International Strategy on Cybersecurity Cooperation

—*j-initiative for Cybersecurity*—

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1. Preface

Recently, the risks surrounding cyberspace have become much more serious. Specifically, so-called "targeted cyber attacks" designed to steal confidential information relating to national security and core technologies have been increasing. Cyber attacks targeting critical infrastructures, which could severely damage social activities, have been coming to light.

Furthermore, the spread of ICT with advanced functions, has led to cyber attacks targeting social infrastructures as well as individuals and organizations. In addition, risks are now rapidly spreading beyond borders and are becoming increasingly global.

Thus, cyber attacks on a global scale are now "common risks" faced by all nations. International cooperation is essential in order to take measures against these "common attacks," which render worldwide damages. In response to these changing environments, the Japanese government launched the "International Strategy on Cybersecurity Cooperation,*" which was endorsed by the Information Security Policy Council (ISPC) chaired by the Chief Cabinet Secretary, in October 2013.

This article presents an overview of the "International Strategy on Cybersecurity Cooperation – j-initiative for Cybersecurity".

2. Outline of the strategy

2.1 Objectives

As cyber threats emerge as an urgent global challenge facing the international community as a whole, it is essential to acknowledge different values, build mutual trust and work hand-in-hand to counteract the challenges in order for countries in the world to coexist in cyberspace and make the most of its benefits. Japan is strongly committed to actively strengthening cooperation and mutual assistance internationally.

It is said that Japan boasts the world's highest level of telecommunications infrastructure. Due to the increased use and application of information and communication technology, Japan has already faced a variety of cyber threats. Accordingly, the Strategy states that Japan is dedicated to utilize this extensive experience and knowledge in promoting international cooperation.

This Strategy summarizes Japan's basic policy and its priority areas for international cooperation and mutual assistance in the field of cybersecurity, so that it can be presented as a package to

Table 1: Basic Principles and Policies

Basic Principles

Summarizes the importance of international cooperation with regard to 4 basic principles described in the Cybersecurity Strategy

1. Ensuring free flow of information

Countries around the world can enjoy freedom of expression and vibrant economic activities, innovation, economic growth and solutions for social issues

2. Responding to increasingly serious risks

A new mechanism based on enhanced international cooperation is needed in addition to the existing measures and initiatives against increasingly serious, widespread and globalized risks.

3. Enhancing risk-based approach

The international community urgently needs a mechanism to implement a risk-based approach, whereby risks are quickly and appropriately identified as they evolve, and are responded to dynamically in accordance with their characteristics.

4. Acting in partnership based on social responsibilities

All stakeholders in the global cyberspace need to cooperate and assist each other while fulfilling the responsibilities corresponding to their respective roles in society.

Basic Policies

Summarizes 3 directions of Japan's contribution for strengthening international cooperation

1. Incremental fostering of common global understanding

- Vitality of cyberspace has been enhanced by the diversity of entities which make use of it, and the co-existence of countries with different cultures and values.
- A common understanding needs to be fostered incrementally, wherever feasible, while appreciating the diverse values
- All platforms will be utilized including bilateral, multilateral and regional frameworks as well as the U.N. meetings.

