

THIRD REPORT ON MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING THE PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE JAPAN (2011-2014)

■ General information

Country: Japan

Organization responsible for the preparation of the report:

Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Officially designated contact institution: Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Name of designated official certifying the report:

Yoshio Yamawaki, Secretary-General of Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Brief description of the consultation process established for the preparation of the report:

With regard to the items of this report relating to specific provisions of the Recommendation, inquiries were made to the relevant ministries and agencies with jurisdiction over such item, and the report was prepared based on the answers received.

■ Summary

The following summarizes the activities implemented by the Japanese government from 2011 to 2014 following the adoption of the Recommendation at the 2003 UNESCO General Conference.

Japan has been implementing appropriate national policies in order to promote universal access to cyberspace. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, which plays a leading role in promotion of access to networks and services, has been taking proactive measures with regard to the expansion of access to networks and services and the promotion of ICT. In addition, the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the National Diet Library have been striving respectively to promote the fair and smooth use of copyrighted works on the Internet through the amendment of the laws relating to copyright and the digitalization of information, and moreover, the National Archives of Japan has been striving to promote general use of its public documents, and has been expanding the operations of its digital archive.

■ **Development of multilingual content and systems**

- **Detailed information explaining what measures have been taken to alleviate language barriers.**

The digital archives and database services of the National Diet Library (referred to below as “NDL”) and other organizations are available for use in each of the languages of English, Chinese and Korean via “NDL Search[1]” - an integrated searchable portal site.

In addition, the NDL website[2] provides English, Chinese and Korean versions of its webpages.

In addition to its Japanese website, the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records operated by the National Archives of Japan (referred to below as “NAJ”) has websites in English, Chinese and Korean, and record searches can be performed in Japanese and English.

- **Information on support given to capacity-building for the production of local and indigenous content on the Internet.**

A “Guide to the Digitalization of NDL Materials[3]” for use in the digitalization of the paper documents belonging to the NDL is available through the NDL website and may be used as reference in digitalization by organizations in Japan (including the digitalization of local materials (topography, etc.).

■ **Facilitating access to networks and services**

- **National efforts to recognize and support universal access to the Internet as well as to promote access to the Internet as a service of public interest.**

In Japan, the Declaration to be the World’s Most Advanced IT Nation formulated in 2013, set out the development of a national broadband environment covering all of the regions, including the remote islands, and as of the end of March 2014, we have achieved a 100% rate of household coverage in the broadband service areas, and a 99.9% rate of household coverage in the ultra-high-speed broadband service areas.

- **Measures taken to encourage the development of information strategies and models that facilitate community access and support cooperation on**

information and communication technologies (ICT) among public service institutions, including community telecentres, libraries, Internet access units, and others.

In order to resolve the inefficiencies of the administrative services brought about by the lack of operational and data collaboration between the local governments and to improve the residential services, a regional information platform –a common base – was built for the purpose of linking on a national scale all of the information systems in and outside of the region, starting with the information systems owned by the local governments, and standardization of the information systems was achieved. It is expected that by advancing these efforts, it will become possible to offer more convenient services to the residents through the systems of the different local governments being linked and the realization of a one-stop service.

■ **Development of public domain content**

- **Legal and administrative measures adopted to give effect to the provisions of this part of the Recommendation:**

recognizing and enacting the right of universal online access to public and government-held records

Article 15 of the Public Records and Archives Management Act, enforced in 2011, provides that, “The head of the National Archives of Japan, etc., shall prepare a catalog describing the matters necessary to contribute to the appropriate use of specified historical public records and archives” and, as one measure, the NAJ has been making its catalog publicly available on the Internet.

In addition, Article 23 of the same Act provides that, “The head of the National Archives of Japan, etc. shall actively endeavor to provide specified historical public records and archives for public use through exhibitions or other means”, and, as one measure, the NAJ is aiming to expand its digital archive.

identifying and promoting repositories of information and knowledge in the public domain and making them accessible by all, in particular persons with disabilities, linguistic minorities, women and girls.

