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Achievements of e-Japan Strategy and New Challenges

Toshimitsu MOTEGI

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Japanese Diet Member

It is very meaningful to host a forum for IT development across Asia with participation of representatives from so many countries and I am grateful and honored to be invited to this forum again following the last one in Singapore. I would also like to show my respect for the efforts of Microsoft in preparing for this event.

The promotion of IT revolution has extreme political significance as it affects the economy and the society of each country in the 21st century. With that, I would like to talk today about the short-term achievements and future challenges of Japan's IT strategy and the direction of our new IT strategy.

(和訳)

今回これだけの多くの国の代表が集まり、アジア全体としてIT発展のためにフォーラムが開催されることは、意義深いものであり、昨年シンガポールに引き続き、お招き頂いたことは大変嬉しくまた光栄にも思う。今回の会合を準備してこられたマイクロソフトの尽力にも敬意を表したい。

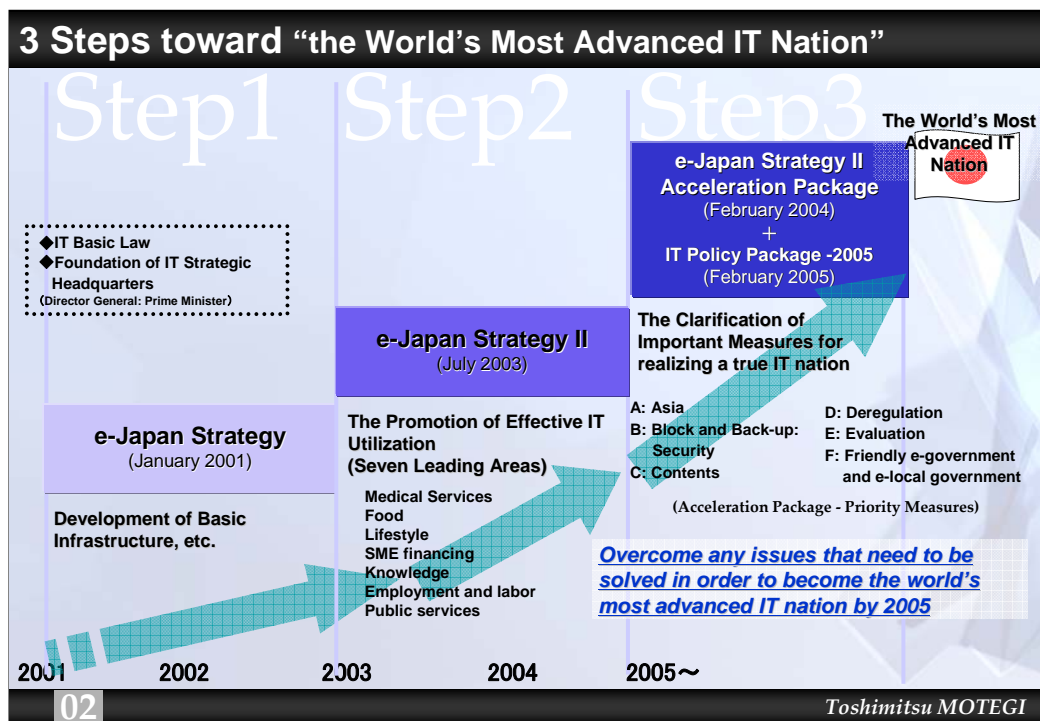
もとよりIT革命の推進は、今世紀の各国経済社会の在り方を大きく左右するものであり、その政策的意義は極めて大きい。このような点を踏まえつつ、本日は、日本におけるIT戦略について、短期間で成し遂げた成果と今後の課題、また新戦略の方向性についてご紹介させていただきたい。

- 1. e-Japan strategy towards becoming the World's Most Advanced IT Nation**
- 2. Future challenges in IT policy**
- 3. Direction of the new IT strategy in Japan**

I would like to discuss three points. First, I would like to mention the 3 steps taken by Japan throughout the “e-Japan Strategy” to realize the “world’s most advanced IT nation”. Next, I will be touching upon the future challenges that Japan faces in promoting IT policy. Finally, I will be introducing to you the direction of our IT strategy that is currently undergoing deliberation.

