

Priority Policy Program for Realizing Digital Society

- Summary -

Digital Agency

**This is the digest version in English. The original text is at the following URL in Japanese.*

<https://www.digital.go.jp/policies/priority-policy-program>

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About this Program

Basics of the Program

- The Basic Act requires the government to settle this program as **"basic policies regarding measures that the government should quickly implement with priority for the formation of a digital society"** (Basic Act on the formation of a Digital Society § 37 (2), etc.).
- This is **the first program since the Digital Agency was established.**
- This will also be **the compass for tackling structural reforms and any other measures in order to build the Digital Society** that Japan is pursuing, and in order **to announce and propose it to the world** as well.

Characteristic of the Program

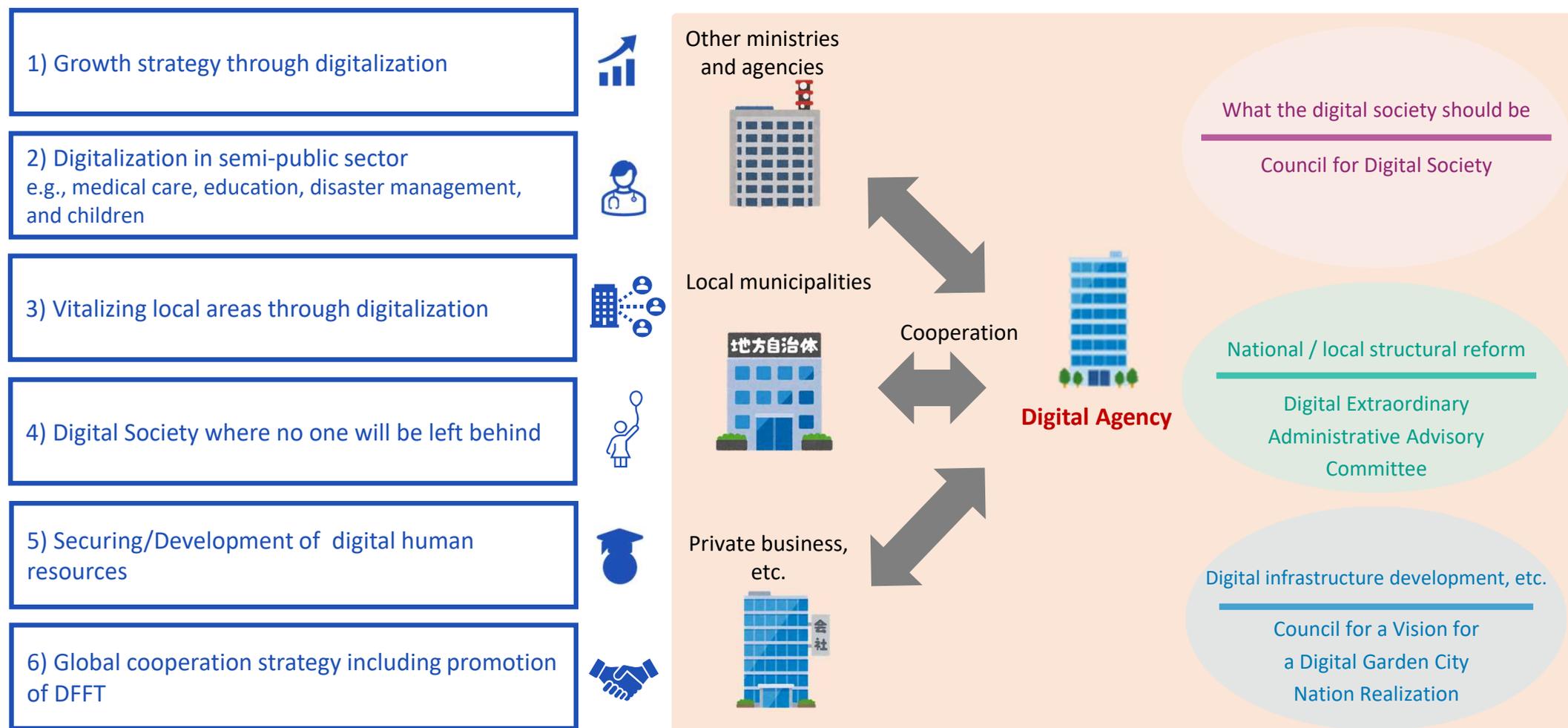
- To clarify **the big picture regarding the measures for the Digital Society** taken by the **Digital Agency**, which plays the principal role, **as well as by each ministry and agency**, along **with the timeline.**
- As well, to **illustrate the image of the Digital Society** that Japan is trying to realize and **"Digital principles,"** and to **be a signpost** including the measures discussed at the **"Digital Extraordinary Administrative Advisory Committee"** and **"Council for a Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation Realization"** (and to be, at the same time, expected to revise this program by the middle of 2022.)

The image of the Digital Society

Vision for the Digital Society

“Society where each citizen can choose services that satisfy his/her demands and achieve various happiness through digital technology” (from existing Digital Reform basic policy (2020.12.25)). This will lead to a “People-friendly Digitalized society, where no one will be left behind.”

To realize the “Digital Society,” the following (1) to (6) are required:



1) Growth strategy through digitalization

Problems / As-Is

Response to COVID-19 has revealed that the **public sector was inefficient.**

Japan recognized that it would never catch up with the other countries unless it now becomes determined and does **whatever it can do through digital technology** to solve various issues in Japan.

Ideals / To-Be

Japan promotes digitalization in all industries driven by **data**, which is equivalent to a **source of wisdom, value, and competitiveness.**

Implementing drastic structural reforms, including regulations and public administration, we will build **a prosperous society where each citizen can access services that satisfy their demands and lives.**

- To fully adopt a **Digital First principle** from the legislative perspective. And to reexamine the administrative process and structure in terms of **whether each legal framework is compliant with the principles**
- To design the digital **architecture** and data **standardization**. To get the most from the vitality and ingenuity in the private sector upon the upper layers
- To have the **My Number system***, etc. be utilized more, to carry out **open data**, and to connect or expand various **platforms** **See p.17*
- To have a mechanism for the private sector to support the public services through **My Number Card authentication**
- To **digitalize all industries** including semi-public sectors such as medical care, education, and disaster management based on **data driven** ideas

2) Digitalization in semi-public sector

Problems / As-Is

Services are **fragmented** in terms of various domains such as medical care, education, disaster management, and children, and in turn the services are not provided in ideal ways.

