

e-Japan Strategy II Acceleration Package

(Provisional Translation)

The e-Japan Strategy II Acceleration Package was adopted to clarify the priority measures that need to be addressed by the government in order to accelerate implementation of the e-Japan Strategy II (adopted by the IT Strategic Headquarters in July 2003) and to achieve the goal of turning Japan into the most advanced IT nation in the world by 2005. When implementing this package, emphasis will be placed on the perspective of users and collaboration between government ministries and agencies will be reinforced and promoted.

1. International IT Strategies in Asia (A: Asia)

The Tokyo Declaration for a Dynamic and Enduring Japan-ASEAN Partnership in the New Millennium (issued December 11, 2003) calls upon the parties to “cooperate in expanding and deepening information and communications networks and flows in Asia through realizing mutually beneficial information and communications technology cooperation programmes” and to put greater efforts into international policy, taking into account the content of the Japan-ASEAN Plan of Action. To achieve this, they will take the following actions.

(1) Adoption of Fundamental Concepts Concerning International Policy

In order to promote comprehensively and in a coordinated manner international policy relating to IT centered in Asia, fundamental concepts concerning international policy will be adopted by the summer of 2004 under the leadership of the IT Strategic Headquarters and consistent follow-ups on international policy will be made. (Cabinet Secretariat and other related ministries)

(2) Promotion of Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation among Asian Countries

As countries throughout Asia adopt IT, it is essential that the compatibility and ability to interconnect and inter-operate different systems be ensured and that mutual benefit be increased. Consequently, the fundamental concepts concerning the international policy discussed above will be taken into account as the Asia IT Initiative is more

concretely implemented and programs such as the Asia Broadband Program are further promoted. The status of implementation of existing programs will be followed-up on, bilateral programs with Asian countries promoted, and multilateral cooperative programs will be actively promoted. (Cabinet Secretariat, MOFA, MPHPT, MEXT, METI, and other related ministries)

2. Reinforcement of Security Measures

(B: Block and Back-up—Security)

(1) Protecting the IT Society (Reinforcing IT security for public areas and critical infrastructure and enhancing human resource foundations)

(a) Appointment of an IT Security Advisor

In order to further promote IT security measures in the public and private sectors, the IT Security Expert Meeting will be reorganized immediately. Furthermore, a private-sector expert will be appointed IT Security Advisor (tentative title) by April 2004 to provide advice and support concerning information security measures to the Cabinet Secretariat. (Cabinet Secretariat)

(b) Ensuring IT Security in Government Ministries and Agencies

In order to determine objectively the level of IT security in each government ministry and agency and promote uniform security measures throughout the government, IT security measures will be reinforced immediately and in phases by increasing the number of members of the Cabinet Secretariat. In addition, fundamental policies and specific systems will be debated and adopted by June 2004 to implement the following measures. (Cabinet Secretariat and other related ministries)

- (i) Collect and analyze data concerning signs of attacks and resulting harm.
- (ii) Evaluate IT security measures in each ministry and agency.
- (iii) Adopt security standards for the information systems and their operation of each ministry and agency.

(c) Ensuring the IT Security of Local Government

With respect to the IT security measures of local government, efforts will be made to understand the current status of those measures, and local government will undertake voluntary measures as support is provided for joint security measures by multiple local public bodies. In addition, policies intended to promote effective and efficient security measures will be investigated and decisions made by December 2004. (MPHPT)

(d) Ensuring the IT Security of Critical Infrastructure

Technical standards and operating standards that meet the minimum requirements for information systems will be investigated through cooperation between the private and public sectors until September of 2004 to protect critical infrastructure from natural disaster and attacks. (Cabinet Secretariat and other related ministries)

(e) Reinforcing Private-Sector IT Security

Measures that contribute to the reinforcement of functions performed by private-sector information security-related organizations will also be promoted. (MPHPT and METI)

(f) Human Resource Development and Educational Activities

Personnel with specialized knowledge and technical skills relating to IT security will be promoted and the following measures implemented to encourage the spread and taking root of awareness concerning IT security.

