

2025 MIC Minister's New Year's Greeting



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Happy New Year!

In October last year, I was appointed Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications.

As the Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications, I am in charge of a field that is closely related to the lives of citizens. I would like to say a few words about the directions of the policies on which we are focusing our efforts.

Securing safety and security for citizens and residents

We are working to secure safety and security for citizens and residents of Japan, drawing on lessons learned from the Noto earthquake, which occurred at the beginning of last year.

To build an environment that can deliver information reliably, even during a disaster, we are collaborating in the private and public sectors, to strengthen communications and broadcasting infrastructure, such as mobile phone base stations and cable television networks, and to systematically consolidate measures to secure communications and understand conditions in disaster-hit areas.

We are also promoting advanced digital infrastructure, including completion of both urban and regional 5G networks, optical fiber in remote areas, distribution of data centers through regional areas, expansion of undersea cables and non-terrestrial networks, and completion of communications environments that will support early introduction of automated driving vehicles.

We are continuing to examine telecommunications policy from the perspective of citizens and users, including the NTT Act, which privatized the formerly public Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation in 1985, in the four areas of universal services, fair competition, economic security and international competitiveness.

Considering the dramatically increasing use of radio waves in socio-economic activity, we also have initiatives studying the introduction of new ways to allocate frequencies.

We are working to improve the reliability of "L Alert," which distributes disaster information, and to strengthen links with other disaster-prevention systems.

Promoting digital transformation (DX)

To maximize utilization of digital technologies, we are promoting DX in regional organizations and society and also securing and training personnel to support that effort.

To realize a sustainable regional society using DX, we are supporting work with AI and other digital technologies to find solutions to regional issues, to create positive precedents for regional creativity and to expand them horizontally.

Consolidating a reliable information and communications environment

The circulation and spread of disinformation, misinformation, online harassment, and information that violates rights on the internet is becoming a serious issue. We are working to enforce the Information Distribution Platform Act, which was established last

year, as soon as possible.

We are also promoting comprehensive measures such as R&D and international cooperation on technologies to improve user literacy and deal with misinformation and disinformation.

We are further examining what broadcasting and systems should be like in the future, from the perspective of what sort of sustainable role it can have in society, including satisfying rights such as the public right to know and privileges to which citizens are accustomed.

We are working to strengthen cyber-security measures, including strengthening security of IoT devices, training personnel and advancing data analysis.

Promoting stronger international collaboration

We are also promoting stronger international collaboration.

In AI, Japan is leading the creation of international rules, and based on the results of the first internationally endorsed comprehensive policy framework, the Hiroshima AI Process, we will continue to contribute to adding countries and regions that support the process and enterprises and other organizations that commit to implementation of the process code of conduct.

In research and development and deploying their results in society, we continue to strengthen systems and programs of the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), to put it at the core of collaboration among industry, academia, and government.

We will also strengthen AI development capabilities by consolidating and expanding the high-quality Japanese language AI training data held by NICT and providing it to Japanese businesses and other entities.

To promote the safe development, provision and use of generative AI, we will broadly build awareness regarding guidelines created last year, both domestically and internationally.

We are promoting research and development and international standardization of advanced technologies that will support integration of AI into society, with a view to implement them in society and expand them overseas, including all-photonics networks, space communications, quantum encrypted communications and other next-generation information and communications infrastructure.

We are collaborating closely with international organizations such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), in which executives from Japan are actively working.

We are strengthening international collaboration to build safe and robust digital infrastructure and expand this infrastructure overseas with technologies such as 5G and optical networks.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I offer my wishes for health and happiness to you all in the New Year.