disasters, and addressing the aging public infrastructure that has been in place for over 50 years.

Furthermore, as digitalization progresses in society, including the widespread adoption of smartphones and the advancement of network sophistication, the role of information and communication in the lives of citizens and economic activities is increasing. Digitalization has the potential to significantly enhance the productivity and convenience of local communities, improve the quality of industries and livelihoods, and enhance the attractiveness of regions. Moreover, services provided by platforms such as social media and search engines contribute to the improvement of daily convenience.

On the other hand, issues such as slanderous comments and dis-/mis-information have become apparent in the information circulated on the Internet. Additionally, the advent of new information and communication technologies such as generative AI and the metaverse is significantly transforming the digital space.

The government has raised the banner of the “Comprehensive Strategy for the Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation,” and is actively promoting DX in local areas through the rapid development of digital infrastructure by both the public and private sectors.

In the context of these challenges and the potential of digitalization, the government promotes the implementation of digital solutions as a key to solving social issues in local communities, contributing to the revitalization of regional societies and economies. Furthermore, the government is comprehensively addressing new challenges associated with the advancement of the digital space, such as the distribution and spread of dis-/mis-information, the proliferation of generative AI, and the metaverse.

Moreover, in order to achieve a society where everyone can enjoy the benefits of various digital services that utilize data, and to ensure that users can utilize information in a safe and secure environment, the government is promoting the realization of a society where everyone can enjoy the benefits of various digital services that utilize data, and to ensure that users can utilize information in a safe and secure environment.

## Planning related to policy for broadcasting in the digital age

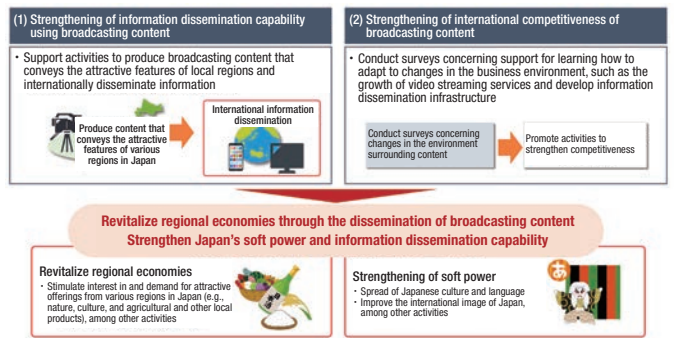
Broadcasting has played its role as a social infrastructure service that facilitates the sharing of basic social information, such as disaster information and local news. On the other hand, the environment surrounding broadcasting is rapidly changing, as shown by the change in viewing styles due to the diffusion of smartphones and the diffusion of video streaming. Exactly because a great variety of information is distributed by diverse media amid the expansion of information space into the internet due to the arrival of the digital age, the role of broadcasting in disseminating highly reliable information backed by news-gathering and editing work is becoming more and more important.

Therefore, despite the changing environment surrounding broadcasting, the MIC is developing an environment that enables broadcasting businesses to devote efforts to content production by strengthening their management foundation in order to ensure that high quality broadcasting content is provided to viewers nationwide through diverse means of transmission and to support the dissemination of local news and video streaming by willing local stations.

In addition, in order to deal with large-scale disasters, whose severity and frequency has increased in recent years, as exemplified by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake, the MIC supports the shift to optical cables in the cable television industry to reinforce broadcasting networks and promotes initiatives to realize the common use of terrestrial broadcasting relay stations, measures to guard against power failures so that broadcasting can be continued without power and measures to redress the problem of radio wave obstruction. Broadcasting plays an important role as a means to securely provide information essential for protecting the lives and properties of the people and to obtain disaster information. Therefore, in order to secure information access opportunities via TV broadcasting, the MIC is promoting broadcasting services for people with

hearing and visual disabilities by formulating guidelines and subsidizing the cost of producing subtitled programs, explanatory programs, and programs with sign language translation.

Content business is an industry that is expected to lead the growth of Japan in the future and to play a significant role in projecting Japan's soft power. To increase interest in Japan and spur foreign demand for local Japanese content, the MIC is promoting overseas expansion of broadcasting content, for example by supporting co-production of content that demonstrates the attractiveness of local communities by Japanese broadcasting business with foreign businesses for global dissemination.



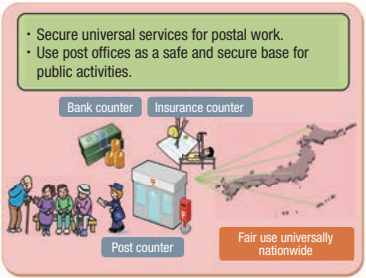
## Securing the appropriate and reliable implementation of postal services

The postal service was privatized in 2007, and then listed on the stock market in 2015 as three companies: Japan Post Holdings Co., Ltd, Japan Post Bank Co., Ltd., and Japan Post Insurance Co., Ltd. The MIC properly instructs and supervises the postal services in order to secure them nationwide. There are 24,000 post offices nationwide that act as safe and secure bases for public life, for which the MIC promotes efforts to make postal services more convenient and to create new businesses for users.

Furthermore, the MIC is engaged in international cooperation and contribution by means of activities at the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and also promotes the enhancement of the postal business through overseas developments of the Japanese postal infrastructure, services and systems.

In order to expand user options for sending letters, the MIC has introduced

a letter delivery service system that allows private businesses to handle letter delivery and appropriately guides and supervises those businesses to ensure appropriate business operations.



## Topic

### Measures to deal with false and misleading information distributed on the Internet

While people's lives are becoming more convenient due to the dissemination and advancement of information and communication technologies and services, the distribution and spread of dis-/mis- information on the Internet has emerged as a problem. For example, in some cases, fake images of streets and landscapes and fake videos of celebrities and public officials seemingly making official comments have been created by generative AI and distributed and spread on the Internet. It is important to recognize this situation as a risk to the people's lives and take necessary actions.

In view of the results of discussion by the Expert Group on How to Ensure Healthy Information Distribution in the Digital Space, which was inaugurated in November 2023, as well as international trends, the MIC has been implementing a comprehensive set of measures to deal with the distribution and spread of dis-/mis-information, including the development of institutional systems, while considering the balance between information access and freedom of expression.



# Telecommunications Bureau

## Mission

The Telecommunications Bureau is responsible for creating systems to ensure safe and secure information and communication in Japan by developing rules and an environment that form the basis of the use of information and communication services by all agents as follows.

- Developing digital infrastructure
- Promoting fair competition in the telecommunication market
- Implementing a safe and secure environment for ICT services
- Developing an environment for effective use of radio waves

## Developing digital infrastructure

The MIC is promoting the development of digital infrastructure based on the Infrastructure Development Plan for a Digital Garden City Nation (formulated in March 2022 and revised in April 2023) with a view to realizing the Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation, which the government has upheld.

Specifically, the MIC will promote infrastructure development in remote islands and other isolated regions in order to raise the national coverage rate for fiber optic broadband services for households to 99.9% by the end of FY2027. The MIC will also promote the development of regional terrestrial mobile phone stations with the aim of increasing both the population coverage rate for 5G and the road coverage rate for 5G, etc. to 99% by the end of FY2030. For the purpose of developing digital infrastructure, including optical fibers and 5G facilities, regional consultative meetings comprised of local governments and telecommunication business operators are held with the MIC acting as the secretariat. The MIC will continue those activities while listening to the voices of local communities.

