

Overview of the 2021 White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan

Part 1 Special Theme: Livelihood and Economy Supported by Digital Technologies

Introduction History of Digitalization in Japan

- This part outlines the history of digitalization policy of Japan since around 2000, and the progress of digitalization in society and its valuation based on international indices, while examining the causes of the delay in digitalization of the country.

Chapter 1 Present Status and Challenges for Digitalization

- The chapter summarizes the present status and challenges of utilization of digital technologies in people's lives (e.g. utilization of personal data, support for utilization of digital technologies)
- It summarizes the present status and challenges of digital transformation in corporate activities (e.g. use of digital transformation for creation of new value)
- It summarizes the history of promotion of central and local e-governments and examines actions necessary for construction of digital governments in the future.

Chapter 2 Digitalization Accelerated by the COVID-19 Pandemic

- The chapter summarizes the impact of COVID-19 infection on the national society and economy, and examines the impacts of expanded use of digital technologies on consumption activities.
- It summarizes the actual status of utilization of digital technologies in the public sector (administration, education and medical care) under COVID-19.
- It summarizes changes in corporate activities under COVID-19 (e.g. fragmentation of the supply chain, expansion of online consumption, telework)
- It summarizes the challenges that surfaced in utilization of digital technologies under COVID-19 (e.g. response to security risks, literacy improvement, handling of digital data, reinforcement of communication infrastructure)

Chapter 3 Toward Realizing Digital Transformation that "Leaves No One Behind"

- While summarizing social challenges the country faces and taking a view of the society that is required after COVID-19, the chapter examines actions necessary to overcome social challenges and revitalize the economy through digitalization in Japan after COVID-19.

Part 2 Basic Data and Policy Directions

Chapter 4 Basic Data on the ICT Field

This chapter provides extensive data on trends in the market size, the number of workers, and other statistics about Japan's ICT industry as well as on ICT service usage trends, relying primarily on results of surveys conducted by MIC, including the Basic Survey on the Information and Communications Industry and the Communications Usage Trend Survey.

Chapter 5 ICT Policy Directions

This chapter presents Japan's latest ICT policy trends, centering on initiatives by MIC, in various fields, including telecommunications, radio, broadcasting, ICT use and application, research and development, and international strategies.