

**REPORTS ON MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING THE PROMOTION AND USE OF MULTILINGUALISM
AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CYBERSPACE
JAPAN (2003-2006)**

The following summary includes the activities undertaken in Japan since the Recommendation was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 2003.

Japan has developed appropriate national policies on the promotion of universal access to cyberspace. Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, which is playing a leading role in facilitating access to networks and services, has taken active measures for the development of networks and services and the promotion of ICT. Furthermore, the Agency for Cultural Affairs and the National Diet Library make efforts to promote the fair and smooth use of copyrighted materials over the Internet by updating the national copyright legislation and providing digital information respectively.

1. Development of Multilingual Content and Systems

N/A

2. Facilitating Access to Networks and Services

(1) 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.

Elimination of geographic digital divide

As stipulated in the u-Japan Policy Package, we set out the goal to make the broadband Internet accessible to 100% of the population by 2010. While Japan's broadband networks are the fastest and lowest costwise in the world, we are facing challenges to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas. In an effort to deal with these challenges, we support the private businesses in improving broadband networks. In particular, we support the payment of interest on the funds required to develop broadband infrastructure based on Provisional Measures Law for Telecommunications Infrastructure Improvement.

Promotion of the Asia Broadband Program

We formulated the Asia Broadband Program as an action program to facilitate development of a broadband environment in Asia. Aiming to enable benefits of ICT enjoyable by all of the people in Asia, we are implementing various measures based on this program.

Promotion of information barrier-free

In order to enable elderly persons and persons with disabilities to use the information-communications tools and services provided by websites, we established and disseminated guidelines. In 2005, more detailed Operational Models for improving web

accessibility were formulated so that everyone including elderly persons and persons with disabilities can easily access public websites and web-systems.

(2) Mechanisms established at the local and national levels to facilitate universal access to the Internet through affordable telecommunications and Internet costs

The Japanese government is driving forward such fair competition policies as opening the regional communication networks for new businesses. In the private sector, there are lots of new entries in the market, and efforts to reduce charges are being actively made.

(3) Measures taken for encouraging the development of information strategies and models that facilitate community access and support cooperation on ICT among public service institutions.

We are promoting regional informatization with the aim of improving the quality of education, administration, social welfare, disaster prevention, and to bridge the digital divide among regions. To cite one example, local governments which actively promote regional public networks, which connect public institutions such as schools, libraries and city halls with high-speed or ultra-high-speed communication systems, are provided with financial support by the central government. As a result of this support, as of July 2006, 72% of the local governments had put in place regional public networks. We aim to complete such network throughout the country by FY 2010.

In addition, from FY 2007, we are planning to put in place advanced models for ICT applications which will benefit local communities and help to disseminate such advances nationwide. To be more specific, the central government will ask local governments to submit plans on advanced models for ICT applications that will benefit local communities with the most appropriate ideas being provided with financial incentives. At the same time, the best practice applications will be made known to other local governments to enable further diffusion.

3. Development of Public Domain Content

The National Diet Library (NDL) digitized and provides on the Internet about 127,000 volumes of books whose copyright is already expired or cleared, including mainly rare books and Japanese books published in the Meiji era. NDL also provides as much digital information as possible. In addition, NDL is currently developing a digital archive portal which will offer one-stop retrieval service for not only digital contents and holding information of the NDL but also useful digital archives in Japan.

4. Reaffirming the Equitable Balance Between the Interests of Rights-holders and the Public Interest

We promote the adoption of provisions that limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection are applied as long as it does not infringe the legitimate rights of copyright holders unreasonably by updating the national copyright legislation taking account of the equitable balance between the interests of rights-holders and the public interest.

The amendment of the Copyright Law in 2003 (effective on January 2004) made it permissible to publicly transmit or broadcast works in school education programs, and to publicly transmit them through the Internet for the purpose of examinations.

The amendment in 2006 (effective on July 2007) enabled the establishments for the promotion of the welfare of the visually handicapped, including Braille libraries, to transmit audio works, through the Internet, to those visually handicapped people.

Generally, it can safely be said that limitations and exceptions to copyright and related rights protection are applied appropriately in Japan. However, if they should be needed more in the future, we can encourage right-holders and the lawful beneficiaries, through the Copyright education and promotional activities, etc, to ensure that such limitations and exceptions are applied.