In addition to promoting the development of data centers, the MIC will support the distributed location of landing stations and the development of branch lines of international undersea cables with a view to creating multitrack international undersea cables and promote the strengthening of Japan's function as an international data distribution hub.

The MIC will also promote early domestic deployment non-terrestrial networks (NTNs), such as High Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) and satellite communication systems, which are useful for efficiently covering remote islands, offshore areas, and mountainous regions and securing redundancies for terrestrial networks.

## Promoting fair competition in the telecommunication market

In recent years, there have been significant changes in the Japanese telecommunication market, including the diffusion of mobile phones and broadband, and increased competition among groups by mobile phone service providers. Therefore, it is becoming more and more important to develop institutional systems to continue to secure a fair competitive environment in light of those changes. In order to facilitate the provision of a great variety of telecommunication services at low prices by telecommunication service providers, the MIC strives to develop a fair competitive environment in the telecommunication market.

## Implementing a safe and secure environment for ICT services

While the advancement and diversification of telecommunication services has increased convenience and increased options for many users, there have been troubles caused by the digital divide between users and business operators and inappropriate solicitation activities. In order to develop an environment that prevents consumer troubles and enables consumers to use communication services safely, the MIC has repeatedly strengthened regulation by developing rules on the protection of consumers and is also monitoring business operators' activities.

In recent years, concerns have grown among users over the acquisition and management of user information by business operators providing search, SNS and other platform services. Considering that, the amended Telecommunications Business Act, which provides for the development of rules of appropriate handling of user information of ICT services, was put into force in June 2023. Subsequently, regarding the Regulation on Handling of Specified User Information, which obligates large telecommunication business operators to submit internal rules concerning the handling of user information, publish policies for handling user information, and conduct self-evaluation of the status of the handling, business operators subject to the regulation were designated in December 2023 and the application of the regulation started in January 2024.

Furthermore, the MIC has institutionalized measures against electricity outage for telecommunication facilities and the communication line redundancy and has specified concrete countermeasures in the Guidelines for the Safety and Reliability of Information and Communication Networks. In this manner, the MIC is taking measures to ensure the continuation of communication services even in the event of a natural disaster.

## Promoting the effective use of radio waves

Radio waves are common resources for the people that are widely used for services essential to their lives, such as mobile phone, wireless LAN, and commercial-use wireless communication. The MIC is implementing various measures, including appropriately allocating frequency bands, making international frequency adjustments, promoting R&D projects that contribute to effective use of radio waves, and developing an environment to adapt to new needs for the use of radio waves so that the benefits of radio waves can spread widely among the people and the Japanese society and economy can be revitalized by making effective use of the resources.

### [Diffusion and promotion of the 5th generation mobile communication system (5G)]

Under the abovementioned Infrastructure Development Plan for a Digital Garden City Nation, the MIC has been promoting the acceleration of development of 5G infrastructure with the aim of increasing the 5G population coverage rate to 97% by the end of FY2025 and to 99% by the end of FY2030. As a result, the MIC succeeded in moving forward the development of 5G infrastructure, with the 5G population coverage rate at the end of FY2023 coming to 98.1%, earlier than the target year.

In addition, the MIC is supporting infrastructure development under new development targets with respect to new technologies, such as high-frequency radio bands, namely the Sub-6 GHz and extra high frequency bands, and stand alone (SA) technology so that more and more users can enjoy the benefits of mobile phone services unique to 5G. In order to respond to rapid growth in mobile phone traffic in the future, the MIC is also promoting 5G, for example by having given assignment of a new radio band, such as the 4.9 GHz band, to

mobile phone services.

### [Response to the expansion of use of drones]

Due to the expansion of use of drones in recent years, the need for aerial use of mobile phone networks and wireless LAN is growing. In light of those needs, in order to develop an environment for the use of drones, the MIC is considering such measures as increasing the scope of aerial use of mobile phones, expanding the frequency ranges for wireless LAN that are available for use by drones, and simplifying the licensing procedures under certain conditions.

## Developing an environment for using radio waves

To ensure the unimpeded use of radio waves, notably for important radio communications, such as police radio, fire defense radio, aeronautical and maritime radios and cellular phones, the MIC fulfills its responsibilities over the elimination of interferences and law enforcement on illegal radio stations on a routine basis. The MIC has also built database systems for radio stations, and conducts public awareness raising activities on facts and rules on the appropriate use of radio waves.

In addition, the MIC is working to provide an environment in which anyone can safely use radio waves with peace of mind, through the scientific analysis of the effect that radio has on the human body and the enactment of "radio wave protection guidelines" that provide guiding principles for the protection of people involved with radio waves, as well as regulations related to the radio waves escaping from various electric and electronic appliances.

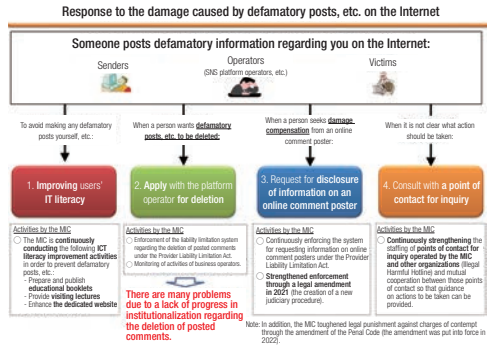
## Topic

### Measures to deal with illegal and harmful information distributed on the Internet

The arrival of the Internet has facilitated free and easy communications among people by enabling the dissemination of large volume information at high speed. Although this has brought significant benefits to our lives, it has also led to an increase in the distribution of illegal and harmful information, such as slander and defamatory one, which is a serious social problem.

In order to deal with illegal and harmful information distributed on the Internet, the MIC has adopted and implemented the following four key measures: (i) improving users' ICT literacy, (ii) enhancing transparency over the post removal by platform operators, (iii) facilitating the disclosure of senders' information, and (iv) strengthening response to inquiries. In particular, regarding (iii) facilitating the disclosure of senders' information, the MIC has taken measures to strengthen enforcement, such as amending the Provider Liability Limitation Act in 2021 and creating new judiciary procedures concerning requests for disclosure of senders' information.

However, the volume of illegal and harmful information distributed on the Internet has still remained high. The number of inquiries received by Illegal Harmful Hotline (operated by the MIC) in FY2022 came to 5,745. In particular, there were many inquiries about post removal. In light of that, the MIC amended the Provider Liability Limitation Act in 2024 to obligate large platform operators to take measures including speeding up their response and making their operational status transparent. At the same time, the name of the act has been changed to the



**Information Distribution Platform Act (IDPA)**  
(Partial Amendment of the Provider Liability Limitation Act)

In order to deal with illegal and harmful information on the Internet such as defamation, **large-scale platform operators are obligated to take measures including (1) speeding up their response and (2) making the operational status transparent.**

**Outline**

The following measures are mandatory for **large-scale platform operators**\*1.

\*1 Those who have a particularly high need for speed and transparency such as those above a certain size, etc., where the possibility of rights infringement is not insignificant.

① **Prompt response (rights-infringement information)**

- Establishment and public announcement of removal request contact point and procedures
- Establishment of a system for responding to removal requests (e.g., appointment of a person with sufficient knowledge and experience)
- Judgment and notification regarding the removal requests (generally, within a certain period of time)

② **Transparency of Operation Status**

- Establishment and public announcement of removal standards (including announcement of operation status)
- Notification to senders when their posts are deleted

In order to add the regulations above, **the title of the law<sup>2</sup> will be changed to, "Act on Measures Against Rights Infringement, etc. Arising from Distribution of Information by Specified Telecommunications" (Information Distribution Platform Act(IDPA))**

\*2 Act on the Limitation of Liability of Specified Telecommunications Service Providers for Damages and the Right to Demand Disclosure of Source Identification Information (Provider Liability Limitation Act; regulation of identification of copyright responsibility for providers, etc. and source information disclosure requests)

**Effective date:** Date specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding one year from the day of promulgation (17, May, 2024)



# Statistics Bureau



## Mission

Statistics are a “mirror” that reflects the state of socioeconomic affairs and serve as a “compass,” to make appropriate decisions.

As socioeconomic conditions change quickly and statistics become increasingly important, we are promoting to arrange and provide “statistics as social information infrastructure” that are essential for national policy judgements and decision making by citizens and companies.

## Preparing and providing the statistics on the national fundamentals

The Statistics Bureau plans and conducts the important statistical surveys, and prepares and provides accurate statistics that are beneficial for society including the Population Census, by responding adequately to socioeconomic changes in our country.

The results of statistical surveys are used as basic materials by national and local governments to plan administrative measures, and also widely used by academic research institutes, private companies and others.

In particular, the “Population Census” and the “Economic Census” are complete censuses where the entire population is surveyed and are used as the frameworks for designing other statistical surveys as well.

In addition, the results of the following monthly surveys, the “Labour Force Survey,” the “Family Income and Expenditure Survey,” and the “Retail Price Survey,” are used to calculate the unemployment rate, family income and expenditures, the consumer price index (CPI) and other statistics, representing the latest trends in employment, consumption, and prices.

	Period	Start time		Period	Start time
● Basic statistics concerning population			● Statistics concerning science and technology		
Population Census	5 years	Oct. 1920	Survey of Research and Development	Yearly	Aug. 1953
Population Estimates	Monthly	Oct. 1921	● Statistics concerning household economy		
Report on Internal Migration in Japan	Monthly	Jan. 1954	★ Family Income and Expenditure Survey	Monthly	Jul. 1946
● Statistics that clarify the status of housing and land			Survey of Household Economy	Monthly	Oct. 2001
Housing and Land Survey	5 years	Aug. 1948	National Survey of Family Income, Consumption and Wealth	5 years	Sept. 1959
● Statistics that clarify the status of citizens' employment and unemployment			National Income and Expenditure Survey for one-person households	5 years	Sept. 2009
★ Labour Force Survey	Monthly	Sept. 1946	Expenditure Monitor Survey for One-person Households	Monthly	Aug. 2017
Employment Status Survey	5 years	Jul. 1956	Consumption Trend Index (CTI)	Monthly	Jan. 2018
● Statistics that clarify the status of social life			● Statistics concerning prices		
Survey on Time Use and Leisure Activities	5 years	Oct. 1976	Retail Price Survey	Monthly	Jun. 1950
● Statistics concerning establishments and enterprises			★ Consumer Price Index (CPI)	Monthly	Aug. 1946
Economic Census for Business Frame	5 years	Jul. 2009	● Statistics concerning local regions		
Economic Census for Business Activity	5 years	Feb. 2012	Grid Square Statistics	—	Oct. 1965
Economic Conditions Survey	Yearly*	Jun. 2019	The Minister for MIC presents a monthly report to the cabinet on results marked with★.		
Unincorporated Enterprise Survey	Yearly	Apr. 1952	* Excluding years when Economic Census for Business Activity is conducted		
Monthly Survey on Service Industries*	Monthly	Jul. 2008	* Discontinued with the December 2024 survey as the last one. In January 2025, the new Monthly Business Survey of Services started (conducted every month).		

## Strategic promotion to provide statistical information

The Statistics Bureau acts as a central agency for official statistics; to promote strategic efforts to provide statistical information through promoting secondary use of statistical microdata (survey information); to develop and improve statistical literacy; and promote advanced use and disseminate statistical information.

The e-Stat (portal site of official statistics of Japan) provides statistical data from each ministry in a centralized manner and promotes advanced use of statistical data by providing the following: data search and download functions; the API\* function, which allows for direct access to data; the “statistics on map (jSTAT MAP),” which allows for making statistical maps and regional analysis of disasters management, facility maintenance, or market analysis; and the “Statistics Dashboard” on the website, which allows easy visual understanding of main statistical data.

The Statistics Bureau also promotes the development of human resources who can use statistical data, such as providing the “Data Science Online Course” on the website for free.



Portal site of official statistics of Japan (e-Stat)



Statistics on map (jSTAT MAP)

\* API: Application Programming Interface

## Promotion of the utilization of statistical data

The Statistics Bureau and the National Statistics Center (Incorporated Administrative Agency) opened the Statistical Data Utilization Center in Wakayama Prefecture in April 2018 as a promotion base for advancing data utilization and are providing statistical micro data<sup>1</sup> and supporting the EBPM<sup>2</sup> initiative of local governments.

By providing statistical micro data<sup>1</sup> in an environment for advanced and varied data analysis while securing information security (an On-site facility), the Statistical Data Utilization Center supports local governments in activities to solve issues using data—such as combining statistical micro data and other data (public administration data and the results of independent questionnaire surveys) to analyze the factors of population migration and reflecting the analysis in measures to address the population decline—and promotes the use of statistics for new value creation.

In addition, the Statistical Data Utilization Center engages in other activities that support local governments in resolving policy issues; commending excellent initiatives concerning data utilization and analysis; disseminating advanced cases, dispatching staff members to workshops and seminars held by local governments; and holding events to utilize statistical data for business people.

- \*1. Statistical micro data: individual data before tabulation on each household or business base that are collected through statistical surveys, etc.
- \*2. EBPM stands for evidence-based policymaking.



(An onsite facility)

## Topic

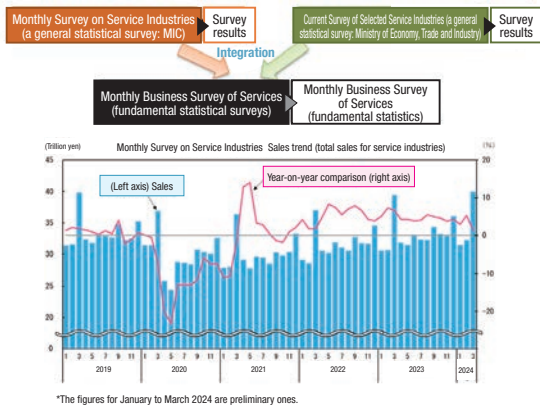
### Conducting the Monthly Business Survey of Services, a new fundamental statistical survey

In January 2025, the Statistics Bureau of the MIC will start conducting the Monthly Business Survey of Services as a new monthly fundamental statistical survey.\*

The Monthly Survey on Service Industries (over which the MIC has jurisdiction) and the Current Survey of Selected Service Industries (over which the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry has jurisdiction), each of which is an existing general statistical survey, have been integrated into a new fundamental statistical survey called Monthly Business Survey of Services.