Ideals / To-Be

We pursue a society in which **individuals can receive services at will** based on their needs, and **proactively design their own lifestyles** for more pleasant lives.

- To promote **the sharing of data beyond sectors** throughout the public and private spheres. To clearly set **rules for data-sharing and -use by the private sector**
- To fully commit to the idea of **Open Data by Design** in the semi-public sector. In addition, to carry out **the principle of API / data disclosure** too
- **To design the architecture on data linkage** between national and local governments. As well, to **standardize data handling rules that differ between information systems** while sharing basic data and making **data open**
- To review systems and operations that hinder utilizing data in each sector, and to promote **cross-sectoral data usage**.
- To ensure cyber security so that the citizens can choose services in a **safe and secured environment**

3) Vitalizing local areas through digitalization

Problems / As-Is

Digital technology has the potential to make it much more **possible to solve regional issues** and to facilitate data collection and **sharing of ideas and methods across the country**. However, there are hurdles such as **insufficient infrastructure and data unconnectedness**, for example between national and local governments and between local governments.

Ideals / To-Be

We build up **digital reform from locals and digital deployment**, providing common digital infrastructure for the locals. As a result, local issues are figured out and that makes every single local area more attractive since every region cultivates its own appeal points, then creating a **regionally decentralized society** and **various, attractive job opportunities in the local areas**.

- **To get local areas Digital-deployed** such as through nation-wide governmental information infrastructure, digital human resources, and the increase in employment & entertainment in the digital sector
- **To achieve the Digital Government** such as through unification / standardization of information systems in local governments, making public services procedures simplified / online, and realizing one-stop push-type services
- To realize **networking on local human resources and regional issues** (local public organizations will reveal their own issues and encourage proposals and co-creation for solutions with regard to regional issues, resulting in that young people can move from the city and create new businesses, etc.)
- To attain, from the abovementioned, creation of local employment, the development of business sales channels, the acceleration toward decarbonization and the circular economy, etc., **contributing to “Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation Realization,”** which ensures no less convenience for locals than people in city areas and keep advertising the attractive points the locals are proud of.

4) Digital Society where no one will be left behind

Problems / As-Is

With the progress of digital technology, it is now **possible to do things that we gave up on in the past**, such as being able to use digital devices and services **in the way that you would like** (through your voice, eye movement, etc.).

Ideals / To-Be

Regardless of geographical restrictions, age, gender, disability or illness, nationality, financial situation, and others, **anyone can enjoy the benefits through digital technology to solve various issues** in daily life. The digital society where **no one will be left behind**, where **you can truly find affluence**.

- **To establish the service design system** from the users' perspective first
- To pave the way for a "**digital symbiotic society where everyone will support each other**" in which the national government, local governments, corporations / other organizations, and citizens can cooperate with each other (e.g., great care to elderly people, people with disabilities, children, foreign residents in Japan, and to build and fortify a digital promotion staff system)
- To take measures against the negative aspects of digital technology and to constantly review based on EBPM

5) Securing/Development of digital human resources

Problems / As-Is

It is inevitable to enhance the human resources who will be able to carry out digital reform. However, **it is hard to say that the human resources for this society as a whole are sufficient in terms of quality and quantity.**

Ideals / To-Be

We will **improve digital literacy of all** subject to how you live, create an **environment where anyone can develop their own career between the public / private sectors and academia**, and utilize their unique talents, in turn broadly **ensuring human resources and improving their expertise.** Then, in such a society, every digital talent will play an active role.

- To let **the Digital Agency itself** take advantage of digital human resources. To secure digital human resources in national government ministries
- To shape an environment where people can learn **ICT skills** subject to how each of them lives their life
- To foster an environment where the digital talents can move between the public and private sectors and academia, to build their own career, and to foster **digital human resources among the locals**
- To **research the quality and quantity of human resources necessary to realize the digital society**, and to publish the result. As a consequence, that would **bring effective measures by various actors of the public and private sectors and academia**, including to develop digital human resources among the locals, to eliminate gender gaps in the digital field, and to manage foreign human resources.

6) Global cooperation strategy including promotion of DFFT

※Data Free Flow with Trust

Problems / As-Is

With regard to digital technology, international issues like cyber security concerns, uneven distribution of data, and unfair competition, have **become apparent**. At present, there are **multiple international frameworks** to deal with these issues. **However, we need to ensure consistency of these international frameworks.**

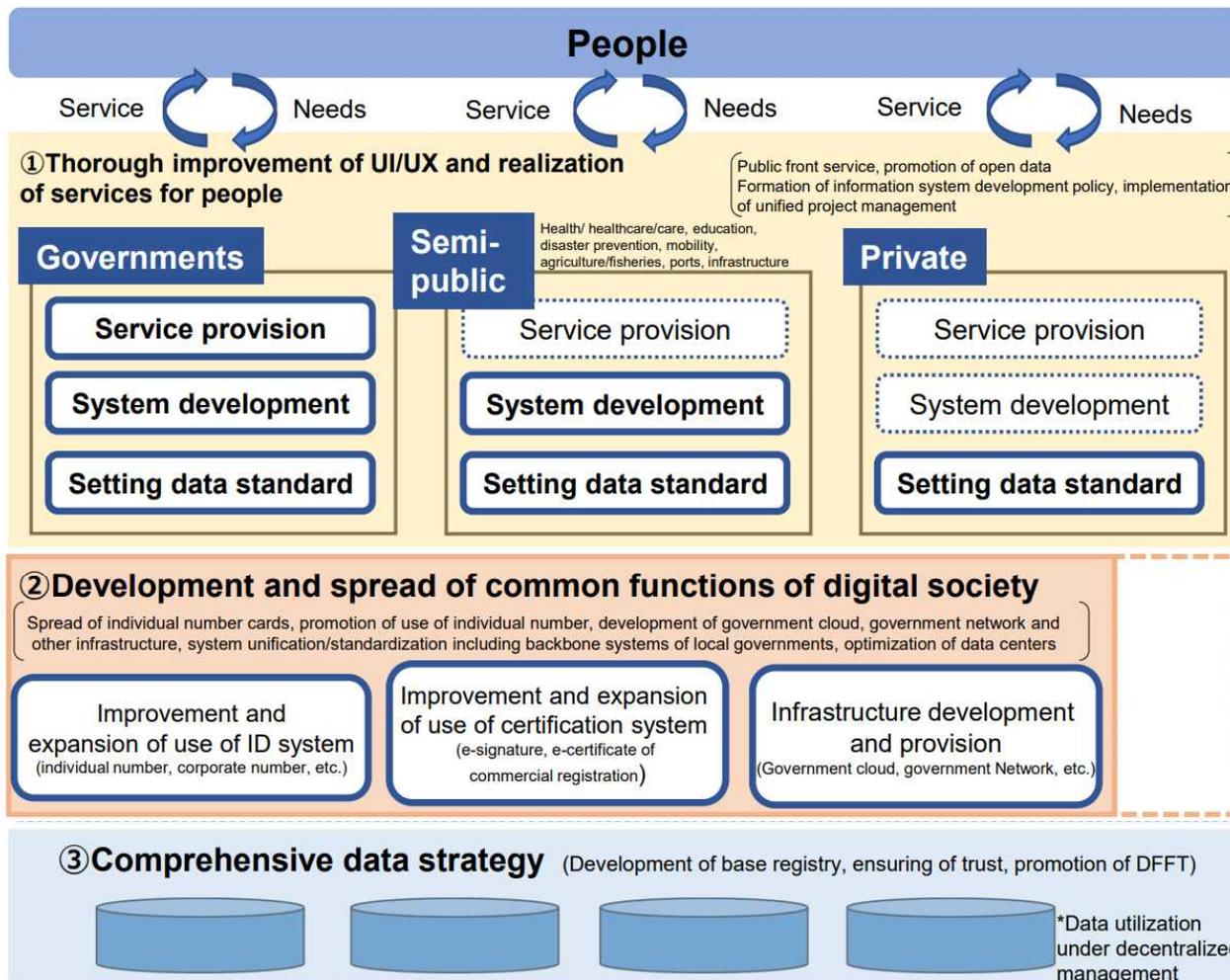
Ideals / To-Be

Japan will **lead the world in the use of digital technology and forging data flows** through international cooperation for **promoting DFFT**, with related ministries and agencies examining in their respective policy fields.

- To formulate international rules and frameworks for **promoting DFFT**, and to consider proactive proposals for the international rules in anticipation of the G7 Summit in Japan in 2023
- To promote **international cooperation** in collaboration with organizations in charge of digital policies in other countries
- To maintain the balance of values between economic growth / innovation, **economic security** and **sustainable growth**

The role of the Digital Agency

When promoting digitalization of our society in collaboration among the national government, local governments, and private businesses toward the Digital Society, **the Digital Agency will take the initiative in building the Digital Society** with other ministries and agencies.



For effective implementation of these measures

④ Securing/development of human resources in public and private sectors

(Improvement of digital literacy
Training/securing of experts)

⑤ Procurement/regulation reform for utilization of new technologies

(Review procurement method for utilization of new technologies
Regulatory reform)

As premises for improvement of people's convenience

⑥ Secured accessibility

(Support development of information communication networks
Realize an environment free from information barriers,
enhance the consultation system regarding ICT equipment)

⑦ Ensure safety and security

(Security of the cyber security, protection of personal information, etc.)

⑧ Promote R&D/demonstration

⑨ Examine and evaluate plans

Society in which everyone can choose services that meet their needs and diverse happiness is realized

Human-friendly digitalization that leaves no one behind

A digital society in which people are not conscious of digital technology

Philosophy / Principles for the Digital Society

To build the Digital Society where no one will be left behind

In the Digital Society, **anyone can enjoy, anywhere at anytime, the benefits of digital technology** considering the individual users' perspectives and various situations/needs.

Basic principles for formation of the Digital Society

10 principles
(from the Basic Policy on Digital Reform)

(1) Open / Transparent	(6) Quick / Flexible
(2) Fairness / Ethics	(7) Inclusion / Diversity
(3) Safety / Secure	(8) Immersion
(4) Continuation/Stable/Resilient	(9) Creating new value
(5) Solving social issues	(10) Leap/International contribution

Digital 3 principles
(Administrative procedures online)

Digital First

Each procedure / service is completed online

Once Only

Information once submitted does not need to be submitted again

Connected One-Stop

All procedures / services are finished at once

The BPR and regulatory reform

※Business Process Reengineering

We will work on **business process reengineering (BPR)** by improving the convenience for users on the original administrative procedures and then the efficiency of administrative process because “digitization” per se will not be our goal. In addition, to maximize the effect through “digitalization,” **regulations will be reformed** at the same time.

Cloud-by-default principle

To adopt the **cloud-by-default principle** when developing the information systems in ministries of the national government

Digital Principles for Structural reforms

Digital Principles

The following principles for comprehensive structural reforms have been established to cement the common basis for Digital, Regulatory, and Administrative reforms that are essential to build the Digital Society.

(1) Full Digital / Automation Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review the requirements for writing, visual inspection etc.Realize digitalization including in the administration etc.	(2) Agile Governance Principle (quick and flexible) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Risk-based performance requirementThorough data-based EBPM etc.	(3) Public-Private Partnership Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none">New public-private partnership that fully extracts the capability of the private sector, including ventures and startups, even in the field of public services etc.
(4) Ensuring Interoperability Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none">Remove discrepancies between entities / fields such as national / local governments, semi-public sectors, and assure interoperability among systems etc.	(5) Common Infrastructure Usage Principle <ul style="list-style-type: none">Use the common digital infrastructure broadly in the public and private sectorsPromote standardization and commonization for procurement specifications etc.	

Confirmation of compliance with Digital Principle

(1) Regulatory reform

- The Digital Extraordinary Administrative Advisory Committee confirms whether each act, regulation & notice complies with the Digital Principles.
- Holistic reform plan for legal frameworks which are found as not compliant with the Principles will be set out by the spring of 2022.
- Consider the process for confirmation of compliance with the Digital Principles when acts or regulations are installed.

(2) Administrative reform

- Strengthen EBPM policy perspective.
- Improve the environment for utilizing data and consider the ideal way for Agile Public Policy planning & evaluation which can flexibly respond while quickly turning the policy cycle data.