(和訳)

私はこの場を借りて、3点を述べたい。最初に、我が国が「世界最先端のIT国家」を実現するために「e-Japan戦略」を通じてとってきた3つのステップについて紹介させて頂く。続いて、我が国のIT政策における今後の課題について触れたい。最後に、現在検討が進められている、我が国の今後のIT戦略の方向性について紹介したい。



Japan has taken 3 steps to achieve its goal of becoming the “World Most Advanced IT Nation by the end of 2005.”

The 1st step was the “e-Japan strategy” which was determined by the IT Strategic Headquarter, headed by the Prime Minister in January 2001. The e-Japan strategy was mainly focused on the establishment of a basic network infrastructure. This has been achieved within 3 years and we have succeeded in providing the world’s fastest internet service with the lowest rate in the world.

Therefore we moved our focus to “IT utilization” in the following “e-Japan Strategy version II”, determined in July 2003. This was aimed at promoting actual IT utilization especially in the seven leading fields.

For the 3rd step, we established the “e-Japan Strategy II Acceleration Package” and “IT Policy Package 2005” in order to identify and promote the areas that must be accelerated to become the world’s most advanced IT nation.

Japan became the world’s most advanced IT nation in only 5 years through these 3 steps.

(和訳)

我が国は「5年以内(2005年末まで)に世界最先端のIT国家となることを目指す」との目標を達成するため、これまで大きく分けて3つのステップをとってきた。

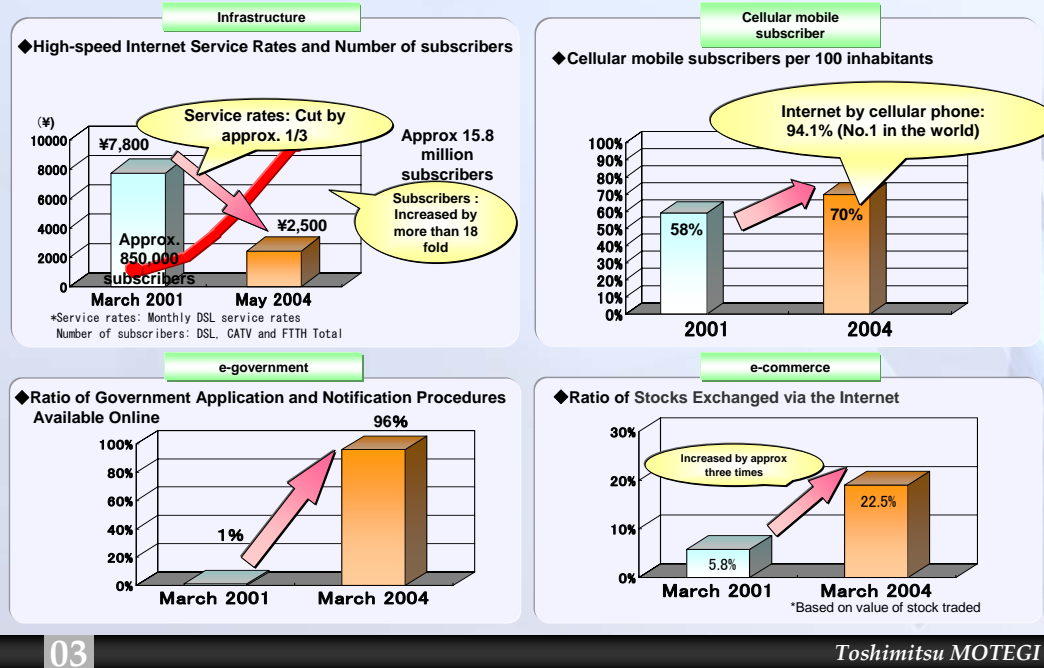
第1ステップでは、首相を本部長とするIT戦略本部を設置し、我が国のIT戦略の基礎となる「e-Japan Strategy」を2001年1月にとりまとめた。ここでは、まず情報インフラ基盤の整備に重点をおき、3年間でほぼインフラの整備を完了すると共に、世界で最も低廉で高速なインターネット環境の実現に成功した。

続く2003年7月に決定した「e-Japan戦略II」では、軸足を「IT利活用」に移し、7つの先導的分野において具体的なITの活用を進める戦略をとってきた。

第3ステップでは、2005年に世界最先端のIT国家を達成するために加速化が必要な分野を明確にした「e-Japan戦略II 加速化パッケージ」と、「IT政策パッケージ-2005」をそれぞれとりまとめ推進してきた。

