

WSIS forum 2016
Policy Statement by MIC Japan

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman, on behalf of the Japanese government, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General of ITU Mr. Houlin Zhao, and the members of the WSIS Secretariat and all stakeholders.

Last December, the Ten-year Review of WSIS was conducted, and the implementation of WSIS outcome has entered a new stage.

For this reason, I recognize this WSIS Forum is a very important meeting to kick off towards the goals which have not yet been achieved.

We have made significant achievements for the implementation of WSIS outcome.

On the other hand, we have many other important challenges, such as bridging the digital divide and access to information. In addition, it will be necessary to take measures for new challenges, such as the 2030 Agenda. We should reaffirm that the common vision of a people-centered, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society will be difficult if we do not actively tackle the unsolved challenges in the last decade, under the new common understanding.

Today, I would like to comment on 3 important points.

The first point is the use of ICT innovation benefits.

We had various ICT innovations in the last decade, and further ICT innovation will be made much more than we expect in the

coming decade, like developments in IoT, Big Data, AI and so on. All stakeholders have the responsibility to consider how to utilize ICT innovation benefit for human prosperity including the promotion of open innovation, principles of technology neutrality.

The second point is the implementation of the multi-stakeholder approach. Unfortunately, we still cannot say that we have reached a common consensus.

However, in a situation where challenges are getting increasingly complex, the multi-stakeholder approach is the one and only solution to address difficult challenges in cooperation with governments, private sector, academia and civil society.

We would like to promote the multi-stakeholder approach and exchange our best practices among all in the future.

The third point is the free flow of information. It is necessary to achieve an environment where all people around the world can access any information easily at an early date.

When we think about a solution of global challenges, it will become more and more important that we should continue to vitalize the distribution of information with quality and quantity, both domestically and internationally.

It is important to reaffirm again “free flow of information” as the fundamental principle.

Last week, the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting was held in Japan.

At that meeting, we have adopted a Charter for the Digitally Connected World and Declaration toward economic growth through ICT innovation and sustainable and inclusive progress

by solving global challenges.

As a G7 chair, we expect such G7 activities will contribute in achieving WSIS goals.

We, the government of Japan, as one of the stakeholders, will continue to put forth our best possible efforts, together with all stakeholders, to the implementation of the WSIS outcomes.