(3) Digital reform

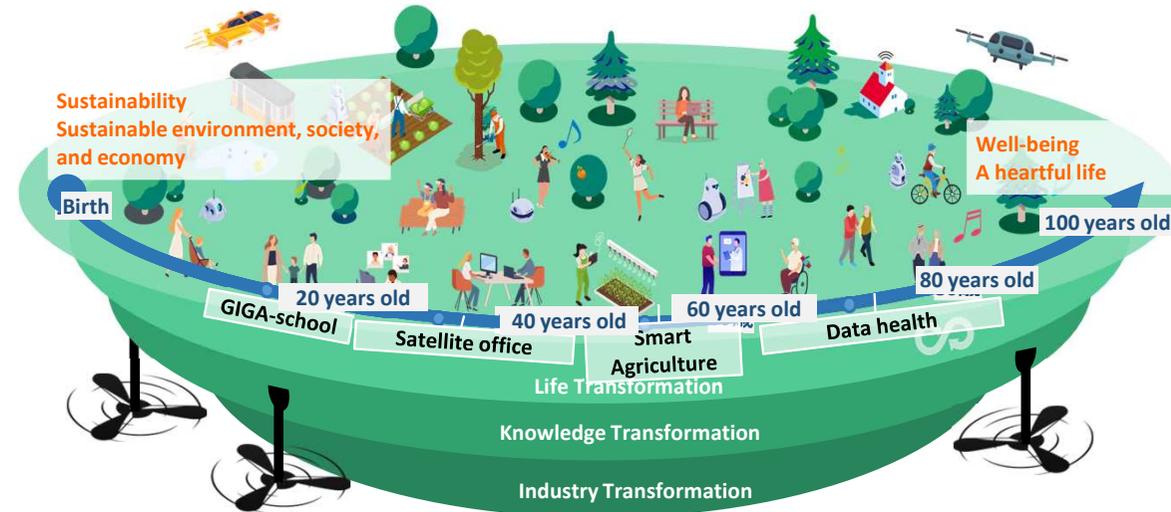
- Identify services for the citizens that are supposed to be reviewed on the Digital Principles, and develop the essential digital infrastructure.
- Consider measures to enhance training across all levels regarding talents in digital who are responsible for new services.

Digital Society by the comprehensive reforms on digital, regulation, and administration

- By achieving comprehensive reforms on digital, regulation, and administration, we will tackle the issues including lack of workforce in every field, build a society that enables diverse lifestyles, and lead to economic growth by making efforts for new challenges by individuals and businesses.

Crystalizing Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation

- Unleashing the full potential of digital technology, “developing the character and abundance of the local areas,” and “being equal or more productive and convenient than the city areas,” crystalize the “Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation.”
- And achieve “Well-being” & “Sustainability in environment, society, and economy.”



Basic concept for vision for a Digital Garden City Nation

To the extent that it follows the Digital principles and promotes the development of open data infrastructure, the government will support local activities that collaborate with multiple businesses and citizens to figure out the social issues.

Main efforts for a Digital Garden City Nation

- (1) Developing digital infrastructure that supports local areas
- (2) Deploying digital services that solve local issues
- (3) Fostering digital human resources & Enhancing the new influx to local areas
- (4) Revitalizing local industries and foster startups for digital technology
- (5) Exporting the Digital Garden City Nation model to the world

Setting clear goals

Require to set clear goals and to report to the supporter the progress and the results by monitoring all activities for a Digital Garden City Nation.

Promoting international strategy

(1) International cooperation including promotion of DFFT

- Proactively participate in formulating international rules related to the global distribution of data, and actively engage in international cooperation, contributions, and exchanges.
- For the G7 Summit in Japan in 2023, from a neutral position on technology, we also consider proposals for international rules that balance “economic growth and innovation,” “Security,” “Privacy,” and “Economic Security”

(2) Strengthening cooperation with organizations involved in digital policies in other countries

- Strengthen relationships through exchanging memorandums of understanding (MOU) after setting appropriate agendas for each country.

Ensuring safety and security

(1) Ensuring cyber security

- After FY2022, the Digital Agency will cooperate with NISC to implement the Information system development policy to be persistently applied to the information systems including those that the Digital Agency develops and operates.
- Promote the use of hybrid clouds according to the confidentiality of information in the government.
- By the end of FY2023, the governmental common standard will be revised while using cloud services in more and more government information systems.

(2) Personal information protection

- Setting guidelines, PR for the new legislation, and building the capacity of the Personal information Protection Committee for the revised laws to be enforced.

(3) Counter cybercrimes

- Make public-private partnership efforts to prevent malicious access and promote reporting cybercrime to the police.

(4) Disaster recovery for advanced information and communication networks

- Improve environment to ensure network redundancy and to dispatch mobile power generators when a disaster occurs.

Executing National Data Strategy

(1) Framework to secure trust

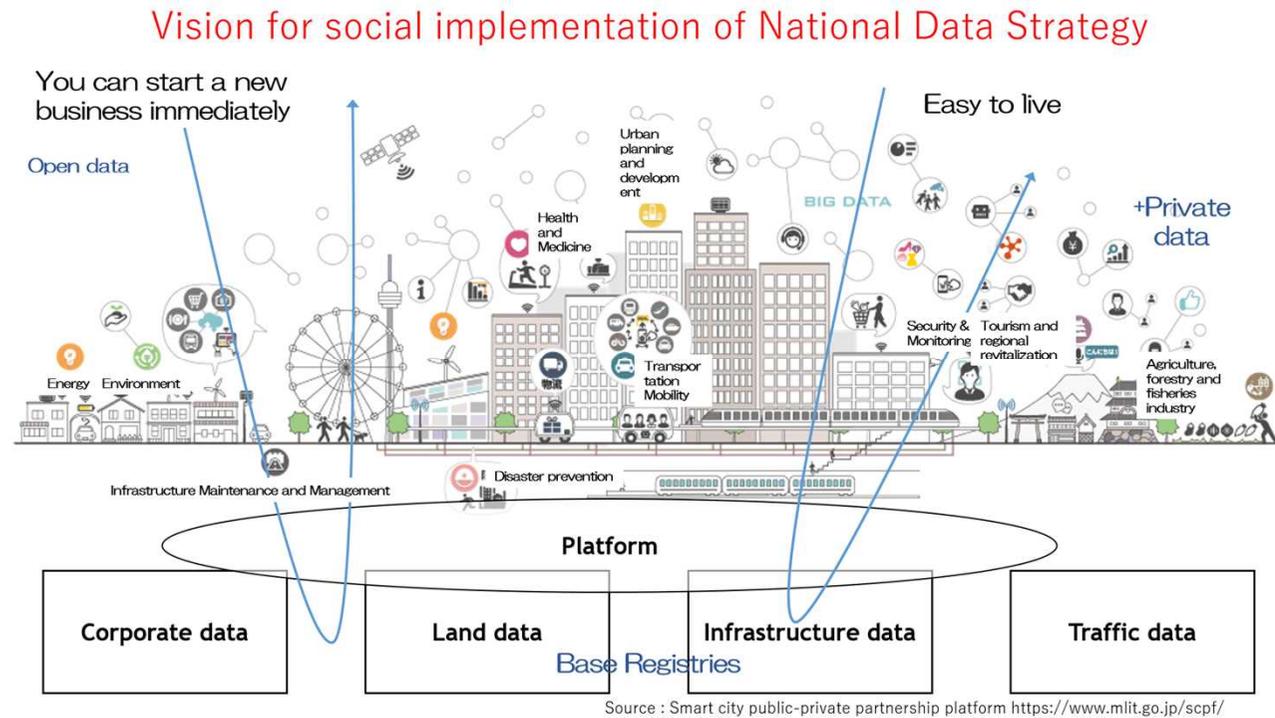
Summarize the basic ideas of the framework (Trust Policy) by the end of FY2022.

(2) Developing Base Registries

In terms of business entity / business operator, address / land, administration and so on, develop Base Registries in each field with related ministries and agencies.

(3) Promoting Open Data

Taking into account cyber security and protection of personal information, promote the disclosure and utilization of public data in the national and local governments.



Developing the digital industry

Fostering Japan's digital industry, including small and medium-sized enterprises such as start-ups

Digitalization of public services for citizens

Building a consistent system architecture through national government, local government and private sector

- Design the system architecture that enables administrations to deliver services with competitive quality, cost, and speed.

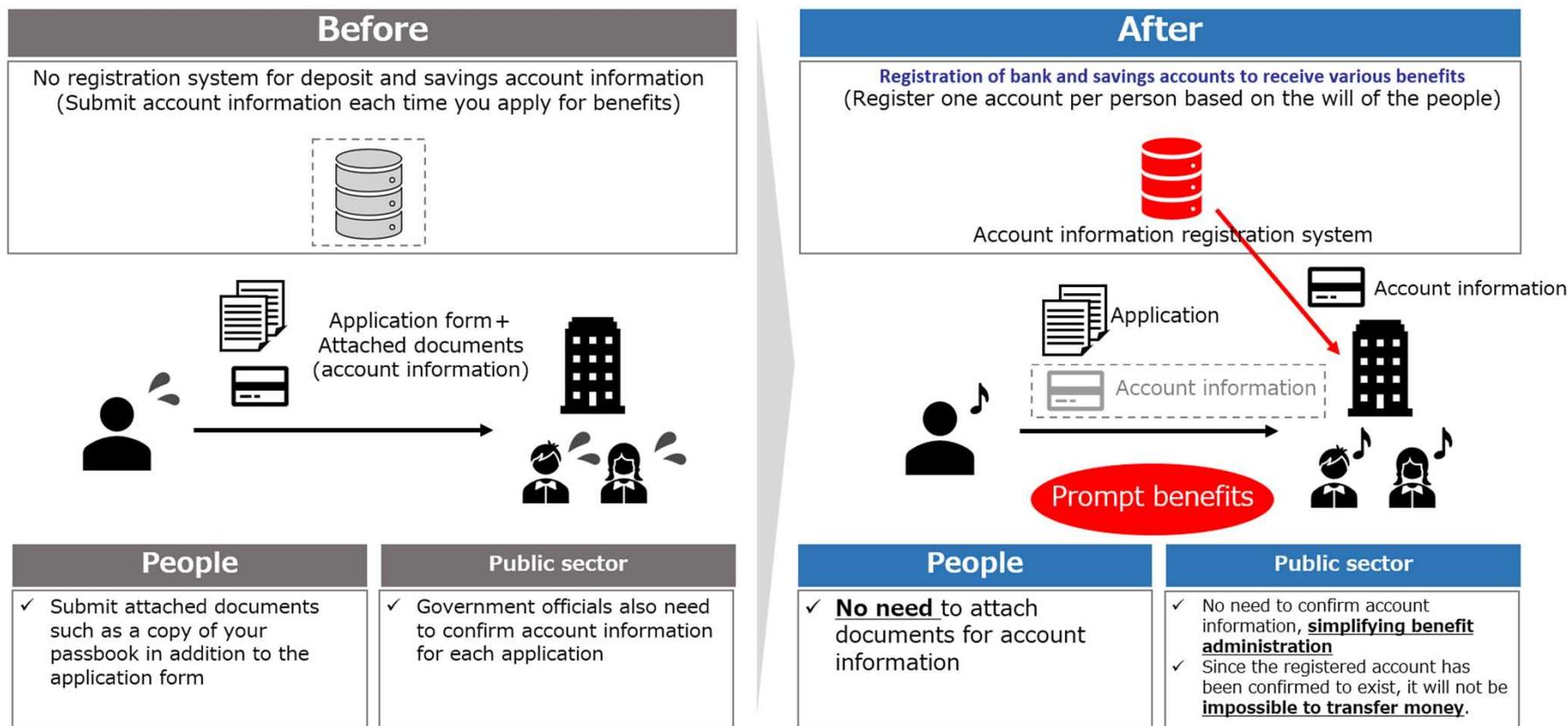
Digitalizing administrative services in emergency such as COVID-19

(1) Launching the vaccination certificate on smartphones

- Launching the smartphone app for the vaccination certificate that is ensured through identity verification by using My Number Card, that started in 2021, and to keep improving the app.

(2) Classifying public benefits and promoting registration & use of bank and savings accounts to receive various benefits

- To start registering each bank and savings account to receive various public benefits by using My Number Card next spring, and also to start sharing registered account information by public sector for the actual benefits by the end of FY2022.