これらの3つのステップにより、我が国は僅か5年で世界最先端のIT国家を実現した。

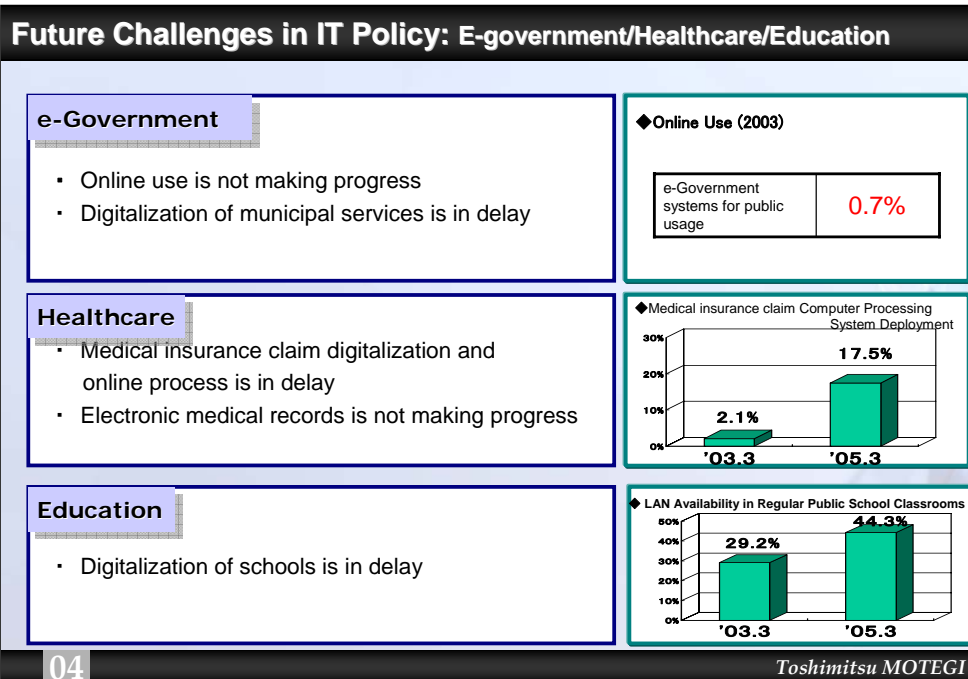
Achievements of the e-Japan Strategy



You will find some examples of our achievements in these charts. Taking the example of infrastructure development, as the monthly rate for high-speed internet service has been cut by approx.1/3 since March 2001, subscriber numbers have increased more than 18 fold. And also as e-Government services have increased rapidly, the ratio of government application and notification procedures available online has increased from 1% to 96%.

(和訳)

これらが、e-Japan戦略による成果の例である。インフラ整備を例に取れば、高速ネットワークサービスの月額料金が3分の1近くに低廉化され、契約者数は18倍にも伸長した。また、政府への申請、申告などのオンライン化率(オンラインでの申請・申告が可能となった手続きの割合)は1%から96%へと進んだ。



As seen here, digitalization in Japan has advanced rapidly, but there are issues that need to be solved in the future.

For example, concerning e-Government; Government application procedures available online has been almost completed, but with no apparent increase in its actual use. Use of procedures like e-Government systems for the public usage is especially low at 0.7%. Healthcare is one of the areas falling far behind in digitalization. Progress in medical insurance claim digitalization remains low at 17.5%. Education is another area behind in digitalization. Local Area Network (LAN) availability in schools is only 44.3%.

(和訳)

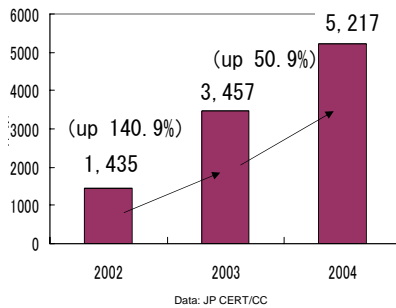
このように、我が国の情報化は急速に進んだが、今後解決すべき課題も残されている。例えば、電子政府について、国の手続きの電子化は完了したが、その実際の利用が進んでいない。特に各府省の汎用的なシステム等の手続きは利用率0.7%と低い。医療分野は、特に情報化が遅れている分野の一つである。レセプトの電算化は17.5%と低い進捗率にとどまっている。教育分野も、特に情報化が遅れている分野の一つである。校内LAN整備率は未だ44.3%と低い水準である。

