

Japan Open Data Charter Action Plan

Background on Japan's Efforts on Open Data

Measures concerning open data in Japan have been undertaken since the Open Government Data Strategy was adopted in July 2012.

The Open Government Data Strategy sets forth the following basic principles:

- Government shall actively release public data.
- Public data shall be released in machine-readable formats.
- The use of public information shall be encouraged for both commercial and non-commercial purposes.
- Specific measures shall be taken such as the prompt disclosure of public data that can be released, and results shall be steadily accumulated.

The Strategy also states the implementation of trial programs using public data starting in fiscal 2012 and the creation of a working committee consisting of members from the public and private sectors to study managing the environment for the use of public data.

The background on and a summary of measures concerning the use of public data in Japan are set forth below.

Governance and Leadership Structure: The Government of Japan (central government) has the political authority to require individual ministries of the central government to take measures, but the central government does not have the authority to direct local governmental bodies. Therefore, local governments release data at their own discretion. The central government will encourage local governments to release data by providing information on best practices.

The specific implementation framework for open data in Japan is as follows:

- Ministerial level
The Minister in charge of Information Technology Policy is responsible for open data.
- IT Strategic Headquarters
The Headquarters is a council established in January 2001, based on a law to carry out IT policies (including open data) for the entire government. The Headquarters is chaired by the Prime Minister, and members include all Cabinet ministers, the government Chief Information Officer (CIO), and outside experts.
- Government Chief Information Officer (CIO)
The government CIO has the authority, based on a law, to plan and conduct overall coordination of IT measures and promotion of e-government (including open data) on

behalf of the entire Japanese government. The position was established in June 2013.

- e-Government Open Data Executive Meeting

The Meeting was established in December 2012 under the IT Strategic Headquarters for the purpose of discussing open data implementation policies and measures and following-up on measures. The membership of the Meeting comprises of major ministries and outside experts appointed by the Minister in charge of Information Technology Policy. The Meeting is chaired by Professor Jun Murai at Keio University.

Policies and decisions relating to the promotion of open data in Japan are as follows:

- Declaration on Becoming the World's Most Advanced IT Nation

The Declaration is a new IT policy for the Japanese government adopted by the Cabinet in June 2013. The Declaration focuses on open data as a means of creating new businesses, new services, and innovation and indicates that public release of data shall be the general principle, that measures will be taken to expand the release of data in machine-readable formats that comply with international standards, and that opinions will be solicited from a broad spectrum in the public. The Declaration also states that data catalogue sites (portal sites) will be launched on a trial basis during fiscal year 2013 and put into full-scale operation in fiscal year 2014.

- Roadmap for Promotion Open Data in Electronic Administration

The Roadmap was adopted by the IT Strategic Headquarters in June 2013 based on discussions within the e-Government Open Data Executive Meeting and sets forth measures (developing rules to encourage secondary use, expanding public release of data in machine-readable formats, creating portal sites, etc.) to be undertaken in the next three years. The Roadmap also sets statistics, white papers, disaster preparedness and damage mitigation information, geospatial information, data relating to movement of people, and budget, settlement, and procurement information as its priorities.

- Basic stance on public release of ministry information to encourage secondary use (guidelines)

The Ministry CIO Liaison Committee adopted the guidelines in June 2013 based on discussions by the e-Government Open Data Executive Meeting. The guidelines set forth issues that require urgent attention by government ministries with respect to rules to encourage secondary use, expanding the public release of data in machine-readable formats, and increasing the volume of data released on the Internet. The Guidelines also set forth in appendices issues to be taken into consideration when preparing numerical data (tables), documents, and geospatial information.

User engagement: The Government of Japan convenes meetings of the e-Government Open Data Executive Meeting, a group that includes experts from the private sector among its members, as a channel for user engagement. In addition, active government participation in

regional events such as hackathons will facilitate the exchange of opinions with users and developers. The government also plans to use the portal site scheduled for launch this autumn as a means of gathering opinions.

Data: The Cabinet Secretariat plans to launch a centralized government open data portal site in the autumn of this year.

International Measures: To accelerate open data, Japan will cooperate with surveys and studies conducted by the OECD and other international organizations.

Challenges: The portal site scheduled for launch this autumn will be a trial version, and in the near future, it will be necessary to enhance its function and content. It will also be necessary to take additional measures such as reviewing rules, organizing data formats, expanding the public release of data, and encouraging the use of data. In this regard, closer collaboration among government ministries and with the private sector will be needed when undertaking those measures.

