

Preface

On the Publication of the 2023 White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan



Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications

松本 剛明

Human beings have accumulated and expanded knowledge and made progress through the exchange of information using language. With the advancement of information and communications technology and digital technology, and the development of information and communications infrastructure, it has become possible to exchange information that goes beyond language and process vast amounts of data, across space and time. We are truly on a new stage, with great possibilities unfolding as well as unknown risks. In this age, where the state of the information and communications technology and digital fields determines the shape of the future, it is important for countries to cooperate with each other to form international rules in a borderless digital space. The **G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma**, was held in April this year. As a member of the presidency, I co-chaired the meeting, which adopted a Ministerial Declaration with guidelines for action by the G7 on key topics, such as Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), secure and resilient digital infrastructure, internet governance, and AI governance. At the G7 Hiroshima Summit in May, which followed the ministerial meeting, the launch of the **Hiroshima AI Process** was included in the summit declaration. Japan would like to lead the discussions that flow from the G7 to the rest of the world regarding ensuring the global interoperability of AI governance and the responsible use of generative AI.

In this White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan, Part 1 features **Toward Realizing the Resilient and Sound Data Distribution Society for the New Era**. It analyzes the current situation and challenges of data distribution and utilization as well as new trends, such as the discussions and outcomes of the G7 Ministerial Meeting on generative AI and the Hiroshima AI Process. Part 1 also states the initiatives needed to realize a society in which everyone can enjoy the benefits of diverse services utilizing data. Part 2 analyzes the data on the latest market trends in the information and communications field, and it summarizes the current state and future direction of information and communications policies. Based on the analysis of this White Paper, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will continue to make every effort into realizing a resilient and sound data distribution society by developing optical fiber and 5G, etc. that is based on the **Infrastructure Development Plan for a Digital Garden City Nation**, as well as promoting Beyond 5G research and development, contributing to the formulation of international rules for generative AI, and developing measures to combat disinformation and misinformation.

This year's White Paper on Information and Communications in Japan is the 51st edition, and it has been published for half a century since it was first published in 1973. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the people for their cooperation with the information and communications administration, and I hope that this White Paper will be widely used to help further deepen their understanding of the information and communications technology and digital fields.

July 2023