As shown in the graph, the existing Monthly Survey on Service Industries makes it possible to identify current market trends in service industries. The survey results are widely used for economic indicators, including quarterly preliminary GDP data (QE), and the scope of indicators for which this survey is used and the extent of usage are gradually expanding. The new survey is expected to be even more widely used.

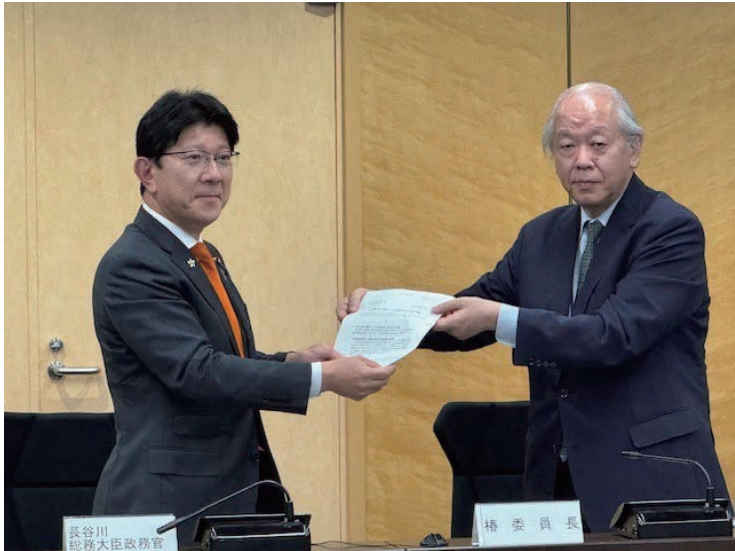
\* A fundamental statistical survey refers to a particularly important statistical survey that the government conducts based on the Statistics Act (Act No. 53 of 2007).



\*The figures for January to March 2024 are preliminary ones.



# Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Policy)



[An exchange of proposals at the Statistics Commission]



[The poster for FY2024 Statistics Day]

## Mission

The Office of the Director-General for Policy Planning (DGPP) (Statistical Policy), as the “command tower” for administration of statistical affairs, cooperates with various administrative agencies, including the Statistics Bureau of the MIC, seeks opinions from the Statistics Commission and promotes quality improvements for statistics and the reduction of the burden on respondents participating in statistical surveys. The office also promotes the use of statistical data and supervises administrative affairs related to international statistics.

## Planning, drafting, and promoting, etc., basic matters concerning statistics

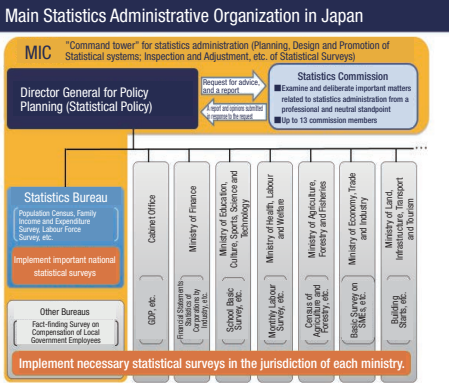
Statistics, compiled in the respective fields of administration under the jurisdiction of individual administrative agencies, constitute important information infrastructure for society as they are used as basic reference materials for planning and drafting various policies, for example.

Statistics comprise “fundamental statistics” that represent Japan’s main statistics, such as national census and GDP statistics, and other statistics, known as “general statistics.” As of March 2024, there were 54 fundamental statistics and 210 general statistics.

The Office of the DGPP (Statistical Policy), as the “command tower” for administration of statistical affairs, develops general rules on the compilation of statistics by individual administrative agencies. In addition to promoting quality improvement for statistics and the use of statistics, it strives to reduce the burden on respondents participating in statistical surveys.

In order to prepare statistics as useful information easily accessible by the public, it is important to systematically develop statistics in the various fields of administration in a balanced manner. Therefore, in order to promote the development of statistics in a comprehensive and systematic manner, Master Plan Concerning the Development of Official Statistics is adopted roughly every five years (the most recent plan was adopted on March 28, 2023). The plan serves as a “compass” for how the government should develop statistics in the next five years. Based on the plan, the Office of the DGPP (Statistical Policy) addresses matters related to the development of official statistics, including the development and enhancement of statistics in accordance with economic digitalization, the shift to a services economy, and the advance of globalization, the improvement of accuracy of the System of National Accounts, and a systematic transition to the SUT system. It also devotes efforts to activities such as: strengthening the functions of the portal site for government statistics (e-Stat); facilitating the use of administrative record data and big data for the compilation of official statistics and the use of questionnaire survey information for academic studies; enhancing comprehensive quality control; and raising the online response rate.

In order to enable effective use of statistics by the public, it is important that statistics be compiled in accordance with certain standards to ensure comparability. Therefore, the Statistical Standards have been established as technical standards to ensure the consistency and comprehensiveness of statistics. Specifically, the Japan Standard Industrial Classification, the Japan Standard Occupational Classification, etc., have been established as statistical classifications.

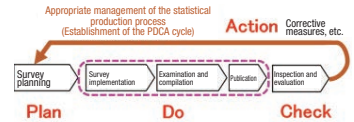


## Promoting Total Quality Management for official statistics

As statistics involve various error factors, there is always the possibility that unforeseen errors may occur during the production process. Therefore, in order to prevent the occurrence of serious incidents and provide highly reliable, useful statistics, the government is promoting comprehensive efforts to improve the quality of official statistics, centering on quality improvement based on the PDCA cycle, in accordance with the Total Quality Management (TQM) concept.

In order to ensure that individual ministries systematically inspect and evaluate statistical surveys under their jurisdiction after the implementation of the surveys and use the results to make improvements, the MIC is promoting activities to establish the PDCA cycle in the statistical production process. For example, the ministry has developed government-wide guidelines and checks the implementation of inspection and evaluation based on the guidelines. The ministry also publishes the results of inspection and evaluation along with

statistical survey plans. In addition, in order to further enhance independent, proactive quality control efforts by individual ministries and ensure the effectiveness of those efforts, “Statistical Production Process Diagnosis” regarding statistical surveys conducted by individual ministries is conducted mainly by experts appointed as statistical process enhancement officers from their objective and professional standpoint. Statistical process enhancement officers also provide advice and support as necessary.

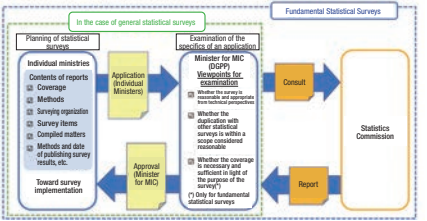


## Reviewing statistical surveys

When individual administrative agencies conduct statistical surveys, people and companies participating in the surveys bear some burden as respondents. Therefore, before individual administrative agencies conduct statistical surveys, reviews are conducted in advance.