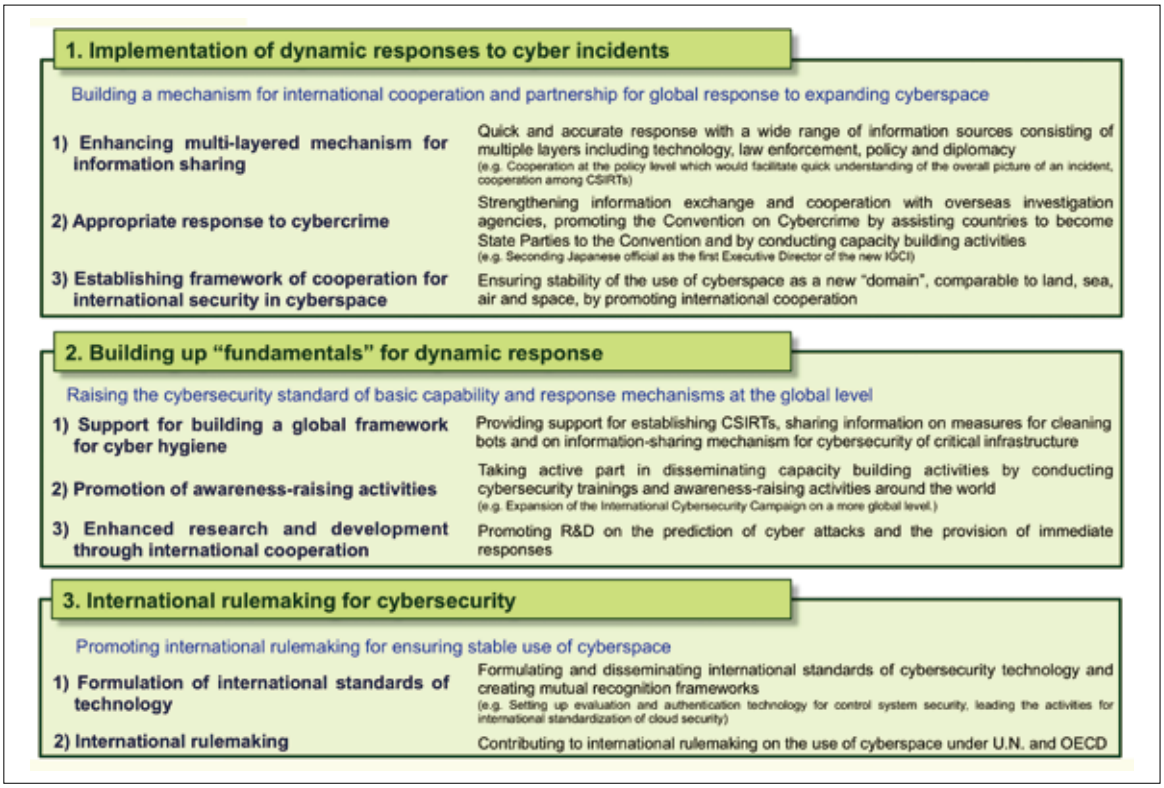
2. Japan's contribution to the global community

- Japan has faced and addressed serious cybersecurity issues ahead of other countries.
- Building on extensive experience and knowledge, Japan will actively contribute to capacity-building activities at the global level.

3. Expansion of the technological frontier at the global level

- Japan has accumulated extensive knowledge on technical responses to cyber threats, including development of cybersecurity technology and subsequent steps for its practical application
- Japan will extend its technological frontier at the global level and diffuse the benefits of advanced yet inexpensive technology based on its knowledge

Table 2: Priority Areas



the stakeholders both in Japan and overseas. Japan will promote initiatives for international cooperation and mutual assistance in cybersecurity based on this Strategy under the common understanding shared among all domestic stakeholders including those from industry, academia and the government. Japan will actively contribute to the formation of a safe and reliable cyberspace in which the free flow of information is ensured by building relationships of cooperation with countries around the world.

2.2 Basic principles

Basic Principles summarizes the importance of international cooperation with regards to four basic principles described in Japan's Cybersecurity Strategy issued in June 2013, which are: "Ensuring free flow of information", "Responding to increasingly serious risks", "Enhancing risk-based approach", and "Acting in partnership based on social responsibilities." In particular, it describes that it is imperative to maintain and develop a safe and reliable cyberspace in which the free flow of information is ensured in order to ensure freedom of expression and vibrant economic activities in cyberspace, to facilitate innovation, economic growth and solutions for social issues, and to provide positive benefits which countries around the world can enjoy.

2.3 Basic policies

International cooperation involves various entities such as government, private companies, and research institutes. In order to make these efforts effective in a consistent manner, based on the basic principles described above, the International Strategy summarizes the three directions of Japan's contribution to strengthening international cooperation: "Incremental fostering of common global understanding", "Japan's contribution to the global community", and "Expansion of the technological frontier at the global level."

Issues pertaining to cybersecurity vary widely across a broad spectrum, from socio-economic to national security, and from the easily resolved to the more difficult. There is also an infinite variety of entities that can take part and degrees to which a common understanding can be fostered. Therefore, a common understanding needs to be fostered incrementally, wherever feasible, while appreciating the diverse values. Accordingly, the Strategy lists "Incremental fostering of common global understanding" as the first basic policy.

Japan has developed the world's top-level telecommunications infrastructure, which has led to increased use and application of cyberspace by various entities of all generations. Consequently, Japan has faced serious cybersecurity issues ahead of other countries. At the same time, relevant entities in both public and private sectors have worked in partnership to implement a wide variety of measures to address these issues and have achieved successes. Building on these extensive experience and knowledge, Japan will contribute to the global efforts to address these challenges more efficiently and effectively. This "Japan's contribution to the global community" is the second basic policy listed in the Strategy.