The NAJ has been operating the “National Archives of Japan Digital Archive” since

2005 making it possible to perform a search of the catalog database for all of the documents and records in its collections and to use the digital images of its documents and records. As of the end of March 2014, approximately 15,990,000 images, which correspond to about 9.4% of the collections, are available. In addition, the NAJ operates the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records. This is a website which makes the digital images of historical public documents and records relating to the relationships between Japan and its Asian neighbors and other countries in the modern times, provided by the three institutions of the NAJ, the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Center for Military History of the National Institute for Defense Studies, publicly available. As of the end of March 2014, the number of digital images which have been made publicly available is in excess of 28,100,000 images.

promoting and facilitating ICT literacy, as well as information and media literacy, including popularizing and building trust in ICT implementation and use.

Educational materials that contribute to improving ICT literacy covering children to elderly people have been developed and published. Moreover, regional demonstrations for improvement of ICT literacy are being conducted in the field using familiar public facilities such as community centers. These field trials aim to have elderly people participate in society by improving their ICT literacy through participation in training courses, and a model of mutual learning has been tested out in the region and educational materials developed.

The elementary, junior high school and senior high school courses of study set out the developing of the ability to use information utilizing information and information channels in each subject.

- **Information on whether open access solutions and web accessibility of public domain information were advanced and how, including supporting data, reference to best practices, examples and solutions.**

Digitalized materials in the public domain, which previously required an application to be submitted to the NDL for reprinting and use, became available for use from May 1, 2014 without the need for an application to be submitted[4].

The “NDL Web Accessibility Policy[5]” was drafted in June 2013 with regard to web

accessibility, and this policy is applied to the development and repair specifications of the NDL electronic information services (with the goal of being Grade AA compliant as specified in JIS-X 8341-3 and others).

■ Reaffirming the equitable balance between the interests of rights-holders and the public interest

- **Action the Government has taken in order to update national copyright legislation and its adaptation to cyberspace, consideration given to the possibility of encouraging rights-holders and the lawful beneficiaries of limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied and information on open access policies adapted, conditions to access open scientific data and any favourable conditions applied for marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities.**

In order to handle the recent advancements of digitalization and networking, studies have been conducted in Japan on the various issues relating to copyright and a system has been developed in accordance with the studies in a timely manner.

The following provisions were established through the amendment of the Copyright Act in 2012 in order to facilitate the use of copyrighted works corresponding to such advancements of digitalization and networking.

(i) Exploitation for the purpose of a test for the development or use of technology

Copyrighted works, which have been published, may be used within the extent deemed to be necessary in cases of provision for the purpose of a test for the development or use of digital technologies such as the sound recording or visual recording of copyrighted works.

(ii) Exploitation in information processing needed to prepare for the provision of information using information and communication technology

In cases where the information is to be provided through a method utilizing information and communication technology, and the information processing is conducted through a computer needed in the preparations for smooth and efficient provision, the copyrighted works may be recorded on an object or adapted within the extent deemed necessary.

(iii) Establishment of provisions relating to the automatic public transmission, etc. of library materials by the NDL

Law amendment in 2009 made the NDL possible to digitalize (reproduce) the original materials for the purpose of preserving them in order to avoid destruction by the public

use.

In addition, with the law amendment in 2012, with regard to library materials which, in general, are difficult to obtain due to being out of print or some other similar reasons, in cases where the library, etc. intends to make them available to the public, it may transmit the reproduction of a copyrighted work which has been recorded on an object automatically to the public. With regard to a library, etc., as a non-profit-making activities and upon the request of a user of the library, etc., a part of such copyrighted work sent through an automatic public transmission can be reproduced and provide a single reproduction for the purpose of his research or study.

With regard to restrictions on rights pertaining to the use of copyrighted works in the library, the NDL may collect (copy) contents[6] transmitted by a private organization through the Internet (e-books and e-magazines) without obtaining the permission of the copyright holder.

[1] <http://iss.ndl.go.jp/>

[2] <http://www.ndl.go.jp/>

[3] <http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/aboutus/digitization/digitalguide2011.pdf> (Only available in Japanese at the time of November 2014)

[4] http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/news/fy2014/1205460_1829.html

[5] <http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/aboutus/standards/accessibility/policy.html>

[6] <http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/aboutus/online/detail.html#anchor1>