Future Challenges in IT Policy: Information Security

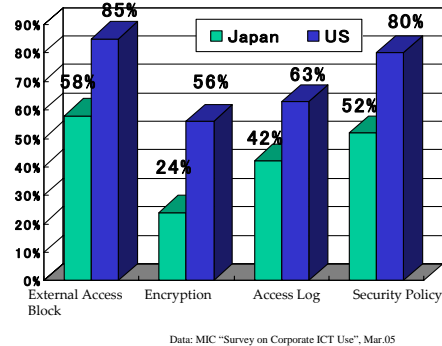
Information Security

- Unauthorized access and cyber crimes are on the rise
- Corporate information security measures are behind (compared to US)

◆ Filed Reports of Unauthorized Access



◆ Corporate Security Measures (compared to US)



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Toshimitsu MOTEGI

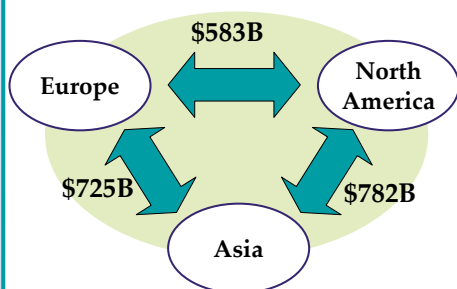
Information Security is another area to be improved drastically. With the spread of IT in society, reinforcement of measures against increasing unauthorized access and cyber attacks is becoming a prime task, but companies/government tend to fall behind in taking action.

(和訳)

情報セキュリティも今後の大きな課題の一つである。ITの社会への浸透に伴い、近年不正アクセス件数やサイバー攻撃が増加し、対策の強化が急務となっているが、企業・政府の対策は遅れている。

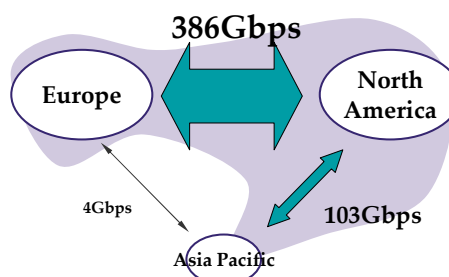
Unbalanced Global Information Flows

Global Trade Flows Balanced



(Source : WTO International Trade Statistics 2005)

Global Information Flows Unbalanced



(Source : Global Internet Geography 2004)

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Toshimitsu MOTEGI

In the context of international issue, the new challenge we are facing in Asia is digital divide. In comparison to its economic strength, the introduction of information technology in Asia is lagging. As you can see in the figure on the left, global trade flows are balanced between Asia, Europe, and North America. As shown in the figure on the right, 80% of the total flow of information, however, is accounted for by flows between Europe and North America, putting it greatly out of balance.

(和訳)

国際関連について。アジアにおけるITの課題は、デジタルディバイドである。経済力に比べ、アジアの情報化は遅れていると言わざるを得ない。左の図のように世界の貿易流通量は、アジア・ヨーロッパ・北米の3極でバランスが取れている。しかし、情報流通量は、右の図のように、ヨーロッパ・北米間が世界の8割を占めており、著しく偏っている。

① Structural reform through IT

② Establishment of advanced IT infrastructure

③ Contribution to Asia and the World

Based on the achievements of the strategies so far and its challenges as I just mentioned, we are drafting new IT strategy in Japan, which is based on the achievements of the strategy so far and its emerging challenges. The new strategy will be determined by the end of coming January. The new strategy focuses mainly on the 3 concepts; “Structural reform through IT”, “Establishment of advanced IT infrastructure” and “Contribution to Asia and to the world”.

(和訳)

これまでの戦略の成果と課題を踏まえて、我が国は新たなIT戦略を検討している。新戦略では、大きく分けると、「ITの構造改革力の追求」、「先進的IT基盤の整備」、「アジアと世界への発信」の3つの政策に重点を置いている。

① Structural Reform through IT

- (1) Respond to social issues that need to be overcome in the 21st century
- (2) Reinforce safe/secure society
- (3) Realize 21th-century models of government /businesses /individuals

I will go into the first pillar which is the structural reform using IT.