Efforts are being made to reduce the burden on survey respondents and secure the accuracy of statistics by conducting the review from the following viewpoints: 1) whether or not the survey content is consistent with the purpose of the statistics, 2) whether or the statistics are technically reasonable and relevant and 3) whether there is any excessive overlapping with other statistical surveys.

In the reviews of fundamental statistical surveys that represent Japan’s main statistical surveys, opinions are sought from the Statistics Commission, comprised of statistics experts, including those with academic backgrounds.



## Supervising international statistical affairs

The DGPP (Statistical Policy) participates in international conferences and statistical projects organized by international agencies, such as the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and engages in various forms of international cooperation, including exchange of statistical information with international agencies and foreign countries.

At the UN Statistical Commission, Japan, as a member country appointed from the Asia-Pacific region, actively participates in international discussions on matters such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) global indicators, which measure progress toward the SDGs.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and

the Pacific (SIAP) provides statistical training for government officials in the region, and Japan contributes to strengthening the capacity to produce statistics in the region through financial and operational support.



United Nations Statistical Commission

## Topic Training of personnel with statistical skills to the world

SIAP is a UN agency located in Makuhari, Chiba City, and the Office of the DGPP (Statistical Policy) assigns seven staff members to SIAP to provide its support. SIAP was established in 1970, and has a history of more than 50 years. By the end of March 2024, around 34,000 personnel had been trained there, including many senior officials, such as the heads of governmental statistics bureaus.

At the session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), held in April 2024 in Bangkok, an event to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Japan’s ESCAP membership was held, and a panel discussion was conducted with attendance by heads of national statistical offices who are alumni of the training courses conducted by SIAP.



Training at SIAP



## Director-General for Policy Planning

### *Onkyu* (pension for retired public officers under the former scheme)

**Mission** *Onkyu* refers to a pension system to pay governmental compensation to retired public officers who dedicated their lives to the nation during the prewar and wartime periods and their bereaved families. *Onkyu* supports the lives of those people, so the Director-General for Policy Planning (*Onkyu*) strives to ensure appropriate payments to recipients.

#### Overview of the *Onkyu* system

The *Onkyu* system, the oldest pension system in Japan, was launched in April 1875, against the backdrop of such incidents as the Saga Revolt and the dispatch of troops to Taiwan, on behalf of Army officers who suffered injury or illness, or died due to the effects of suppression and other military activities on those occasions and their bereaved families.

Pensions for recipients other than former military officers, including civilian officials, were transferred from the *Onkyu* system to the mutual aid pension system as a result of the entry-into-force of the National Public Officers Mutual Aid Association Act in 1959.

Currently, the number of *Onkyu* recipients is 92,000 people, most of whom are former military officers who engaged in military service and dedicated their lives to the nation under governmental orders during World War II and their bereaved families.

The average lifespan of *Onkyu* recipients is 95.2 years old (as of the end of March 2023).

The *Onkyu* system is so designed as to revise the annual amount of *Onkyu* benefits in accordance with the rate of increase in the amount of National Pension benefits in order to keep the benefit amount at an appropriate level.

Category	Number of recipients
Personal benefits	1,000 people (159 people)
Benefits for families of the deceased	90,000 people (2,000 people)
Total	92,000 people (2,000 people)

(Note) The number of recipients is based on FY2024 budget. The numbers in parentheses indicate those of civilians.

#### Overview of *Onkyu* affairs

Claims for *Onkyu* benefits (mainly claims from bereaved families) are promptly and appropriately processed and benefits are paid to recipients accurately and securely.

Considering the advanced age of the recipients, efforts are being made to respond to claims conscientiously and carefully.

#### Topic Revision of the annual amount of *Onkyu* benefits

The annual amount of *Onkyu* benefits is revised in accordance with the rate of change in the amount of National Pension benefits. However, even when the amount of National Pension benefits is lowered, the amount of *Onkyu* benefits is not reduced due to respect for *Onkyu*'s nature as governmental compensation.

In line with the revision of the rate of change in the amount of National Pension benefits in FY2024, the annual amount of *Onkyu* benefits was raised by 2.7%. The main annual amounts of *Onkyu* benefits and the main revised amounts compared with FY2023 are as shown in the table below.

The main amounts of *Onkyu* benefits

	Type of <i>Onkyu</i>	The amount paid in FY2023	The amount paid in FY2024	The revised amount
Personal benefits	The minimum guaranteed amount of ordinary <i>Onkyu</i> benefits	(Yen)	(Yen)	(Yen)
	Long-term public officers <sup>*1</sup>	1, 132, 700	1, 163, 300	30, 600
	Short-term public officers <sup>*1</sup>	People whose public service tenure was longer than nine years	849, 500	872, 400
		People whose public service tenure was between six and nine years	679, 600	697, 900
		People whose public service tenure was shorter than six years	568, 400	583, 700
Benefits for families of the deceased	The minimum guaranteed amount of ordinary benefits for bereaved family members			
	Long-term public officers	792, 000	813, 400	21, 400
	Short-term public officers	People whose public service tenure was longer than nine years	594, 000	610, 000
		People whose public service tenure was between six and nine years	475, 200	488, 000
		People whose public service tenure was shorter than six years	404, 800	415, 700
	Minimum guaranteed amount of public office benefits <sup>*2</sup>	1, 814, 000	1, 863, 000	49, 000

\*1: Long-term public officers are people whose public service tenure was longer than the minimum threshold period for *Onkyu* benefits, while short-term public officers are people whose public service tenure was shorter than the minimum threshold period.

\*2: Public office benefits are for bereaved family members of people who died of injury or illness associated with engagement in public office (bereaved family members of those who died in war are typical examples).

## Director-General for Cybersecurity

**Mission** The Director-General for Cybersecurity is working to ensure cybersecurity, through measures such as the promotion of public-private partnerships, development of human resources, promoting R&D and international cooperation in light of the advent of the IoT/5G era.

#### Promotion of cybersecurity policy

Free and open cyberspace brings various benefits to us. However, cyberattackers exploit cyberspace, launch attacks on Japanese infrastructure and attempt to steal information held by the government and companies. How should we protect Japanese information and communication networks against advanced cyberattacks? What are the key points of security while promoting the diffusion of 5G and looking toward Beyond 5G/6G? How can we keep cyberspace safe while securing the secrecy of communication and developing freedom of expression? The Office of the Director-General for Cybersecurity deal with cybersecurity in Japan while keeping open all policy instruments, including legislation, budgeting, cooperation with industry, collaboration with allied nations, and research and development on advanced technologies.

For example, due to the diffusion of IoT devices, such as routers and network cameras, cyberattacks using such a device as a jump server become frequent. In order to prevent such cyberattacks, the MIC is engaging in the “NOTICE” project (described below), a public-private collaborative project to enhance security counter measures concerning IoT devices.

