

Japan

General Aspects

Japan is a constitutional monarchy. The country counts 126.780.000 inhabitants.

Diffusion of ICT in the country

PC penetration in Japan (number of PCs/population) is 37,7% referred to private households, but the percentage grows to and 74% when concerning PC access in work places.

Internet diffusion is 21,3%, while telephone penetration is 49,1% and 50,3% the nationwide coverage for mobile telephones.

Application of ICT to Public Administration

70% of Central Public Administration employees have a computerized workplace; while 2% of the Local Public Administration use a PC (excluding number of PC and employees at local schools and universities, fire defense and police).

Among Central Government offices 100% of the P.A. head offices has an Internet access and e-mail box.

Networks and interlinking within the same administration and among administrations are widespread, at both a local and central level of government.

Public Administration on line

100% of governmental bodies of the Central Public Administration (head offices) have their own internet website; as far as the the Local Public Administrations are concerned, the percentage decreases to 66,4%.

Both the Legislative and the Executive bodies have their own Internet web-site.

On government's websites it is possible to send requests for information through e-mail, and carry-out some kind of transactions. e-procurement will be available between 2001 and 2003.

Even if a guideline for electronic provision of information will be adopted by the end of March 2001, the government's principal web sites already offer the possibility to consult the press releases, speeches and statements of the Head of Government, Official Document, Government and Legislative Acts, transcription of the parliamentary debates.

A portal expressly created for citizens is actually on-line.

E-government issues

Some on line services are already available to citizens and companies.

While services to citizens are limited to interchange of administrative information, companies manage electronically a range administrative procedures, such as cargo clearance (declarations, notifications for dispositions, etc.), applications for import/export etc.

128 procedures will be available on-line by April 2001

Government has started an action program to promote the application of ICT to the Public Administrations and to provide on-line services.

The Master Plan for promoting Government-wide use of Information technology was adopted by the cabinet in December 1997 ; since then, realization of e-government has

become one of the national priority policies in relation with Administrative reform and the promotion of the Advanced Telecommunications Network Society. The Administrative Reform program adopted by the cabinet in December 2000 and e-Japan Strategy adopted by IT Strategy headquarters in January 2001 state that all administrative procedures between the Japanese people and the administration should be available on-line using the Internet or other means by fiscal 2003 in principle. An overall action plan for the e-government strategy implementation be adopted by the end of this March by the IT Strategy Headquarters.

e-Japan Strategy : the IT Strategy Headquarters is established within the Cabinet to represent Japan's efforts in the global IT revolution, including realization of e-government. The members of the Headquarters are the Prime Minister (as a chief), all other ministers of the Cabinet and the representatives of the private sectors, etc.

The implementation of the Master Plan is assigned to the competence of the Inter-ministerial Council for promoting Government-wide use of IT (the Council consists of Director-Generals of all ministries).

The basic act for the Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society is available on the Internet at the address www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/it_e.html. The Ministry of Public management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications is entrusted of the co-ordination of the above mentioned plan. However, single ministries are called to actively promote the computerization of administrative procedures and sharing information through networks.

Future issues

Envisaged investments for the next 3 years in support to the e-government strategy amount to 10,394 million USD, which will be allocated in fiscal year 2001.