This measure specifically includes (1) Respond to social issues that needs to be overcome in the 21st century, (2) Reinforce safe/secure society through IT use and (3) Realize 21th-century models of government /businesses/individuals through IT.

(和訳)

まず一つめの柱、ITの構造改革力の追求についてご説明する。

具体的には、「(1)21世紀に克服すべき社会的課題をITにより解決すること」、「(2)安心・安全に暮らせる社会をITを使って実現すること」、「(3)21世紀型の政府・企業・個人の活動モデルをITにより創造すること」である。

① Structural Reform through IT

- (1) Respond to social issues that need to be overcome in the 21st century
 - Healthcare structural reform through IT
 - Global warming measures
- (2) Reinforce safe/secure society
 - Minimizing disaster damage, driving anti-terrorism, securing food safety
 - Safe transportation
- (3) Realize 21st-century models of government /businesses /individuals
 - Promotion of online procedure, overall optimization of government information system (government)
 - Promotion of IT use in corporate management, building common infrastructure of e-commerce (industry)
 - Realization of vibrant society where everyone is active (private)

We can solve various social problems by utilizing the ability of IT.

For example, concerning Healthcare, we can cut down operation cost by digitalization of medical insurance claim, on the top of that we can realize quality healthcare and prevention using digitized health record as well. In the new strategy, we will set the goal to make every medical insurance claim online no later than 2010.

Concerning Environment, we can develop effective global warming measures and environment-conscious society by energy management through IT.

Using IT can realize new models of government, businesses, and individuals. The government will drive online procedures such as e-tax to improve convenience of public and simplify government management. In the new strategy, we will set the target to increase the percentage of online procedure usage up to 50% by 2010. Businesses will resolve management issues through IT usage and develop new business models using e-commerce. Individuals, even the elderly and disabled will live actively and productively through telework and digitalization of welfare.

(和訳)

ITの持つ力を活用することで、様々な社会的課題を解決できる。医療分野では、レセプト等の電子化によるコストダウンや、医療情報を活用した質の高い医療・予防が実現できる。新戦略では2010年までにすべてのレセプトのオンライン化を実現していく。

環境分野では、ITを活用したエネルギー管理によってより効果的な地球温暖化対策や環境に配慮した社会が実現できる。

ITの活用によって、行政、企業、個人がそれぞれの新しい姿を実現する。行政は電子納税をはじめとしたオンライン手続きの利用を促進し、国民の利便性向上と行政運営の簡素化を実現する。新戦略では2010年までにオンライン手続きの利用割合を50%にまで引き上げていく。企業は経営課題の解決にITを活用し、電子商取引等を用いた新しいビジネスモデルを構築していく。高齢者・障害者などの全ての個人が、テレワーク、福祉の情報化などにより、元気で豊かに活躍する社会が実現する。

② Establishment of advanced IT infrastructure

- (1) **Society providing advanced IT to everyone**
 - Safe living transcending age, knowledge, physical, language barriers
 - Realization of ubiquitous network
- (2) **Development of environment for safe IT use**
 - Promotion of information security policies in government and important infrastructures
 - Reinforcement of cyber crime measures
- (3) **Human Resources Development, Education, R&D**
 - Enhancement of scholastic ability through digitalization of education
 - Setting up advanced IT Human resources development organizations under industry-government-academic partnership
 - Promotion of R&D forming the basis for next-generation IT society

Establishment of advanced IT infrastructure is the 2nd pillar.

This policy, Establishment of advanced IT infrastructure, implies for preparation of oncoming ubiquitous network society, which includes 3 objectives.

The First is “Society providing advanced IT to everyone”. World’s most advanced broadband network environment has been established in Japan, but not everyone is in a situation to use IT. We will strive to build a “ubiquitous network society” where anyone and anything can be connected anytime and anywhere.

The Second is “World’s safest information society”. Information security accidents like information system troubles and information leakage have been abounding. Newly established Government headquarter “National Information Security Center has been reinforcing information security measures to realize the world’s safest information society.

The third is “Human resources Development, Education, and R&D.” Enhancement of academic abilities through digitalization of school education is important. In addition, we will increase investment in next-generation IT from medium to long-term perspective. Especially we will promote to invest key technologies such as electronic tag and optical communication network.