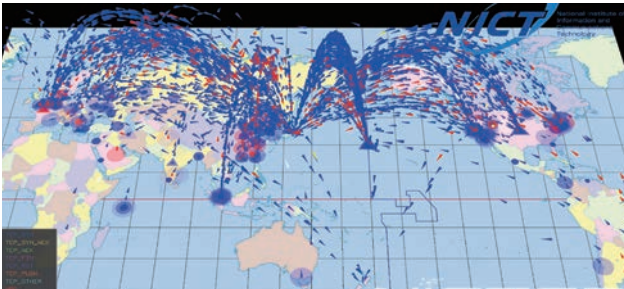
Regarding the development of human resources that form the foundation of cybersecurity, the MIC promotes the training of personnel to acquire skills necessary for defending Japanese cyberspace in the future by implementing CYDER, CYber Defense Exercise with Recurrence, which trains personnel to equip them with practical skills to immediately respond to incidents and the SecHack365, frontline cybersecurity experts give guidance to young personnel over a one-year period.

Moreover, in order to deal with cross-border cyberattacks, the MIC is strengthening cooperative relationships with the governments of the United States and European countries under multilayered and multifaceted approaches, including policy coordination, information sharing, and promotion of inter-industry collaboration. The MIC is also striving to secure the stability of the regional cyberspace that encompasses a vast area from the West Pacific to the Indian Ocean through exchange with ASEAN at the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre, which has been established in Thailand.

In addition, amid the advanced fusion between physical and cyberspace, it is important to promote “trust service,” which prevents falsification of electronic data, impersonation. In particular, as DX is accelerating at companies, “e-Seal,” to verify the issuer of electronic data from organizations is attracting attention. Therefore, the MIC will continue to consider the certification system for e-Seal that assures a high level of reliability.

In order to ensure appropriate policy planning concerning matters like these, it is necessary to accurately understand the circumstances of cyberspace and the activities of cyberattackers. Therefore, in cooperation with NICT, the MIC is making efforts to identify the circumstances of cyberspace using the most advanced research infrastructure, including: CYNEX, the huge advanced hub of industry-academia-government collaboration to collect, analyze, and provide cybersecurity information; NICTER, an integration of large-scale networking monitoring and analysis; and STARDUST, luring attackers and investigating their behavior.

In addition, our policy areas include ensuring the security of encryption technology as an underpinning of digitalization, and promoting security measures concerning telework, wireless LAN and smart cities.



Cyberattacks targeting Japan (as observed by the NICT)

#### Topic Precautionary security measures against cyber takeover of routers and other IoT devices (NOTICE)

Since FY2019, NOTICE has observed vulnerable IoT devices connected to the internet and required managers of the devices to improve security measures. Starting in FY2024, NOTICE has strengthened its observation ability so that it can respond to the most recent cyberattack trend and stepped-up activity to disseminate security measures concerning IoT devices. Please be sure to refer to the checklist on the NOTICE website.



# Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission

**Mission**

The Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission is an administrative committee established as an external agency of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and has the following main duties:

- (1) To resolve environmental disputes through conciliation and adjudication promptly and appropriately (Environmental Dispute Settlement System);
- (2) To coordinate mining, quarrying, or gravel gathering with the general public interest or other industries (Land Use Coordination System).

**Prompt and appropriate settlement of environmental disputes**

**[Definition of environmental pollution]**

The Basic Environment Act defines “environmental pollution” as damage to human health or the living environment caused by (i) air pollution, (ii) water pollution, (iii) soil contamination, (iv) noise, (v) vibration, (vi) ground subsidence, and (vii) offensive odors, which are affecting an extensive area as a result of business or other human activities.

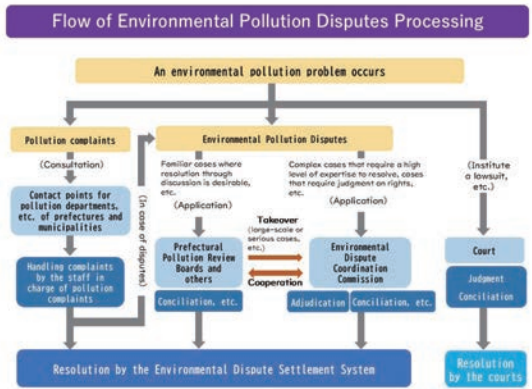
**[Structure of the Environmental Dispute Settlement System]**

To provide prompt and appropriate settlement of environmental disputes, the Environmental Dispute Settlement System was established, apart from judicial procedures, under the Act on the Settlement of Environmental Pollution Disputes. As organs in charge of settling environmental disputes, the national organ, the Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission and Prefectural Pollution Review Boards, have been established.

In addition to these organs, consultation desks for pollution complaints are set up in prefectures and municipalities in order to promptly and appropriately handle pollution complaints.

**[Types of the environmental dispute settlement procedures]**

The Types of procedures in the Environmental Dispute Settlement System include adjudication and conciliation. There are two types of adjudication, i.e., “Adjudication of liability” and “adjudication of the cause of damage.” Adjudication of liability is a procedure for resolving environmental disputes by handing down legal judgments concerning the existence or non-existence of liability for damages. Adjudication of the cause of damage is a procedure for resolving environmental disputes by handing down legal judgments concerning the cause-effect relationship between offending actions and damage. Conciliation is a procedure wherein an environmental dispute settlement organ intervenes and actively leads negotiations between the parties to have them reach an agreement based on their mutual concession.



**Land use coordination related to mining and other industries**

When intending to engage in mining, quarrying, or gravel gathering, permission or approval needs to be obtained from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry or the relevant Prefectural Governor, etc. The Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission adjudicates on appeals from those who are dissatisfied with the disposition of these permits and licenses, and coordinates with the general public and other industries.

**Topic**

**Use of IT for the procedure**

Starting in April 2023, the scope of documents regarding the environmental dispute settlement procedure that may be electronically submitted expanded. In addition, starting in April 2024, it became possible to participate in interviews in the web conference format. For detailed information, please view the website of the Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission.

The Commission disseminates information via its X (former Twitter) account as well, so please follow the account.

[https://www.soumu.go.jp/kouchoi/application\\_guide.html#heading04](https://www.soumu.go.jp/kouchoi/application_guide.html#heading04)



X @MIC\_kouchoi





# Fire and Disaster Management Agency



## Mission

The Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) works to prevent or mitigate damage caused by disasters through maintaining the necessary regulations as well as, when large-scale disasters occur, establishing a disaster management headquarters at the Crisis Management Center under the FDMA, operating the National Fire-Service Teams for Disaster Response, which are dispatched to disaster-affected areas from across the nation, and implementing coordination and liaison with the Prime Minister's Office and disaster-affected areas.

## Preparing for large-scale disasters, such as Nankai Trough Earthquake and Tokyo Inland Earthquake

After the Noto Peninsula Earthquake in 2024, National Fire-Service Teams rushed to the affected areas from across the nation. The FDMA is striving to further reinforce the National Fire-Service Teams so that they can conduct activity more effectively and efficiently at the time of large-scale disasters by preparing vehicles and equipment.

Also, the FDMA strengthens the command and support systems, including information gathering and analysis capabilities, by promoting DX for the National Fire-Service Teams. It also promotes multiplexing of the emergency information transmission methods (disaster information radio and emergency alert e-mails) in order to quickly and accurately disseminate disaster information to all residents.

Regarding international assistance, the FDMA dispatches the International Rescue Team of Japanese Fire Service, which possesses highly specialized rescue skills, to countries affected by large-scale disasters as part of an international emergency relief and rescue team. One example is the deployment of the team at the time of the earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria in February 2023.

