Japan’s Digital Policy

Minister for Digital

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Digital Agency

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Why the Digital Agency?
COVID-19 Pandemic:  
A wake-up call for Japan’s digital transformation

- Management of the health crises hampered by outdated and cumbersome administrative system

- In the past, each ministry, agency, and local government has been promoting digitalization separately.

- Resulted in 1,700 local governments with 1,700 systems: procured and managed separately with dispersed responsibility

- The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted such practice as ineffective
• Last year, then Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide made the digitalization of Japan one of his top priorities.

• Accordingly, the Digital Agency was established at an incredible speed and launched in September 2021.

• The Digital Agency has strong powers of comprehensive coordination, such as the power to make recommendations to other ministries and agencies.
What do we aim for?
Human-friendly digitalization : No one left behind
We strive to create a future for Japan that we all can take pride in and to envision a digital society where diverse forms of happiness are realized.
Our Vision

Government as a Service
We offer services that maximize the value of user experience through organic collaboration with national and local governments, the private sector, and all other stakeholders.

Government as a Startup
We lead the digital transformation across society in a bold and speedy way, with mutual trust and learning from a multitude of challenges by aspirational talent from the public and private sectors.
Our Values

- For each and every individual in this country
- Always with a sense of purpose
- Across all positions
- Continue to challenge ourselves for impact
What will we do?
Policy priorities: “total design”

- Improvement of user-friendliness of online public services
- Development of common functions such as IDs, certifications and infrastructure such as cloud services and networks
- Comprehensive data strategy
- Building digital capabilities through training and education
- Regulatory reform to allow use of new technologies
- Securing accessibility
- Ensuring safety and security
- Promoting R&D and demonstration
- Examine and Evaluate the program
Serve for the benefit of people

The Vaccination Record System (VRS)

• While administration related to inoculation is conducted at local governments, VRS allowed the central government to grasp real-time data and effectively reflect the data in policy decision-making.

• Individuals who move across municipalities benefit from the interconnectivity of records.

• VRS allows flexible improvements— it will soon connect with online vaccine certificate apps.
In the global context
“We must, on one hand, be able to put our personal data and data embodying intellectual property, national security intelligence, and so on, under careful protection, while on the other hand, we must enable the free flow of medical, industrial, traffic and other most useful, non-personal, anonymous data to see no borders, repeat, no borders.

The regime we must build is one for D.F.F.T., Data Free Flow with Trust--non-personal data, needless to say.”

January 23, 2019
World Economic Forum Annual Meeting
Thank you.