Japan Commitment 1: Publication of Key Datasets

Japan will publish key datasets agreed upon through the G8 Collective Action Plan in accordance with the following standards by the end of fiscal year 2015.(Details of the table are attached)

Dataset	Current availability	Planned availability (accessibility and granularity)	Timing of implementation
National Statistics	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after autumn 2013
National Maps	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
National Elections	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
National Budgets	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after autumn 2013

Notes:

1. Open license: A license that expressly states the scope of unrestricted secondary use (processing, editing, etc.).
2. Open format: A data format that conforms to international standards and enables use without reliance on commercial applications.
3. Machine readable: The ability for computer programs to identify data structures and process data.

Japan Commitment 2: Publication of High Value Datasets

Japan will publish high value datasets listed in the G8 Collective Action Plan in accordance with the following standards by the end of fiscal year 2015. (Details of the table are attached)

Dataset	Current availability	Planned availability (accessibility and granularity)	Timing of implementation
Companies	Not published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	After autumn 2015
Crime and Justice	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after autumn 2013
Earth observation	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
Education	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
Energy and Environment	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
Finance and contracts	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after autumn 2013
Geospatial	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after autumn 2013
Global Development	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
Government Accountability and Democracy	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after autumn 2013
Health	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
Science and Research	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after autumn 2013

Statistics	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
Social mobility and welfare	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014
Transport and Infrastructure	published	Shall be released in machine-readable and open formats under open license	Gradually expanding after fiscal year 2014

Japan Commitment 3: Publishing Data on the National Portal

The government plans to launch a trial version of national open data portal site in autumn of 2013. The portal site will initially have key data in areas such as statistics, geospatial information, budget, settlement, and procurement information. The government plans to post information on the trial portal site under a creative commons license.

Following launch of the trial version of the site, the posted data will be expanded with full-scale operation scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2014.

Japan Commitment 4: Public Engagement

Japan will use the following methods to promote open data with the participation of the public:

- Opinions from the public will be gathered on the portal site.
- The e-Government Open Data Executive Meeting established under the IT Strategic Headquarters will solicit opinions from private-sector experts.
- The government will actively participate in regional events such as hackathons to facilitate exchanges of opinions with users and developers.

Japan Commitment 5: Sharing Information on Experiences Relating to Operations Using Open Data

Japan will support open innovators in Japan and overseas by sharing information on experiences relating to operations using open data through the following methods:

- Information concerning examples of applications developed using open data will be posted on portal sites.
- The government will hold ideathons and hackathons using public data.

Japan Commitment 6: Specification of the Direction of Open Data Measures in Japan

Japan will undertake the following measures to set the direction for open data measures:

- The e-Government Open Data Executive Meeting will follow up on the status of open

data measures and publish the results.

- “The basic stance on public release of ministry information to encourage secondary use (guidelines) (determined by the Ministry CIO Liaison Committee on June 25, 2013)” was adopted, setting forth the basic stance of ministries releasing open data, and the guidelines will be revised as necessary.

Annex : Position and Plan on Publishing Datasets

Japan G8 datasets – ‘key’		When exist	When digital	When machine-readable	When open format	When bulk	When free	When openly licensed	When regularly published	When met TBL 3 Star definition
Dataset	Web links									
National Statistics	http://www.e-stat.go.jp/	Now	Now	Now	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)	Now	After autumn 2013	Now	After autumn 2013
National Maps	http://www.gsi.go.jp/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (except a part)	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
National Elections results	http://www.soumu.go.jp/senkyo/senkyo_s/d_ata/index.html	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
National budget (planned and spent)	http://www.e-gov.go.jp/link/account.html http://www.bb.mof.go.jp/hdocs/bxsselect.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After autumn 2013	Now	After autumn 2013(partly)