- (i) Practical training to raise the skills of employees of government agencies will be conducted through September 2004. (Cabinet Secretariat)
- (ii) Educational and publicity activities directed towards the general public will be conducted in collaboration with various ministries and agencies starting in 2004. (Cabinet Secretariat and other related ministries)

(2) Protecting through the Use of IT (ensuring the safety and security of the lifestyles of the public and social and economic activities through the use of IT)

(a) Promoting the Use of ICs in Passports

As one aspect of anti-terrorism and security measures utilizing IT at airports and seaports, ICs in passports that comply with international standards will be used and

immigration controls using such passports will be reinforced. Testing will be conducted in fiscal 2004 toward actual use in fiscal 2005. From the perspective in enhancing security throughout Asia, the Government will consider support for the introduction of IC passports in response to requests from other Asian countries. (Cabinet Secretariat, MOFA, MOJ, and other related ministries)

(b) Adoption of IC Cards for National Government Employee IDs

In order to enhance security further, decisions will be made during 2004 concerning the adoption of common standards and measures for shared use of systems concerning the introduction of IC cards for national government employee IDs. Implementation will follow in stages. (Cabinet Secretariat and all ministries)

(c) Development of a Disaster Information Sharing System and Expansion of Provision of Information to the Public

Measures to facilitate the efficient sharing of information between the national government, local governmental bodies, and the public to provide immediate data during times of disaster and for conveying various types of disaster prevention information will be investigated, and a system for centralizing and sharing disaster information will be put into use by 2005. (Cabinet Office and other related ministries)

(d) Development of an Environment That Can Handle Emergency Messages Utilizing IT Such as Cellular Phones and IP Phones

The developing of networks and systems will be promoted that can handle emergency messages utilizing IT during emergencies such as disasters or serious crimes. In fiscal 2004 technical specifications for notification of an emergency caller's location using a cellular phone will be adopted and emergency notifications using email will be promoted. (MPHPT, NPA, and other related ministries)

3. Promotion of Content Measures (C: Content)

The IT Strategic Headquarters will request the Strategic Council on Intellectual Property to investigate the matters described in 1) through (3) below and will conduct follow-ups on these matters.

(1) Promotion of Reuse of Existing Content Assets on Broadband Services

In order to promote the content distribution on broadband services, investigations will be conducted in such topics as the promotion of the reuse of existing content through use of the arbitration under the Copyright Law and the status under the Copyright Law of broadcasts on broadband services. (Cabinet Secretariat)

(2) Investigation of the Status of the Internet as a Means of Content Distribution

Under the current copyright system, the status of broadcasts and Internet distribution are different. In light of the increasing importance of the use of Internet for content distribution, the status of such content will be reviewed and investigated. (Cabinet Secretariat)

(3) Reinforcement of Content Production Foundations

Investigations will be conducted into promoting the nurture of content producers and creators, development of an environment of fair trade between distributors and producers, development of an environment for producers to procure capital, and promotion of the secondary use of content owned by the government and other public entities. (Cabinet Secretariat)

(4) Expansion of the Japanese Version of the Bayh-Dole System

The necessary measures will be taken in fiscal 2004 to expand the Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole System (a system that allows ownership of intellectual property rights that are the result of research and development conducted under commission from the national or other government to be assigned to the party concerning the research), thereby allowing ownership of content produced using national or local government funds to be assigned to the creating party. (Cabinet Secretariat, METI, and other related ministries)

(5) Establishment of Digital Archives of Government Content and Expansion of Its General Use

A liaison committee with the participation of the National Diet Library will be established in order to create more opportunities to use and store government content by

establishing an archive (a library that collects and stores electronically documents and records) of government publications at the National Diet Library and implementing long-term storage of the Web sites of government agencies using its Web site archives. At the committee, a system for cooperation with the National Diet Library such as clarification of rules concerning the establishment and public use of archives will be established during fiscal 2004. (Cabinet Secretariat and all ministries)

4. Promotion of IT Regulatory Reforms (D: Deregulation)

(1) e-Document Initiative

In light of recent advances in information technology, a uniform law (commonly known as the e-Document Law) will be adopted concerning those documents and records such as financial and tax documents that the public is required by law to retain but that may not be stored in electronic format, allowing such documents and records to be stored in electronic format if the accuracy, readability, and so on are maintained depending on the content and character of the documents. The requirements for approved electronic storage, the types of documents covered, and so on will be immediately determined and a report submitted to the IT Strategic Headquarters around June of this year so a draft bill can be submitted to the Diet at an early stage. (Cabinet Secretariat and other related ministries)

(2) Immediate Regulatory Reform in Areas Where the Adoption of IT Is Lagging

(a) Electronic Exercise of Voting Rights

Allowing parties with voting rights, etc. to exercise those rights electronically at general meetings of public interest corporation, non-profit mutual benefit corporation, and NPO corporation in the same manner as private corporations will be considered and legal measures adopted by the end of fiscal 2005. (Cabinet Office and MOJ)

(b) Electronic Interviews for Gathering Information

Development of a system will be promoted to allow hearings and interviews currently conducted face-to-face to be held remotely using video conferencing. (All ministries)

(c) Promotion of the Use of IT in Medical Fields including Electronic Storage of Medical Information

In order to enhance the quality of medical care and to create systems for the efficient provision of healthcare services, policies for promoting the use of IT in medical fields including the electronic storage of various medical information such as prescriptions, medical records, and birth certificates will be comprehensively investigated and conclusions reached by September 2004. (MHLW)

(3) Regulatory Reform Necessary to Coordinate Real-World Systems with Cyberspace Systems

(a) Promotion of Electronic Verification of Credentials

In order to make it possible for doctors, lawyers, and other professionals to transmit some important information online, electronic verification of their credentials including their identities and their licenses needs to be promoted. For this purpose, the need to supplement existing credentials systems with further attribute information will be investigated immediately and the optimal system determined, with decisions to be reached during 2004. (Cabinet Secretariat, MPHPT, MOJ, METI, and other related ministries)

(b) Promotion of Assignment of Credit Rights by Electronic Means

A review of the system for promoting the assignment of credit rights by electronic means (electronic bill services, etc.) will be considered. This will include investigation of the requirement under current law of notice or acceptance with a confirmed date for enforcement of the assignment of credit rights, and conclusions are to be reached during 2004. (MPHPT, MOJ, METI, and other related ministries)

Note: Regulatory reforms in IT fields will continue to be promoted in close collaboration with the Council for Regulatory Reform (and its successor organizations).

5. Evaluation (E: Evaluation)

(1) The results of the evaluation of the status of measures taken by the government under the e-Japan Strategy and e-Japan Strategy II from the perspective of the private sector, which is conducted by the Expert Committee on IT Strategy Evaluation in August 2003, will be reflected in the e-Japan Priority Policy Program-2004. The Committee will also conduct the following activities and present an interim report to the IT Strategic Headquarters by the end of March 2004.

(a) With conducting evaluations from the perspective of the individual and emphasizing results as its fundamental policy, the Committee will establish the cycle of “Plan - Do - Check - Action” within the e-Japan Strategy.

(b) The Committee will conduct comprehensive and overall evaluations of the degree to which the objectives raised in the e-Japan Strategy and e-Japan Strategy II have been achieved. It will also conduct an intensive evaluation of the e-government and e-local government, ultra-high speed Internet and ubiquitous network environments, healthcare, and human resources and education.

(2) Even after April this year, the Committee will continue its evaluation of the status of implementation of the e-Japan Strategy and e-Japan Strategy II broadly and will take necessary measures based on the results of those evaluations.

6. Promotion of e-Government and e-Local Government (F: Friendly e-Government and e-Local Government)

(1) Enhancing Convenience to the Public and Increasing Administrative Efficiency through the Use of IT

In order to enhance convenience to the public through the use of IT, based on the evaluations of the Expert Committee on IT Strategy Evaluation, the acceptance of applications and notices electronically and the creation of one-stop services will be

promoted further.

In addition, the following measures will be implemented to use IT in order to raise the efficiency of government functions by creating flexible working environments and mitigating the burdens of commuting, using space more efficiently, and creating paperless environments.

(a) Promoting Telecommuting by National Government Employees

In order to promote the use of telecommuting (a flexible manner of working whereby employees use IT to work at home or other locations), a means of improving the work efficiency of national government employees, a policy will be adopted expressing ideas on the introduction of telecommuting by ministries and agencies early in fiscal 2004 (National Personnel Authority and MPHPT). In addition, with the consideration on the nature of each work environment, telecommuting will be introduced in a trial basis in fiscal 2004 and goals set for the percentage of work conducted by telecommuting in fiscal 2004 (all ministries). Investigation of other flexible working formats that contribute to telecommuting such as discretionary work systems (employees are free to set their own working hours and working methods) will be investigated. (National Personnel Authority and MPHPT)

(b) Increasing the Efficiency of Work and Systems

The effects of reduction (trial calculations) in working times and expenses will be calculated in quantitative formats in the Optimization Plan for Business Process and System of Personnel Management and Payment Concerned (scheduled to be adopted in February 2004) and the Optimization Plan for Business Process and System of Key Secretariat Work Concerned (scheduled to be adopted early in the 2004 fiscal year), in order to evaluate and examine efforts to create paperless environments and to promote efficiency and streamlining of government operations through the adoption of electronic methods of performing work and reviewing work procedures etc. (All ministries)

(2) Electronic Deposit of National Government Employees' Full Pay

The adoption of electronic deposit of the entire amount of national government employees' pay will be promoted with the cooperation of employees with a goal of

achieving 100% implementation in all ministries and agencies by the end of fiscal 2005, with the exception of certain problem regions such as mountainous and remote areas. Checks on the status of implementation at all government agencies will be conducted periodically. (All ministries)

(3) Realization of One-Stop Processing for Import/Export and Port Procedures

Based on a thorough review of the simplification of import/export and port procedures and the accordance to international standards, new systems with higher reliability and lower operating costs will be constructed and “Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (FAL Treaty; tentative name)” will be accelerated. (Cabinet Secretariat, MOJ, MOFA, MOF, MHLW, MAFF, METI, and MLIT)

(4) Expansion of Government Procurement from Venture Companies

Taking into account the international competitiveness of venture companies with advanced technical skills in IT fields and from the perspective of nurturing such companies, various measures will be implemented including introduction of more flexible bid participation standards and use of voluntary contracts and estimated payment systems as means of expanding government procurement from those companies. Checks will also be made on the status of these measures and procurement performance. (Cabinet Secretariat, MPHPT, METI, and all ministries)

(5) Promotion of Measures for the Creation of e-Local Governments

In an effort to avoid duplicative investment in the development of information systems by local government and to create efficient, low-cost, and secure local government systems through interconnection and collaboration, the Expert Committee on IT Strategy Evaluation will examine and evaluate the status of measures related to the creation of e-local government including online processing of key functions to promote the adoption of plans for the creation of e-local government, the introduction of chief information officers, the use of outside experts and consultants, implementation of operational reforms, joint performance of functions by local public bodies, standardization of information systems, the use of joint outsourcing, and the further reinforcement of nationwide networks that serve as the essential infrastructure for these measures. (Cabinet Secretariat and MPHPT)

Note:

Following abbreviations are used for the names of ministries and agencies:

MAFF: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

METI: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

MEXT: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

MHLW: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

MLIT: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

MOF: Ministry of Finance

MOFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

MOJ: Ministry of Justice

MPHPT: Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and
Telecommunications

NPA: National Police Agency