Japan's Digital Policy

Minister for Digital
MAKISHIMA Karen

December 2021

Digital Agency

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- Management of the health crises hampered by outdated and cumbersome administrative system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

Digital Agency newly launched

- 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?

Our Mission

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

Data Free Flow with Trust

" 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.