

# Japan's ICT Growth Strategy

—Contributing to Domestic Economic Growth and the Global Society—

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## 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) recognizes that Information and Communication Technology (ICT) contributes greatly to the generation of wealth, and to the efficiency of production, and that the utilization of ICT is an important key to economic growth. A council called the Council on ICT Strategy and Policy for Growth presided over by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications was set up in February of this year to study various policies relating ICT, including the utilization of ICT as one of the key means of boosting the growth of Japan's economy, and of contributing to global society.

In the Council, eight study groups were held on each of three themes: (1) Strategies to deal with social problems that can use ICT to contribute to solving resource problems such as handling water, minerals, and other resources, promoting ICT smart town development, and dealing with a super-aging society; (2) Strategies to create new industries that can contribute to expansion of broadcasting contents for overseas, to support the realization of next-generation broadcasting services, to the creation of new added values through ICT, and to strengthen cybersecurity; and (3) The nature of ICT policies as an R&D strategy for realizing creation of innovation.

The Council on ICT Strategy and Policy for Growth has released "ICT Growth Strategy" which encompasses all studies done to date with the objective of contributing to Japan's economic growth and the global society by using ICT.

## 2. Promoting ICT Growth Strategy

The ICT Growth Strategy defines its mission as "To become the most active country in the world in contributing to Japan's economic growth and the global society by means of ICT." As such, it has identified the following three visions for various issues currently faced by Japan, including the super-aging society, resource problems, the strengthening of disaster prevention and the nation's infrastructure, and

the creation of new industries:

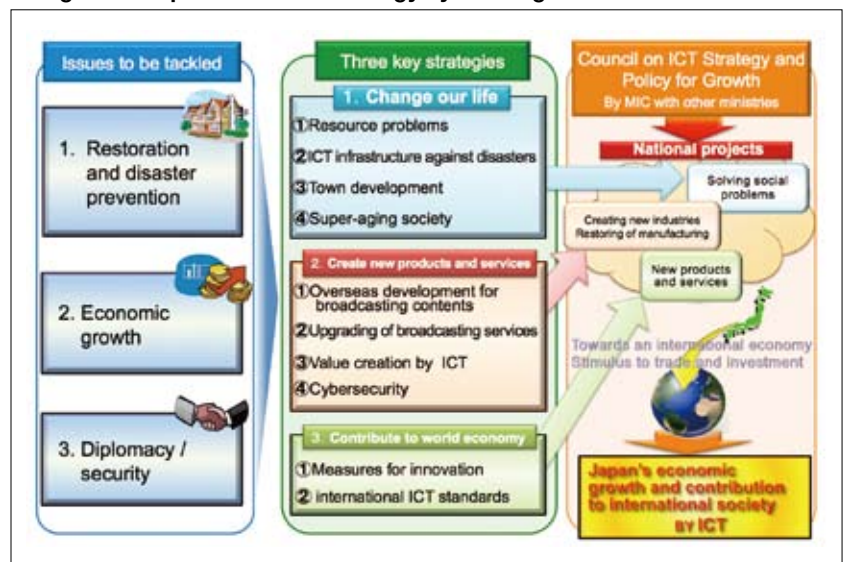
### (1) Creating new value-added industries

Creation of new, high-value-added industries and services that will be engines for economic growth, using geospatial information, big data, and other technologies

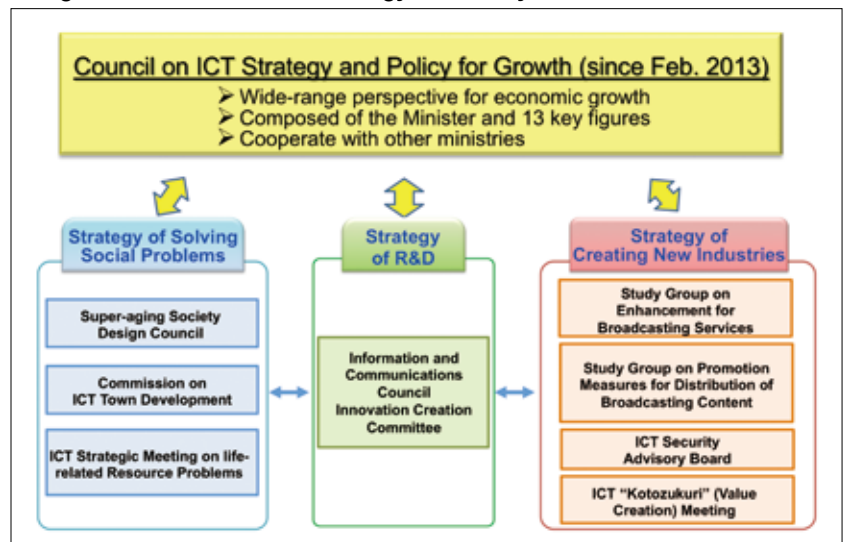
### (2) Solving social problems

Finding solutions to social problems in areas of medicine, nursing, health, regional revitalization, disaster prevention,

■ Figure 1: Japan's Growth Strategy by utilizing ICT



■ Figure 2: Council on ICT Strategy and Policy for Growth



and securing resources

(3) Improving and strengthening a common ICT infrastructure

Promotion of utilization of ICT in broad range of fields such as open data and cybersecurity

To realize these visions, projects in seven fields were identified as important for implementation by industry, academia and government, and four areas of environmental improvement were identified for enhancing and strengthening a common ICT infrastructure, to be performed mainly by the government.

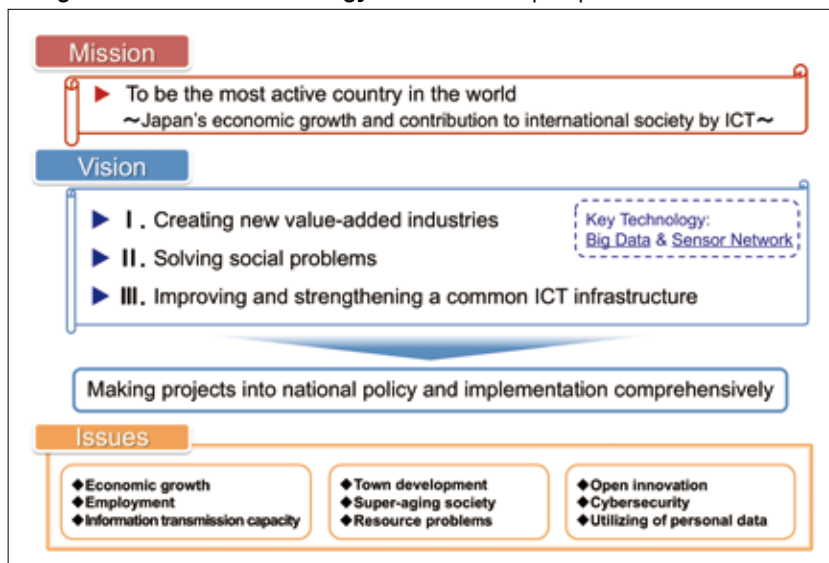
**⟨Important Projects – projects to be carried out by industry, academia and government⟩**

- (1) Data utilization: Promotion of projects creating added value
- (2) Broadcast / contents: Support for realization of next-generation broadcasting services such as 4K, 8K, development of contents for overseas, and diffusion of smart television
- (3) Agriculture: Building of value chains to realize higher added-value for agricultural products
- (4) Regional revitalization: Acceleration and expansion of “ICT Smart Town” project nationwide
- (5) Disaster prevention: Implementation of efficient maintenance management of social infrastructure using sensors, etc.
- (6) Medicine, nursing and health: Development of national platform for medical information, and creation of “Smart Platinum\* industries”
- (7) Resources: Projects including implementations of Marine Broadband utilizing satellite communications

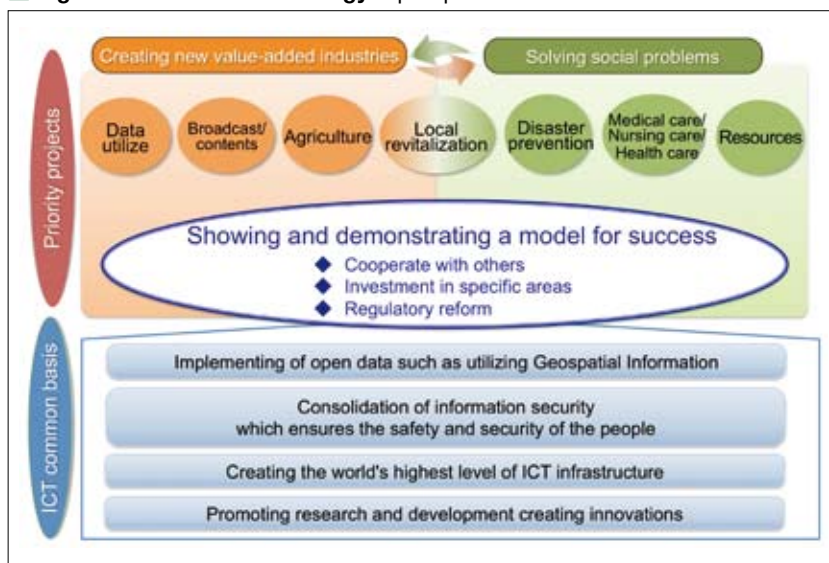
**⟨Common ICT infrastructure: Environmental improvements to be carried out principally by government⟩**

- (1) Promotion of open data such as utilizing geospatial information, etc.  
Implementation of improvements in environment for open data, such as by unifying data formats, and support for new ideas for broadening the base for ICT Value Creation
- (2) Strengthening of cybersecurity to ensure safety and security  
Improvement to analytical capabilities by establishing Cybersecurity Research Center (CYREC).
- (3) Building of world-class ICT infrastructure  
Construction of common platform which will allow

**Figure 3: ICT Growth Strategy —fundamental perspective —**



**Figure 4: ICT Growth Strategy —perspective—**



interconnection of services and data in number of fields based on the demonstrative project of ICT Smart Town in key areas throughout Japan

- (4) Promotion of R&D to create innovation  
Establishment of new public appeal system accepting applications at all times and Establishment of a frame of financial support that will challenge ingenious people

The MIC will work together with other related ministries and, by focusing budgetary and other resources on specific regions, will implement successful models in the future.

\* Term used by MIC meaning “enriched aging society”, where whole generations of people can be active thanks to innovation of ICT better than “silver society”