On the subject of technology, the Strategy specifies the vital importance of continuously developing, using and applying technology and lists "Expansion of the technological frontier at the global level" as the third basic policy in order to utilize extensive knowledge and experiences on technical responses to cyber threats which Japan has accumulated and to respond appropriately to sophisticated cyber attacks. (Table 1)

Table 3: Regional Initiatives

1. Asia Pacific

- **Close cooperation with the Asia Pacific region is crucial due to geographical proximity and close economic ties**
- **Continuing to strengthen the relationship with the ASEAN through:**
  - ✓ Policy dialogues such as ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Cybersecurity Cooperation, ASEAN-Japan Information Security Policy Meeting, and ASEAN-Japan Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime
  - ✓ Promoting initiatives such as capacity-building for human resources development
  - ✓ Promoting joint projects such as JASPER and TSUBAME
- **Promoting Japan-India Cyber Dialogue**

2. U.S. and Europe

- **Deepening partnership with the U.S. centered on Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements**
  - ✓ Promoting such policy dialogues as the Japan-U.S. Cyber Dialogue and the Japan-U.S. Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy
  - ✓ Promoting cooperation in the area of cyber incident response
- **Strengthening cooperation with European countries**
  - ✓ Conducting policy dialogues such as the Japan-UK Cyber Dialogue and the Japan-EU Internet Security Forum
  - ✓ Conclusion of the Convention on Cybercrime

3. Other regions

- **Extending cooperation to countries in regions such as South America and Africa where the use of cyberspace has rapidly progressed.**
  - ✓ e.g. Support for establishing CSIRTs
  - ✓ In regions such as South America and Africa, the use and application of cyberspace has also rapidly progressed. As a consequence, a number of cybersecurity issues have surfaced including an increase in malware infections and other cyber threats. Japan has extended cooperation to countries in these regions, such as through provision of support for the establishment of CSIRTs. Going forward, Japan will further expand these efforts.

4. Multilateral frameworks

- **Actively contributing to international rulemaking of cybersecurity:**
  - ✓ Rulemaking at various forums such as the U.N., G8, OECD, and APEC.
  - ✓ Global initiatives with respect to critical infrastructure protection and rapid incident response undertaken at the Meridian, IWWN, and FIRST (e.g. Hosting the Meridian in 2014)

2.4 Priority areas

In promoting international cooperation efforts, it is important to prioritize targeted areas for effectively counteracting various cybersecurity issues and making maximum use of limited resources. The International Strategy specifies three "Priority Areas": "Implementation of dynamic responses to cyber incidents" which aims to build a mechanism for international cooperation and partnership for global response to expanding cyberspace, "Building up 'fundamentals' for dynamic responses" which is aimed at raising the cybersecurity standard of basic capability and response mechanisms at the global level, and "International rulemaking for cybersecurity" which is aimed at promoting international rulemaking to ensure the stable use of cyberspace. (Table 2)

2.5 Regional initiatives

In promoting international cooperation, issues which can develop common understanding and areas in cooperation differ between countries and regions. The International Strategy summarizes the necessary measures in countries and regions that have close relationships with Japan, and the direction of Japan's contribution to multilateral frameworks. (Table 3)

3. Summary

The "International Strategy on Cybersecurity Cooperation" is the first strategy devoted to international cooperation on cybersecurity, and clarifies Japan's position in this area. Japan will actively present this Strategy at such venues as bilateral, multilateral and regional frameworks aimed at accelerating the efforts toward international cooperation on responding to cyber threats rapidly and appropriately.

While the Internet's information and communications infrastructure continues to develop and its use and application evolves, it is inevitable that cybersecurity issues will become more serious. By responding rapidly and appropriately to these challenges through close cooperation among related entities, it is expected that steps towards ensuring secure use of cyberspace will progress steadily.

* http://www.nisc.go.jp/active/kihon/pdf/InternationalStrategyonCybersecurityCooperation_e.pdf

Cover Art

Fuji sanjurokkei Toto Sukiya-gashi
(Riverbank at Sukiya in Edo, from the series 36 Views of Mt. Fuji.)

Utagawa Hiroshige (1797-1858)

Woodblock print:
Courtesy of Sakai Kokodo Gallery