(和訳)

次に二つめの柱、IT基盤の整備についてご説明する。これは、来るべきユビキタス・ネットワーク社会のためのIT基盤を整備するための政策であり、3つの目標がある。

まず「高度なITを皆が享受できる社会」の実現である。我が国では世界最先端のブロードバンド・ネットワーク環境が整備されたが、すべての人が不便なく利用できる環境には至っていない。今後は、いつでも、どこでも、誰でもITを使え、何にでもつながる「ユビキタスネットワーク社会」を構築する。

2つ目は「世界一安心できる情報社会」の構築である。情報システムのトラブルや情報漏洩等情報セキュリティに関する事件が多発している。我が国では対策の強化のために国家情報セキュリティセンターを新たに設立して、世界一安心できる情報社会の実現を目指している。

最後に「人材育成・教育、研究開発」の促進である。学校教育のIT化を通じた学力の向上が重要である。また、中長期的な視点で次世代のIT分野の技術に対して投資していく。特に電子タグ、光ネットワーク等のITの重点技術分野での取組を強化していく。

① Structural Reform through IT

② Establishment of advanced IT infrastructure

③ Contribution to Asia and the World

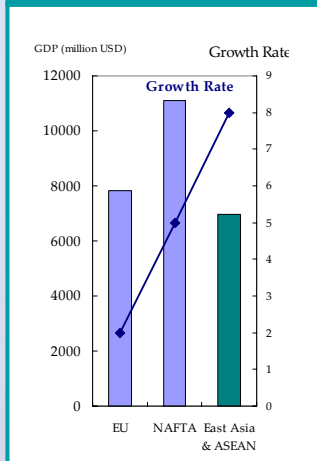
- (1) **IT infrastructure throughout Asia**
- (2) **Human Resources Development**
- (3) **Leading global IT revolution and creating our problem solving models to the world**
- (4) **Providing Show-case / Test-bed for world's most advanced IT**

The 3rd pillar of the new IT strategy declares that Japan will contribute to creating community of coexistence centering around Asia, and will lead global IT revolution as the forerunner.

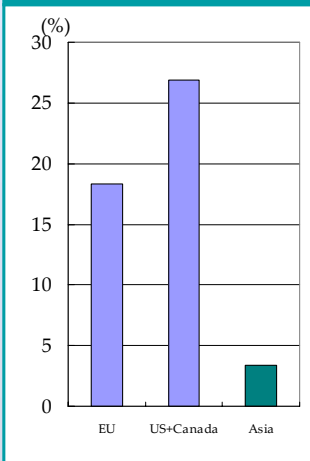
新たなIT戦略の3つめの柱では、我が国がアジアを中心とする共存共栄の社会づくりに貢献していくこと、また世界のIT革命をフロントランナーとして先導することを宣言している。

Asia: Its Rich Potential for Growth vs. Poor Penetration rate

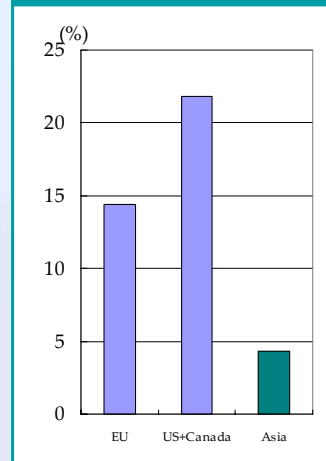
GDP & Growth Rate



PC Penetration Rate



Internet Penetration Rate



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Toshimitsu MOTEGI

First, I will explain international contribution of Japan towards Asia.

Asia's strength is the potential of enormous IT markets. Considering Asia's population and rate of economic growth, Asia's IT markets will grow in the future. IT will become the foundation for supporting economic growth in Asia. However, as I mentioned before, Asia lags far behind Europe and North America in terms of information flows and use of IT. The slow pace of adoption of IT in Asia is not only hindering economic development, it is also putting Asia at a disadvantage in establishing de facto standards for information technologies and in voicing opinions concerning the adoption of de jure standards such as the ISO standards.

