

## **Japan**

### **NATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY EXPERIENCES WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERNET**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Internet has developed through participation of multi-stakeholders. Therefore, for further development of the Internet, Japan believes that the multi-stakeholder approach, including not only the Member States of ITU but also participation from private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities, and other intergovernmental and international organizations, is the best way to consider the international Internet-related public policy issues.

In addition, free flow of information is indispensable so that all users can enjoy the maximum benefits of the Internet, and the Internet can continue to contribute to social and economic development. Therefore, Japan considers that free flow of information should be ensured to address international Internet-related public policy issues.

To deal with the issues on the Internet, the government of Japan thinks that observing the following points is important:

- To respect voluntary actions made by each stakeholder, such as establishing voluntary guidelines and promoting collaboration among businesses
- To establish frameworks to promote each stakeholder's voluntary actions under the cooperation of government and the private sector etc.

To advance those measures, the following principles should be observed:

- No excessive intervention by governments;
- To ensure free flow of information; and
- Not to lead to regulations on contents and privacy

#### **2. National Public Policy Experiences**

In light of the ideas above, the government of Japan takes the following actions in terms of realizing safe and sound environment for ICT utilization:

- Promotion of personal data utilization and circulation considering privacy protection etc. Under the cognition that it is necessary to clarify rules regarding utilization of personal data that considers the balance between free circulation of information and protection of privacy, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan held a study group on "utilization and circulation of personal data" and, in June 2013, the group announced a report which directs a framework on personal data utilization and how to realize said utilization. In the same month, a basic strategy on governmental IT policy, "Declaration on

Becoming the World's Most Advanced IT Nation", was approved in a Cabinet meeting. To investigate and consider the clarification etc. of utilization rules on personal data, "the study group on personal data" was established under the IT Strategic Headquarters.

As an advanced measure, the MIC published a recommendation, "smart phone privacy initiative" (in August 2012) through the "Study Group on Consumer Issues with ICT Services"

The initiative intends to promote voluntary actions by private companies to establish and announce privacy policies for each application on smartphones.

In addition, to secure the effectiveness of the measures, the study group established another recommendation, "smart phone privacy initiative II", in September 2013, which promotes private-sector-driven actions on establishing a mechanism to validate applications by third parties

#### - Development of Security Policy

Under the circumstances in which the everyday lives of the people and socioeconomic activities are increasingly dependent on ICTs with the development of affordable and high-speed broadband networks, enhancement of information security is essential in order to realize a safe and secure environment for the use of ICTs.

Based on such policy packages as the "Information Security Strategy for Protecting the Nation", the MIC, as the ministry in charge of information communication, one of the critical forms of infrastructure, is actively promoting measures for information security in order to realize an environment in which people can use information communication networks with ease. Such measures include implementing the project "Proactive Response Against Cyber-attacks Through International Collaborative Exchange (PRACTICE)", promoting measures for smartphone security, promoting the sharing of information between telecommunications operators, promoting the application of personal data with consideration given to privacy protection, enhancing educational and awareness-raising activities for the public, and researching and developing technologies on information security.

### **3. Proposal**

In accordance with the ideas above, the government of Japan proposes that the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues share best practices on examples of governments to support each stakeholder's voluntary actions.

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