Digitalization of public services for citizens

Promoting utilization of My Number system

(1) Expanding the range for information sharing in the My Number system

- To scrutinize each field of administrative procedures across all ministries, and to review administrative processes given the use of My Number and information sharing. Then, reviewing the My Number system, to submit the bill to the ordinary session of the Diet in 2023 with the public's understanding.

(2) Promoting digitalization of various national licenses and qualifications

- To conduct the survey on the scope of various national licenses and qualifications by FY2021, to develop the information system that administrators for license and qualification can use in tandem to share the information by FY2023, and to start digitalization in FY2024.

Promoting obtaining and use of My Number Card

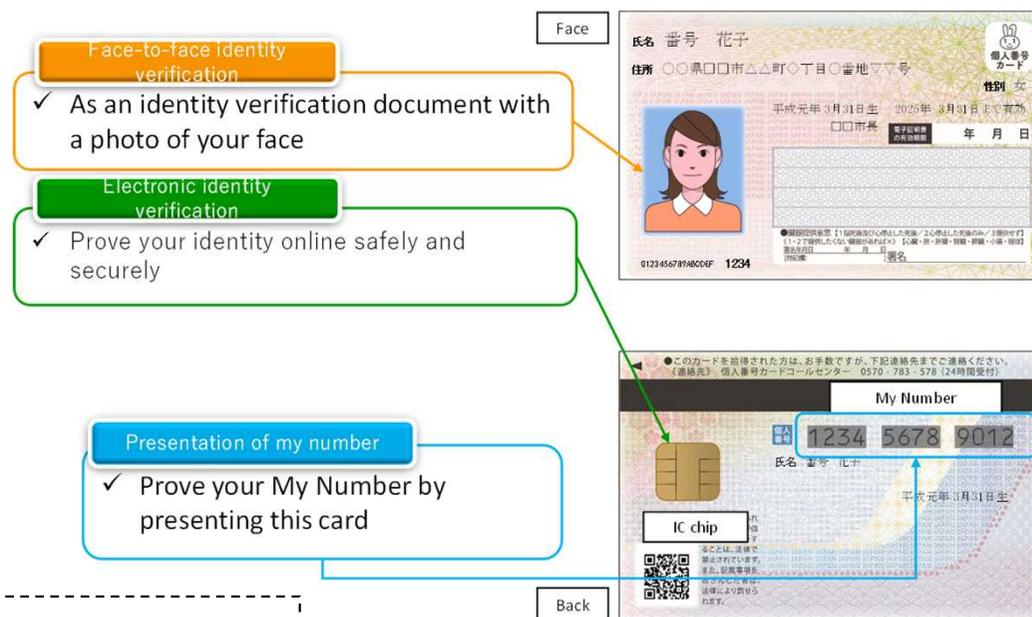
- To urge almost all people to obtain My Number Cards by the end of FY2022.
- To improve the environment that almost all medical institutions install equipment for My Number Cards to function as health insurance cards by the end of FY2022. Moreover, to integrate My Number Cards with driver's licenses by the end of FY2024.
- To expand use cases of My Number Cards through drastic improvement of Myna-portal websites and expansion of use cases in private services.

My Number:

- A 12-digit number designated and notified to each and every resident in Japan.

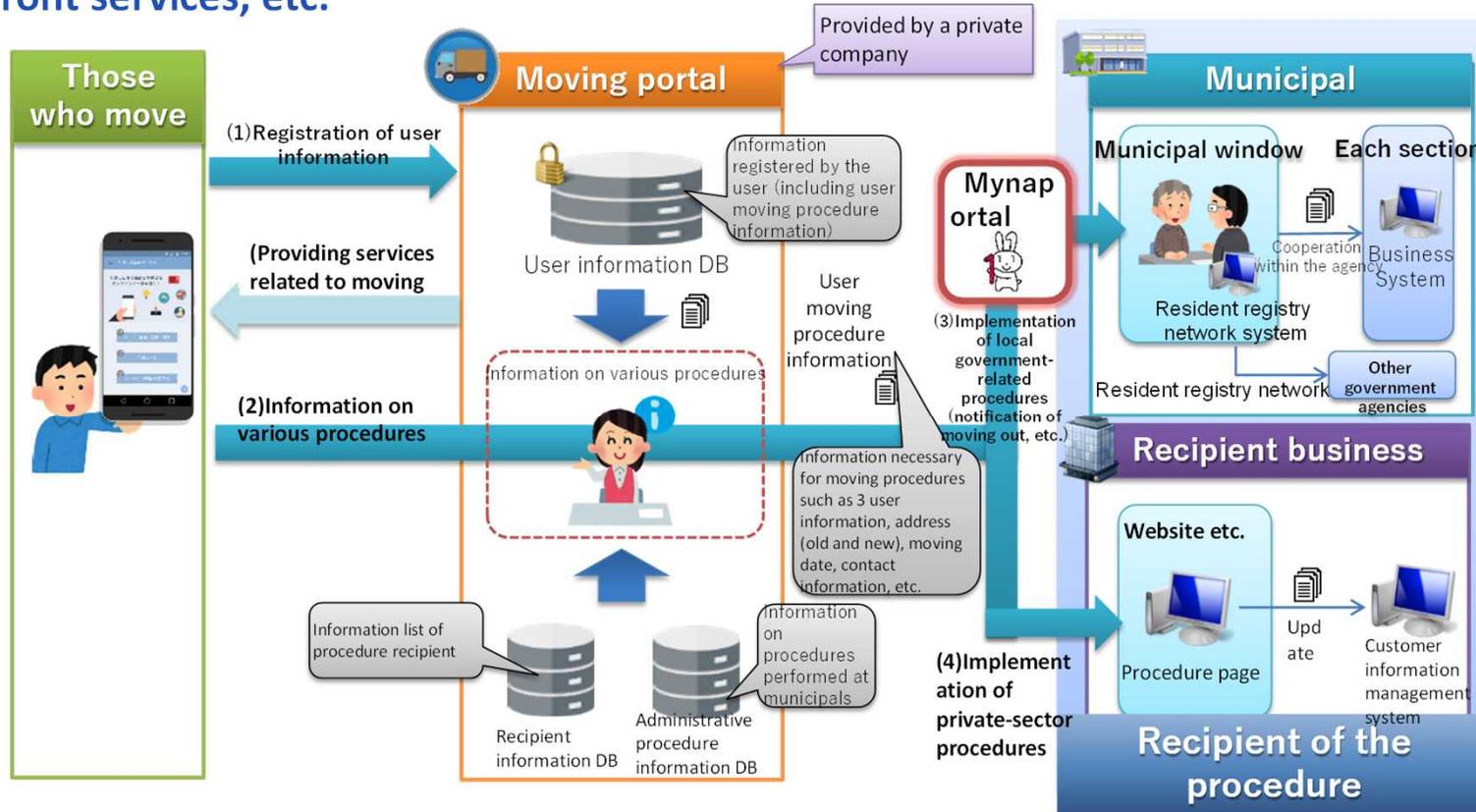
My Number Card:

- A plastic card issued by the public sector and containing an ID photograph of the individual, etc.
- Individuals can verify their My Numbers and identification only with this My Number Card.
- The IC chip contains an electronic feature for authenticating the card bearer (electronic certificate).



Digitalization of public services for citizens

Providing public Front services, etc.



(1) To enhance convenience through My Number

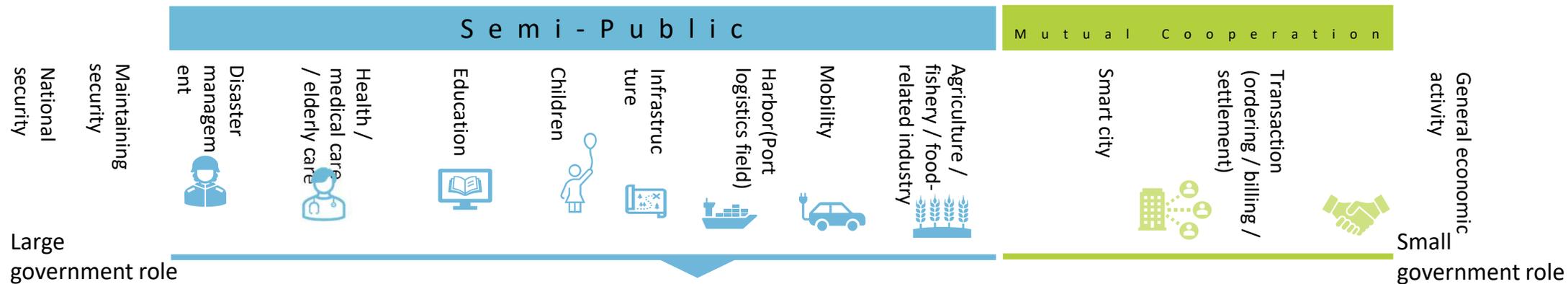
- By registering My Number with each bank and savings accounts, to become available as a service for inheritance or natural disasters, in FY2024.

(2) Promoting one-stop services

- Promote one-stop services for child-rearing / nursing care, moving, death / inheritance, social insurance / tax procedures, and corporate establishment procedures.
- Promote digitalization of procedures for passport applications, foreigner-residence, immigration, etc.

Digitalization of lifestyle

Promotion of digitalization in the Semi-public sector



(1) Health / medical care / elderly care

- To promote the utilization of private PHR services.
- To formulate a basic policy for online medical care.
- To establish a platform for data linkage and utilization.

(2) Education

- To promote the digitalization of school affairs including smooth communication with family.
- To promote the utilization of educational data. (Data standardization, promotion of platform-related measures, ID framework)
- To consider education for the Digital Society that makes “individually optimized learning” and “collaborative learning” feasible.

(3) Disaster management

- To consider the architecture for disaster information and to establish a platform to realize data linkage.
- To promote the digitalization of disaster prevention workload in local governments.

(4) Children

- To carry out the pilot project that connects data from education, childcare, welfare, medical care, etc. across fields and to utilize it for push-type support that satisfies the needs for children and families who really want help.

(5) Mobility

- To perform examination / development / demonstration for the distribution of mobility-related data.
- To develop digital infrastructure including 3D space ID.

(6) Transaction (ordering / billing / settlement)

- For the digitalization of back offices of small and medium-sized enterprises, to promote the digitalization of orders and to advance standardized electronic invoices.
- To establish data standards and data-linkage infrastructure to enable the linkage for the entire transaction from order to settlement.

Digitalization of industries

(1) Efforts to improve the quality of administrative services for businesses

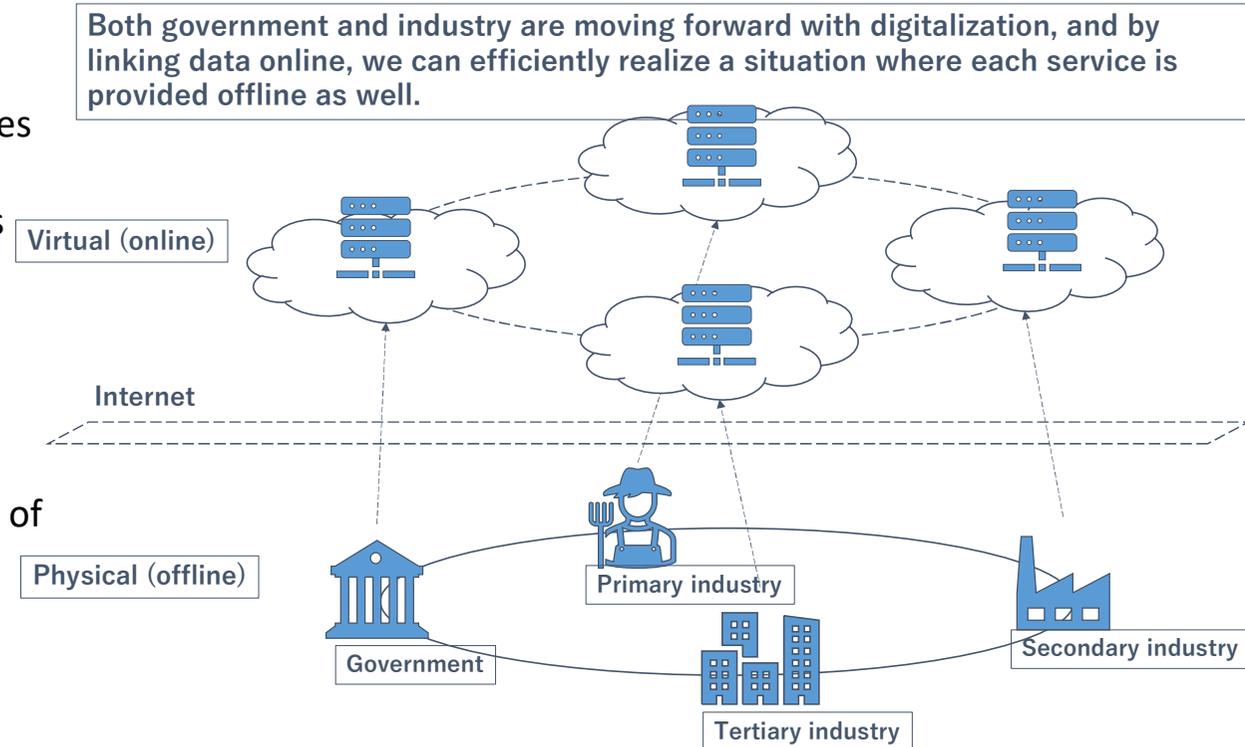
- To promote Electronic signature, Electronic power of attorney, Electronic certificate of commercial registration, and g-Biz ID (common authentication platform for businesses).
- To increase the variety of online administrative services for businesses like through e-Gov (web portal for administrative applications), j-Grants (common grants application web service), etc.

(2) Support for digitalization of small and medium-sized enterprises

- To support digitalization of the business environment for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (introduction of production management tools, online orders, “digitalization diagnosis,” dispatching IT experts, IT introduction subsidy)
- To support cyber security measures for SMEs.

(3) Digital transformation of the entire industry

- To promote corporate DX by DX certification, selection of DX certified stocks, DX investment promotion tax policy, etc.
- To enhance cyber security in industry.



System & technology for the Digital Society

Renovating information systems of the National government

(1) Governance for information systems that are critical from policy perspective

- Governance for quickly building prototypes at the Digital Agency.

(2) Government Cloud

- Build a "Government Cloud" that is quick, flexible, secure, and cost-effective by the Digital Agency
- In FY2021 and 2022, to run the preliminary project by some local governments and to use it for the website of the Digital Agency.

(3) Government Network

- Set up "Government Solution Service" that provides a common, standardized business execution environment for governments by the Digital Agency.
- To abandon the current governmental network and to construct a new broad-bandwidth, high-quality, low-cost, and high-security inter-ministerial network.

Renovating information systems of local governments

(1) The basic rule for standardizing information systems in local governments, etc.

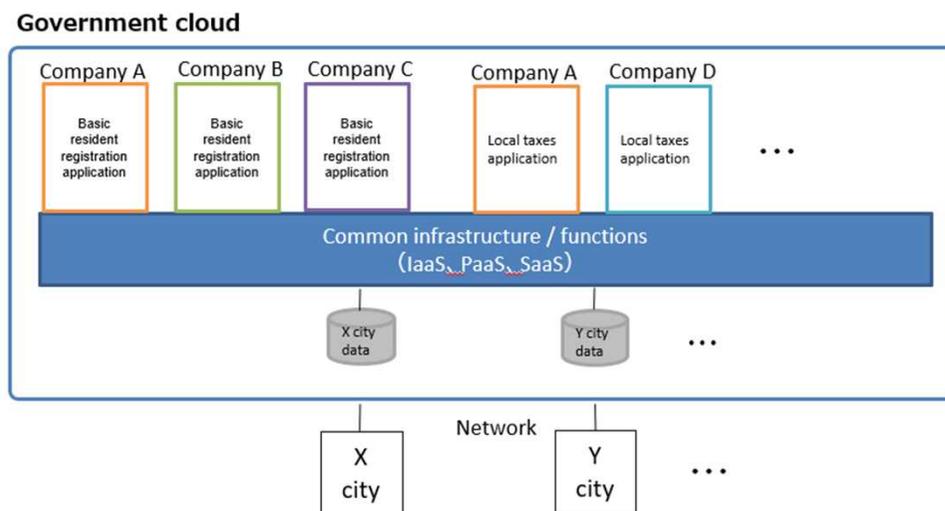
- To set the basic rule for standardization in FY2021.
- In addition to 17 administrative procedures such as children's allowance, to add citizen registration & related and certified stamp registration work for standardization target.

Developing Infrastructure

- 5G, optical fiber, data centers, domestic submarine cable maintenance, and semiconductor strategies

Promoting R&D for the Digital Society

- To have higher performance of information and communication / computing technology, and to sophisticate security technology, etc.
- To develop next-generation information infrastructure such as supercomputers and academic information networks.



Lifestyle and human resources in the digital society

Shifting to a new lifestyle in anticipation of post-COVID-19 era

- To get a better work-remotely environment that allows office workers to work in a normal manner.
- To further promote the sharing economy while improving the safety and reliability of such services.

Securing/Development of digital human resources

(1) Upgrading digital literacy

- Education following the new course of study and teaching, such as making programming compulsory in elementary schools.
- To develop practical programs for adults, and to train specialized human resources to support recurrent education, etc.

(2) Fostering and securing digital professional human resources

- To build the digital human resources platform that provides educational contents & curriculum and a place for practical learning.
- For digital human resources in the government, to aggressively hire applicants such as for the "digital classification" that will be newly introduced in the public officials' recruitment examination in 2022.
- To create an environment where human resources are developed through revolving human resources across the boundaries of organizations including ministries, local governments, and the private sector.
- To develop female digital human resources by providing opportunities for recurrent education in the digital field for women, supporting job opportunities, and creating an environment where women can work online with shorter working hours or remotely.

Governance

(1) **Digital Agency** (play a leading role)

(2) **Digital Society Promotion Council** (promoting implementation of measures)

(3) **Council for the Digital Society** (Investigation and discussion on important measures)

(4) **Digital Extraordinary Administrative Advisory Committee** (To establish digital principles for structural reforms that are the basis of digital, regulatory, and administrative reforms & to check all laws and regulations to be compliant with such digital principles)

(5) **Council for a Vision for a Digital Garden City Nation Realization** (To support measures to solve social issues in local regions on the premise of observing digital principles with data)

(6) **Cooperation with local governments, etc.**

(7) **Cooperation with private businesses sectors, etc.**