## Underpinning regional safety and security

There are 720 fire department headquarters established by municipalities across the nation with about 170,000 professional firefighters and about 760,000 volunteer firefighters.

The FDMA promotes strengthening of the municipality-based fire service system, such as through supporting fire service departments' efforts to collaborate or merge with neighboring departments, in order to accurately meet various needs in firefighting, rescue activity and ambulance services. In addition, to tackle problems such as the increasing number of ambulance callouts due to the aging population, the FDMA is proactively making efforts to have fire service departments and medical institutions cooperate together robustly and promoting the appropriate use of ambulance services at appropriate times.

Amid concerns over wind and water disasters, which have become more frequent and intense in recent years, not to mention large-scale disasters, the role of volunteer firefighter teams, who are familiar with the circumstances of local communities and who can immediately reach disaster sites and conduct such activities as firefighting, rescue operations, and evacuation guidance at the time of disasters, is becoming greater. Therefore, the FDMA strives to enhance local fire and disaster management capacity centering on volunteer firefighter teams through such measures as: enhancing public relations with a view to encouraging participation by a wide range of residents, including women and youth; improving the treatment of volunteer firefighters; encouraging participation in cooperation with companies and universities, among other organizations; and strengthening cooperation with various entities, including voluntary fire and disaster management organizations.

## Preventing fires and industrial emergencies

In recent years, new types of facilities, such as small social welfare homes, large-scale logistics centers and private homes/rooms for staying have been emerging and a review of the fire safety measures corresponding to those facilities has become necessary. And it has been necessary to cope with major fire risks of large-scale petrochemical complexes, which might cause a significant effect on the surrounding environment and risks at facilities which handle new energy sources, such as hydrogen.

The FDMA strives to flexibly upgrade the fire prevention measures in response to rapid social change and diversification of buildings through the necessary amendment of regulations, and to give appropriate safety instructions to business

operators. In the case of a large-scale fire at these facilities, the FDMA also swiftly responds, investigates the cause of the fire and human casualties, and amends the Fire Service Act and relevant regulations so as to further improve fire prevention measures.

Regarding housing, since 2011, the FDMA has made it mandatory for all houses to be installed with fire alarms through the amendment of the Fire Service Act. It is known that by installing fire alarms for housing, the casualties, including the number of deaths, can be roughly halved. In short, the installation of fire alarms for housing contributes to realizing safe and secure living.

## Protecting people from armed attacks and large-scale terrorist attacks

The national government and local governments are responsible for public safety through collaborating together in the event of an armed attack or large-scale terrorist attack. In these types of emergency situations, the FDMA works to make coordination between the national task force and local governments, conduct arrangements to dispatch firefighters to incident-affected areas, and collect and provide information related to the safety confirmation of people.

The FDMA secures a system to enable all residents to quickly and reliably receive emergency information, such as information related to civil protection, including alerts against ballistic missile attacks issued by the Cabinet Secretariat

by developing the national early warning system (J-ALERT), which can instantly transmit emergency information via satellite and terrestrial lines without human intervention by automatically starting up municipal administrative wireless communication systems (broadcast communication systems). The FDMA also promotes civil protection, for example by organizing joint drills against large-scale terrorist attacks and armed attacks and resident evacuation drills against ballistic missiles organized jointly by the national and local governments.

## Topic

### Overview of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake in 2024 and Response by the FDMA

The Noto Peninsula Earthquake in 2024 caused considerable damage. As of July 18, 2024, the number of deaths, mainly in Ishikawa Prefecture, was 299, the number of injured persons was 1,372, and the number of damaged houses was 128,354.

As for the response by the FDMA, in view of the scale of the earthquake and the issuance of warnings against large-scale tsunamis, the FDMA Commissioner called for the deployment of National Fire-Service Teams without waiting for a deployment request from the Governor of Ishikawa Prefecture, and, initially, around 2,000 members of the teams were deployed in the disaster-affected areas. Between January 1 and February 21, 2024, around 17,000 members from 4,900 teams (including 22 teams that used helicopters for deployment) were dispatched and engaged in such activities as saving lives, gathering information,

fire-fighting, rescue operations, and emergency relief.

The FDMA also dispatched FDMA personnel to the disaster-affected areas in order to gather and share disaster information and maintain liaison and coordination with relevant organizations.



Activities conducted by National Fire-Service Teams in Ichinose Town, Wajima City



Activities conducted by the Toyama Prefecture Fire and Disaster Prevention Air Corps (a picture courtesy of the Toyama Prefecture Fire and Disaster Prevention Air Corps)

## Topic

### Activities conducted by volunteer firefighters after the Noto Peninsula Earthquake in 2024

After the Noto Peninsula Earthquake in 2024, in order to protect the lives of local residents, volunteer firefighters, who were themselves affected by the disaster, started engaging in the following activities immediately after the earthquake: calling on residents to evacuate; cooperating with professional firefighters in firefighting, rescuing people trapped under collapsed houses; transporting residents from isolated areas; searching for the missing; and supporting the management of shelter facilities.

The powerful earthquake disrupted road networks, making it all the more difficult for relevant organizations to engage in relief activities. In this situation, volunteer firefighters, who have close relationships with local communities, played a very significant role as the core of local disaster management capacity.



Volunteer firefighters in Wajima City repairing a damaged road (picture courtesy of a member of the Monzen division of the Wajima Volunteer Firefighting Team)



Volunteer firefighters in Suzu City supporting the management of a shelter facility





## Institutes and Other Organizations/Special Organizations

### Local Autonomy College

As a central training institution, the Local Autonomy College works in order to improve democratic and efficient management skills in local governments. It does this by training local government public employees through advanced training methods aimed at increasing efficiency. Graduates of the training course work across the country in executive roles in the public service and many go on to work as heads of local government.

Currently, around 1,000 people take part in the program annually across 14 courses and 8 subjects, including 4.5-month programs. Training emphasizes policymaking and administration skills. The program is consistently reevaluated to take into account changes in socio-economic conditions and the administrative needs of governments, as well as responding to new policies.

Also, the college conducts study and research on local autonomy as well as on the contents and methods of training for local public employees, and prepares new text books and training materials. Moreover, it conducts study and research on foreign countries’ local administrative systems and provides training for foreign public employees as Local Government Center under EROPA (Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration).

### Institute for Information and Communications Policy (IICP)

The IICP was established for conducting basic research on ICT policies and training specialized administrative staff in the ICT field.

#### 1. Basic research into ICT policies

The IICP promotes research accurately responding to rapid changes in circumstances surrounding ICT, such as research on the use of the metaverse and other virtual spaces. It strives to contribute to policy formation by disseminating research results and collaborating with researchers.

#### 2. Training for administrative staff in the ICT field

In order to implement accurate administration in response to development and advances in the ICT field, the IICP works towards training staff who are required to acquire highly specialized knowledge and skills related to ICT.

### Statistical Research and Training Institute

The Statistical Research and Training Institute conducts research on statistical techniques and, as the only specialized institute of training related to statistics in Japan, implements statistical training for national and local government officials with the aim of improving statistical literacy.

Research on statistical technology includes research into statistical technology common across government ministries and agencies, and statistical technology support responding to requests from ministries and agencies and local governments.

