



Digital Government Strategies: Good Practices



Japan: Basic Principles on Open Data

The OECD Council adopted on 15 July 2014 the Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies. The Recommendation provides a set of 12 principles structured around 3 pillars. The OECD Secretariat is developing a Digital Government Policy Toolkit to support OECD member countries and non-member adhering countries with the implementation of the Recommendation. This practice was submitted by the government of Japan to be considered as a good practice in the implementation of one or more of the principles contained in the Recommendation.

Description of the practice:

Organisation:

National Strategy office of Information and Communication Technology, Cabinet Secretariat

Administrative Management Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

<https://cio.go.jp/en/index.php>

<http://www.soumu.go.jp/english/index.html>

Name of the practice:

Basic Principles on Open Data (Decision by the IT Headquarters and Strategic Conference for the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization on May 30, 2017)

Principles implemented:

Principle 3 – Create a data-driven culture in the public sector

Description:

In Japan, after the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, the awareness on the disclosure and utilization of data possessed by the national government, local governments and private sector have increased.

Japanese government has made efforts to promote Open Data policy based on “Open data strategy” (Decision by the IT Strategy Headquarters on July 4, 2012), recognizing that public data is common property of the citizens.

And Japan has decided on changing the way of thinking, from efforts centered on the disclosure of data to those that promote problem-solving open data based on utilization of data, in “Toward new development of open data” (Decision by the IT Strategy Headquarters on June 30, 2015), and “Open Data 2.0” (Decision by the IT Strategy Headquarters on May 20, 2016).

Digital government toolkit

The Basic Act on the Advancement of Public and Private Sector Data Utilization (promulgated and enforced on December 14, 2016) aims to contribute to the realization of a society that people live safely and securely as well as comfortable living environment by promoting the utilization of public and private data. The Act defines regulations on such efforts as facilitating the use of public and private data possessed by the national government, local governments, and private sector.

These principles (Basic Principles on Open Data) are based on the idea of “Open Data by Design”: regarding public data, information systems and the entire business processes in the phase of planning, development, and operation are designed on the premise of open data. These principles outline the basic policy for disclosure and utilization of data by the national government, local governments, and private sector in the future.

In the Basic Principles, after defining open data, government has the basic rules open data such as the range of data to be disclosed, the rules on secondary usage of data, the environment and format for disclosure, and the update of published data. In addition, there are mentioned mechanisms and promotion system that encourage the opening and utilization of open data, and mentioned efforts to promote open data by local governments, incorporated public entities, and private sector.

Results

(central government)

-Comparing the number of datasets provided on the catalog site before and after the development of the Basic Principles, it has increased from 18582 datasets (February, 2017) to 22441 datasets (as of October, 2018).

(local government)

-As of October, 2018, the rate of development and application of initiatives related to open data is 100% at the prefectural level, and 20% at the municipality level.

Development

Design:

(Process)

-Decision was made by the IT Strategic Headquarters, where the Prime Minister as well as relevant Ministers were present, after discussion at the Open Data Working Group (ODWG) with Government CIO's participation.

(Stakeholder)

-Government CIO, Experts of the ODWG, Relevant Ministries

Testing:



Digital government toolkit

-Basic Principles on the disclosure and use of public data; based upon decisions by the IT Strategic Headquarters such as “Open Government Data Strategy” (July, 2012), “Towards a New Development of Open Data” (June, 2015), and “Open Data 2.0” (May, 2016); has been put together for the central government, local governments and entities, and the private sector to follow.

Implementation:

-It is anticipated that utilizing data owned by local governments can lead to solving regional challenges, let alone increasing public- private cooperation in public service delivery, vitalizing local economies, and boosting efficiency and advancement of government administration. The central government, in order to actively support such initiatives by the local governments, provides “guidelines and manuals for local governments, Open Data 100, open data packages for local governments and entities, and suggested dataset.” It also sends open data evangelists and local informatization advisors as part of human resource cooperation.

Resources:

(Staff)

-About 100 officials of the central government that are in charge of open data (approximately 10 officials from National Strategy office of Information and Communications Technology, 90 officials representing individual ministries and agencies)

Diffusion and scaling:

(Central Government)

-After developing the Basic Principles, the central government has released stock-taking of data owned by the government. Public-Private Roundtables have been held to provide opportunities for those who wish to utilize the data, private companies and the like, and individual ministry with the ownership of the data to directly communicate.

- The National Strategy office of Information and Communications Technology provides the know-how on holding public-private roundtables, gained from the past experiences of hosting open data roundtables gathering private companies that wish to utilize the data and relevant ministries with the ownership for such data, to ministries and agencies in order to promote the use of such opportunities.

(Local Governments)

-Guidelines and manuals to refer to when dealing with open data has been released, and suggested datasets, as well as standard examples of formats, have been developed (December 22, 2017).

-It also sends open data evangelists that have profound knowledge of open data to localities, and at the same time provide package of dashboard applications and catalogs for open data free of charge.

Partnerships: Public Sector Organisations: Administrative Management Bureau and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications



Digital government toolkit



Lessons learned

Holding public-private roundtables on open data and sending open data evangelists are considered to be effective measures.

Formal evaluation:

Although the Basic Principles have not been reviewed yet, it is stated that "the Basic Principles shall undergo revisions to flexibly tailor to technological advancements and changes in international environment, taking into account the results of various policies as well as demands and feedbacks, such as from the public, private contractors, etc."

Conditions required:

Human resource development (skills) on open data at the local level.

Additional information: