

Government Policy Evaluations Act (GPEA)

Framework of the Act

1. Purpose of GPEA

It is the purpose of this Law to promote the objective and rigorous implementation of policy evaluation and to reflect the results of this evaluation in the planning and development of policy, and to provide the public with information on policy evaluation by providing for basic matters regarding policy evaluation carried out by administrative organs, with a view to promoting effective and efficient administration, and ensuring the Government's proper discharge of its obligation to remain accountable to the public for its operations

2. Policy evaluations implementing organizations

The individual ministries are generally in place as implementing organizations.

3. Principle of policy evaluations

Administrative organizations are required to study and acquire at the appropriate time information on the effects of policy under its jurisdiction, and on the basis of such study evaluate its policy from the standpoints of necessity, efficiency, effectiveness, or other standpoints as special characteristics of the said policy may require, and appropriately reflect results of such evaluation in the planning and development of the said policy.

For ensuring objective and rigorous policy evaluations, the individual ministries should abide by the following two rules:

- (1) Policy effects shall be studied employing rational means properly suited to the special characteristics of the policy using as quantitative a method as possible; and
- (2) The knowledge of persons of learning and experience shall be acquired and utilized in accordance with the special characteristics of the policy.

4. Utilization for the budget preparation

The Government shall endeavor to appropriately utilize the results of policy evaluation for the preparation of budgets and the planning and development of policies that pertain to the jurisdiction of two or more administrative organs and require their comprehensive promotion.

5. Adoption and publication of guidelines for policy evaluations

The Government shall establish and publish basic guidelines for implementing policy evaluation for the systematic and steady implementation of policy evaluation

6. Adoption and publication of basic plans for policy evaluations

The head of an administrative organ shall draw up based upon the basic guidelines and publish a basic plan for policy evaluation for a term of longer than three years but not longer than five years for policies under the jurisdiction of the said administrative organ.

7. Adoption and publication of the operational plans for ex-post evaluation and their implementation

- (1) The head of an administrative organ shall decide on and publish the plan for the conduct of *ex-post* evaluation ("operational plans") for each year.
- (2) The operational plan shall stipulate the planning period, policies to be subjected to evaluation as defined below and specific methods to be applied to the *ex-post* evaluation of the said policies.
- (3) The head of an administrative organ shall carry out the *ex-post* evaluation based on the basic plan and the operational plan.

8. Implementation of *ex-ante* evaluation

The head of an administrative organ shall carry out *ex-ante* evaluation when they intend to take a decision on policy pertaining to individual project of research and development, public works, or official development assistance, or any other policy and to be specified by Cabinet Order.

9. Preparation and publication of the evaluation reports

The head of each administrative organization shall prepare evaluation reports and their summaries describing the results of the evaluations, including information on the evaluations process such as the background data used. The reports shall be published via the Internet and other means.

10. Publication on how evaluations have been reflected in policymaking

The head of an administrative organ shall publish at least once a year a report on how the results of evaluation have been reflected in the policy planning and development in the said administrative organ.

11. Evaluation of Policies by the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications

From the viewpoint of establishing coherence, comprehensiveness and strict objectivity, GPEA provides for evaluations by the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications (MPHPT), covering such necessary actions as demands by the Minister of MPHPT for submission of materials, investigations, announcement of the result of such evaluations, recommendations, and linkage between policy evaluations, and administrative evaluations and inspections.

12. Reports to the Diet

The Government is required to prepare each year a report on the status of policy evaluations carried out by administrative organizations and the evaluations of policies by the MPHPT, and their reflection in policymaking. The report must be submitted to the Diet and open to the public.

13. Other matters

GPEA also provides for such measures as studies on evaluation methods, improvement in ability of the staff engaged in evaluation work, promotion of utilization of information on policy evaluations among administrative organizations, and provision of a clearinghouse of information on policy evaluations.

14. Effective Date

GPEA has been effective since April 1, 2002.

15. Review of GPEA

The Government shall review progress in the practice of GPEA three years after its enforcement, and based on the results, take necessary actions.

[Appendix\(PDF\)](#)