

# Japan's Online Government Administration Information and Open Data Policy

 Innovation image

**Published On:** 09 September 2015

**Organisation:** Administrative Management Bureau, Japan Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

**Country:** Japan

**Level of government:** Central government

**Sector:** General public services

**Type:** Communication, Data, Digital, Public Service

**Launched in:** 2004

**Overall development time:** 1 year(s)

**Like this innovation**

0 persons like this innovation

# Description

---

In 2004, the government of Japan adopted a policy requiring ministries to make government administrative information available to citizens online consistently through their respective websites, including information about the organization, laws, proposed bills, budgets, procurement, statistics, white papers, policy evaluation, and press releases, among others.

In 2015, the Japanese government renewed and empowered the policy framework to accommodate the development of ICTs since 2004, and promote its new “Open Data” policy. This involved rules for flexible use of website content, offering machine-readable data in a format that can be understood by computers (API), and mobile and smart-phone applications. It also aimed to accelerate better information-sharing with citizens through ministry websites with an emphasis on greater usability, transparency, tightened security, and two-way communication with citizens.

The policy called for tightening security for ministry websites based on government-wide unified security standards, as well as setting out appropriate Business Continuing Plans (BCPs) to cope with disasters and other emergencies. The policy recommended to adopt a common feel and design across ministry websites and a consistent domain-name policy to enhance trust and security in independently-developed and run by ministries.

Broader utilisation of administrative information in the private sector is expected as a result of the new policy.

---

## Why the innovation was developed

- Due to the sheer increase in the volume of information posted on government ministry websites, improvements to usability and search functions were necessary to help individuals and businesses find and access the administrative information they need.
- The use of mobile phones and smartphones as indispensable personal information tools for citizens' everyday life.
- E-Government measures like online applications for administrative procedures have become widely used by the population.
- In the age of “e-Government,” government websites are important for citizens and companies in their various transactions with the government.
- Response to an external change with the development of ICTs and their penetration into civil society.

---

## Objectives

Enhance public trust, Enhance transparency, Improve access, Improve service quality, Improve user satisfaction, Increase citizen engagement

- Improve government website usability and security to meet the growth of ICTs.
- To prepare BCPs to better handle emergencies or disasters.
- To improve transparency of government administrative authorities and institutions.
- To improve website usability for citizens and business that access government administrative information.

---

## Main beneficiaries

Businesses, Civil Society, General population, Government bodies, Government staff

- Individual citizens
- Corporations

---

## Existing similar practices

### Public Data Transparency Principles

In other countries' public administrations

UK Government

In 2010, the UK Government announced basic principles called “Public Data Transparency Principles” designed to lead their efforts to drive forward open government. This included the following three principles:

- “Public data will be published in reusable, machine-readable form.”
- “Public data will be released under the same open licence which enables free reuse, including commercial reuse.”
- “Public data will be available and easy to find through a single easy to use online access point.

<http://data.gov.uk>

---

# Results

---

## Service quality

### Accessibility:

- Citizens can now view and access the same categories of administrative information (ie. organization outline, laws, budgets and white papers etc.) in a similar position across the various ministry websites.
- At the official main portal site of the Electronic Government of Japan ("e-Gov"), users can conduct cross-ministry searches of administrative information that is otherwise provided individually on the respective ministry websites.

# Development

---

## Design

Policy makers in the Government of Japan.

---

## Testing

- The policy adopted was based on the recent developments of various e-government initiatives following the adoption of the original policy in 2004.
  - No specific pilot run was performed for the new policy, but all initiatives relating to e-government and public participation contributed to testing the innovation.
- 

## Implementation

### Tools used:

- Government ministry websites.
- The main portal site for the official Japanese Electronic Government ("e-Gov").
- Data catalogue site of the Government "DATA.GO.JP."

### Resources used:

- Staff time
  - Budget
- 

## Partnerships

### Government of Japan ministries

Other Public Sector

Coordination between Japan's Ministry of Information and Communications and other ministries in implementing the new policy was required for reassigning website domain names systematically, ensuring consistency across technical aspects and web design specifications, and meeting the goals of the open data directives together.

---

# Lessons Learned

---

## Lessons Learned

- Breaking the divisions that exist across various independent government websites is a challenge. Keeping track of the growing number of government websites developed and run by ministries is key to ensure consistency and security.
- 

## Conditions for success

- Leadership
  - Supervision
  - Human resources
  - Budget
- 

Copyright OECD. All rights reserved.