Statistical training includes training by operational level (introductory courses for personnel in charge of statistics, comprehensive statistics course, etc.) to learn knowledge on statistics systematically in stages, and training by field (national accounting and prefectural accounting, utilization of statistics by GIS, etc.) to obtain knowledge in specific fields.

### Central Election Management Council

This council manages the statistics for House of Representative and House of Councilors elections as well as the national review of supreme court judges and confirms the eligibility of political parties.

### National Commission for the Management of Political Funds

This is an organization established around the Political Funds Control Act and is concerned with the registration and training of registered political fund auditors. Additionally, it formulates detailed guidelines for funding audits, as well as basic policies on how to compile income and expenditure reports.

### Commissioner for Local Dispute Management

This commissioner manages disputes between local governments and is appointed by case to conduct the following: mediating disputes between local governments, reviewing the involvement of prefectures in municipalities, presenting approaches to processing disputes related to agreements on cooperation between local governments, and conducting proceedings involving requests for review under the provisions of the Local Autonomy Act.

### Fire and Disaster Management College (FDMC)

The FDMC holds higher-level and special training for top management officials and commanders of fire service organizations and volunteer firefighters. Also, the college dispatches trainers to local fire academies and organizes workshops on fire service and disaster relief in the new era.

### National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster (NRIFD)

The NRIFD is the only national research institute in Japan in terms of conducting comprehensive and systematic research on science and technology for fire and disaster prevention. It conducts study, research, and experiments on science and technology for fire and disaster prevention, including firefighting activities during disasters, aiming to secure public safety in the fields of high social urgency that the national government should address.

## Council of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Name	Main Responsibilities	Members
Local Public Finance Council	This council is in charge of the following: handling matters involving local allocation tax, local transfer tax, grants, and local governments’ revenue estimation and expenditures in the next fiscal year; making necessary recommendations to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications regarding such matters above if the matters fall under the Local Public Finance Council’s jurisdiction under laws and regulations; and stating opinions to related organizations about such matters above and any systems that may make an impact on the matters if the matters fall under the Local Public Finance Council’s jurisdiction under laws and regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Local autonomy specialists</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Local Public Finance Bureau</li></ul>
Administrative Complaint Review Board	This board is in charge of conducting examination and deliberations and preparing reports on requests for review of the dispositions or failure to act made by ministries and agencies in response to consultations with ministers of the ministries and agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Secretariat of the Administrative Complaint Review Board</li></ul>
Information Disclosure and Personal Information Protection Review Board	This board is in charge of conducting examination and deliberations and preparing reports on requests for review of decisions made by the heads of the relevant administrative organizations on non-disclosure of administrative documents in response to consultations with the heads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Secretariat of the Information Disclosure and Personal Information Protection Review Board</li></ul>
Supervisory Commission for Public-Private and Private-Private Competitive Tenderings	This commission is in charge of deliberating matters with regard to public-private competitive tenderings and private-private competitive tenderings implemented by national government administrative organs, etc., if the matters have been made subject to its authority pursuant to the provisions of the Act on Public Service Reform through Introduction of Competition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commission members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Secretariat of Supervisory Commission for Public-Private and Private-Private Competitive Tenderings</li></ul>
Committee on the System of Evaluating Incorporated Administrative Agencies	The committee is in charge of stating opinions to the competent ministers regarding the formulation of objectives and the evaluation of operational performance of Incorporated Administrative Agencies, which are conducted by the competent minister, and submitting opinions to the Prime Minister as deemed necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Administrative Management Bureau</li></ul>
Central and Local Government Dispute Management Council	This council is in charge of deliberating on requests for review about the involvement of national administrative organizations in ordinary local public entities as part of the involvement of the national or prefectural government in such entities if the request fall under the MIC’s jurisdiction under the provisions of the Local Autonomy Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Specialists</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Local Administration Bureau</li></ul>
Telecommunications Dispute Settlement Commission	<p>The commission is in charge of conducting mediation or arbitration about disputes concerning interconnection between telecommunications carriers and disputes concerning consent pertaining to the retransmission between terrestrial television broadcasters and cable television operators.</p> <p>It is also in charge of the following: conducting deliberations and preparing reports after receiving consultations with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications when the Minister makes a ruling on the details of interconnection agreements and executes an order for business improvement; and making recommendations to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications with regard to the improvement in competition rules.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commission members: persons with deep insight into the telecommunications business, utilization of radio waves or broadcasting services</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Secretariat of Telecommunications Dispute Settlement Commission</li></ul>
Radio Regulatory Council	<p>This council is in charge of the following: deliberating on matters related to radio waves and broadcasting in response to consultations with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and making recommendations to the Minister as needed; and examining and passing any resolutions on requests for review of the dispositions of the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications under the Radio Act.</p> <p>It is also in charge of evaluating how effective the use of radio waves is and making recommendations to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications as needed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Telecommunications Bureau</li></ul>
Statistics Commission	This commission is in charge of the following: conducting examination and deliberations regarding drafts of basic plans for public statistics and revisions of fundamental statistical surveys in response to consultations with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications; and stating opinions to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications with respect to basic matters related to the development and improvement of statistics and statistical systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commission members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Director-General for Policy Planning (Statistical Policy)</li></ul>
Onkyu Examination Committee	This committee is in charge of preparing reports on the ruling made on requests for review of the dispositions about <i>Onkyu</i> and passing any resolutions on requests for <i>Shoubyou Onkyu (Onkyu)</i> for public officers who got injured or ill in the course of their duties), in response to consultations and deliberations with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Committee members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Director-General for Policy Planning (<i>Onkyu</i>)</li></ul>
Policy Evaluation Council	This council is in charge of the following: conducting examination and deliberations regarding basic matters related to policy evaluation and important matters related to the administrative management improvement survey in response to consultations with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and stating opinions to the Minister with respect to these matters; and stating opinions to the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications in the event of any changes to the "Basic Guidelines for Implementing Policy Evaluation."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Administrative Evaluation Bureau</li></ul>
Information and Communications Council	This council is in charge of the following: conducting examination and deliberations regarding important matters related to policies for the electromagnetic communication of information and the use of radio waves in response to consultations with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and stating opinions to the Minister; and conducting examination and deliberations regarding important matters related to the postal services and Postal Certification Officers, and stating opinions to other relevant ministers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Information and Communications Bureau</li></ul>
Information and Communications and Posts Administrative Council	This council is in charge of processing matters that fall under the MIC’s jurisdiction under the provisions of the Telecommunications Business Act, the Postal Act, and the Act on Correspondence Delivery by Private Business Operators, in response to consultations with the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Information and Communications Bureau</li></ul>
National Research and Development Agency Council	This council is in charge of stating opinions when the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications evaluates the operational performance of the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Global Strategy Bureau</li></ul>
Fire and Disaster Management Council	This council is in charge of conducting examinations and deliberations regarding important matters related to fire defense in response to consultations with the Commissioner for the Fire and Disaster Management Agency, and stating opinions to the Commissioner with respect to these matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Council members: Academic experts</li><li>• General Affairs Bureau: Fire and Disaster Management Agency</li></ul>



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