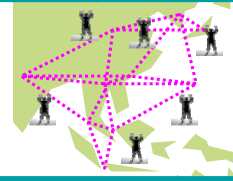
(和訳)

まず、アジアに向けた日本からの国際貢献について説明する。

アジアの強みは、その巨大な潜在的IT市場を有していることである。アジアの人口規模と経済成長率を考慮すれば、アジアのIT市場は今後さらに拡大していき、ITがアジアの経済成長を支える基盤になると思われる。しかしながら、既に述べたようにアジアは情報流通やIT利活用で欧米に大きく遅れを取っている。アジアの情報化の遅れは、このようにアジアの経済発展を阻害するのみならず、情報技術におけるデファクトスタンダード獲得において不利となる上に、ISO等のデジュールスタンダード成立の際の発言力の弱さにつながっている。

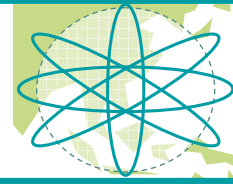
Network Infrastructure

- Building broadband facilitating information distribution



Human Resource Development

- Human resource development as shared infrastructure in IT across Asia



Utilization Model

- Building international standard/IT utilization model created in Asia
- Technical collaboration : e-Passport, multi-lingual translation, IPv6, etc.



Building IT community across Asia is important in further driving these activities. Japan has a significant role as an advanced IT nation. The pillars of IT community building are “Network infrastructure development”, “Human resources development” and “utilization model deployment”. Japan’s ODA can be utilized to these network infrastructure and human resources development.

Through these efforts, new systems facilitating flow of money/services/information can be established in Asia, which contribute to regional economic cooperation and eventually integration.

(和訳)

これらの活動の更なる推進のために、アジア全域におけるIT社会建設が重要であり、IT先進国としてのわが国が担う役割は大きい。IT社会建設の柱としては、「ITインフラの整備」「人材育成」「利活用モデルの普及」がじゅうようとなる。日本のODAもITインフラの整備や人材育成の分野で十分活用していきたい。こうした取組によって、アジアの人・モノ・金・サービス・情報の流れを円滑にする地域内経済連携、さらには地域統合に資するシステムを構築できる。

③ Contribution to the world

(1) Leading global IT revolution

- IT revolution in leading key technologies; mobile/electronic tag
- 21st century models of government / business / individuals

(2) Providing Show-case/Test-bed
for world's most advanced IT

- Using world class IT infrastructure and market to drive international joint research

I believe Japan has a responsibility to lead global IT revolution. Japan has leading key technologies in several areas such as mobile and electronic tag, and will pursuit to apply them to wider area, and share it with the world. Japan will try to develop 21st models of government / business / individuals through IT as previously mentioned, and share the results with the world. In addition, Japan will provide Japan's world class IT environment and the most advanced market as Show-case/Test-bed to drive international joint research.

(和訳)

このように我が国には、世界のIT革命を先導していく使命がある。我が国はモバイル・電子タグなどの日本が先導的立場にあるコア技術をより広範な範囲で活用し、その成果を世界と共有していく。また、我が国は、先に述べたIT活用による21世紀型の行政・企業・個人の新しい行動様式モデルを構築し、その成果を世界へ提供していく。さらに、我が国が持つ世界最高水準のIT環境と最先端の市場をテストベッドとして提供し、国際的な共同研究等の推進に貢献していく。

e-Japan Strategy towards becoming “the World Most Advanced IT Nation”

- Japan has been successful in achieving “e-Japan Strategy” in 3 steps.

Future Challenges in IT Policy

- Need to solve remaining issues in some areas including healthcare and e-government.

Direction of the new IT strategy in Japan

- We hope to assist in building IT community centering around Asia in addition to leading global IT revolution as a forerunner.

Although it was only for a short time, I am honored to be able to speak to you about the achievements of Japan’s IT policies and the direction of our IT strategy. I would like to suggest driving proactive policy dialogue on government level, private level and in a public-private forum such as this one to strengthen IT collaboration in Asia.

I thank you for your kind attention and would like to close by wishing that IT collaboration in Asia will move forward.

Thank you very much.

(和訳)

本日は限られた時間であったが、我が国のIT政策の成果と今後のIT戦略の方向性について紹介させていただくことができ、大変光栄に思う。最後に、IT分野でのアジアの協力強化のために、政府レベル、民間レベル、さらにこのフォーラムのような官民合同の場において、積極的な政策対話を推進することを提案したい。

今回ご列席の皆様のご静聴に感謝すると共に、IT分野におけるアジア地域の協調がさらに進むことを望んでやまない。ご静聴に感謝。