

# Outline of the Basic Act on the Formation of a Digital Society

## Purpose

In consideration of the fact that **formation of a digital society** contributes to the **reinforcement of the international competitiveness of Japan and improving convenience for its citizens**, and is **extremely important for responding to the rapidly declining birth rate and aging population and the solution of other problems faced by Japan**, the purpose of this Act is to swiftly and thoroughly pursue strategies for the formation of a digital society by way of **providing basic principles and basic policies for the development of strategies, determining the responsibilities of the government of Japan, local public entities, and business operators, establishing the Digital Agency, and providing for the development of a priority policy program on the formation of a digital society** thereby contributing to the **realization of the sustainable and sound development of the Japanese economy and happy lives for its citizens**.

## Outline

### 1. Definition of Digital Society

The term "**digital society**" means **a society in which creative and vigorous development is enabled in all fields by obtaining, sharing or transmitting a wide variety of information or knowledge globally in a free and safe manner via the Internet and other advanced information and telecommunications networks**, and by using information and telecommunications technologies and other advanced technologies to appropriately and effectively utilize the wide variety and large amount of information recorded as an electronic or magnetic record.

### 2. Basic Principles

Specifies the basic principles for **realizing a comfortable and affluent lifestyle for citizens, realizing a society in which citizens are able to live safely and free of anxiety, reducing disparity in opportunities of use, etc.**, and **protecting the rights and interests of individuals and corporations** with respect to the formation of a digital society.

### 3. Responsibilities of the government of Japan, local public entities and business operators

Specifies **the responsibilities of the government of Japan, local public entities and business operators** with respect to the formation of a digital society.

### 4. Basic policy on development of strategies

Specifies that in the development of strategies to form a digital society, the necessary measures must be taken to **ensure the smooth circulation of information by diverse actors** (the standardization of data, etc.), **ensure opportunities for use of advanced information and telecommunications networks and utilization of information using information and telecommunications technologies, develop human resources, improve the productivity and the convenience of everyday life, ensure utilization by citizens of information held by the government of Japan and local public entities, develop a public basic information database (Base Registries), secure cybersecurity, and protect personal information**.

### 5. Establishment of the Digital Agency, etc.

**The Digital Agency shall be established in the Cabinet** pursuant to the separate provisions of laws, and the government develop **a priority policy program on the formation of a digital society**.

### 6. Abolish the Basic Act on the Formation of an Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society

In addition to **abolishing the Basic Act on the Formation of an Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society (Basic Act on IT)**, the provisions of related laws will be overhauled.

### 7. Effective date

September 1st, 2021