Japan G8 datasets – ‘high value’			When exist	When digital	When machine-readable	When open format	When bulk	When free	When openly licensed	When regularly published	When met TBL 3 Star definition
Dataset		Web links									
companies	Company/busi-ness register	*not released by the government	Now	Not determined	Not determined	Not determined	Not determined	Not determined	Not determined	Not determined	Not determined
	Company’s 3 information (name,address, corporate number)	*not released at present	Now (partly)	After autumn 2015	After autumn 2015	After autumn 2015	After autumn 2015	After autumn 2015	After autumn 2015	After autumn 2015	After autumn 2015
Crime and Justice	Crime statistics	http://www.npa.go.jp/archive/toukei/keiki/h23/h23hanzaitoukei.htm http://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/housou_hakusho2.html http://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/housou_housou08.html	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After autumn 2013	Now	After autumn 2013
	Safety	http://www.npa.go.jp/seisaku/index.htm http://www.moj.go.jp/keiji1/keiji_index.html http://www.kensatsu.go.jp/ http://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/housou_hakusho2.html	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After autumn 2013	Now	After autumn 2013

		http://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/houso_houso08.html									
	Rehabilitation	http://www.moj.go.jp/hogo1/soumu/hogo_index.html	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
Earth observation	Meteorological/ weather	http://www.jma.go.jp/jma/index.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
	Hunting	http://www.sizenken.biodic.go.jp/wildbird/flash/toukei/07toukei.html	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
	The dispersed amount of the pollen	http://kafun.taiki.go.jp/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
	Policy of global environment science and technology	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kaihatu/kanyou/main5_a6.htm	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
Education	Policy of education	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/a002.htm	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
	Disaster education	http://open.fdma.go.jp/e-college/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
Energy and Environment	Pollution levels	http://soramame.taiki.go.jp/ http://tenbou.nies.go.jp/gis/monitor/?map_mode=monitoring_map&field=4 http://housyasen.taiki.go.jp/ http://www.env.go.jp/water/chikasui/index.html http://radioactivity.nsr.go.jp/ja/	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now (partly)	After FY 2014 (partly)
	Natural resources and energy measures	http://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/ http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/energy_environment/index.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined
	Greenhouse gas inventory	http://www-gio.nies.go.jp/aboutghg/nir/nir-j.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
	Ground subsidence	http://www.env.go.jp/water/jiban/dir_h23/index.html http://www.env.go.jp/water/jiban/chinka.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now	Now	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)

	Environmental statistics	http://www.env.go.jp/doc/toukei/index.html	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
Finance and Contracts	Transaction spend (including contracts let)	http://www.e-gov.go.jp/link/provide.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After autumn 2013	Now (partly)	After autumn 2013 (partly)
	Call for tender, Future tenders	http://www.e-gov.go.jp/link/provide.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After autumn 2013	Now (partly)	After autumn 2013 (partly)
Geospatial	Topography	http://www.gsi.go.jp/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (except a part)	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
	Postcodes	http://www.post.japanpost.jp/zipcode/download.html *website of Japan Post	Published by private enterprise	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Local maps	http://www.gsi.go.jp/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (except a part)	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
	Control Points,Thematic Maps	http://www.gsi.go.jp/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (except a part)	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
	Natural environmental information GIS	http://www.biodic.go.jp/trialSystem/top.html	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After autumn 2013	Now	After autumn 2013
	Vegetation	http://www.vegetation.jp/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
	Environmental information of “Tohoku” region	http://www.biodic.go.jp/Tohoku_Portal/	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014

Global Development	Aid	http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/oda/index.html http://www.mof.go.jp/international_policy/economic_assistance/oda/index.html http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/external_economy/cooperation/index.html http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/hokabunya/kokusai/asean/index.html http://www.maff.go.jp/j/kokusai/kokkyo/nousui_bunya/index.html http://www.moj.go.jp/housouken/housou_ichid.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
	Food security	http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/food_security/ http://www.maff.go.jp/j/zyukyu/anpo/index.html	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014
Government Accountability and Democracy	Government contact points	http://search.e-gov.go.jp/servlet/Organization	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
	Legislation and statutes	http://law.e-gov.go.jp/cgi-bin/idxsearch.cgi http://www.e-gov.go.jp/link/ordinance.html	Now	Now	Now	Now	Not determined	Now	Now	Now	Now
	Salaries (pay scales)	http://www.jinji.go.jp/ichiran/ichiran_kyuyo.htm http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jinji/jinji_c.html http://law.e-gov.go.jp/htmldata/S27/S27HO266.html http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/yosan/16/shiryo.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
	Hospitality/gifts	http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/jinji/jinji_e.html http://www.jinji.go.jp/rinri/new/new_main.htm	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
	Press release	http://www.e-gov.go.jp/link/press_release.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)

	White paper	http://www.e-gov.go.jp/link/white_papers.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After autumn 2013	Now	After autumn 2013 (partly)
Health	Performance data	http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/iryohoken/database/	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
	Healthcare industry	http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/mono_info_service/index.html#healthcare	Now	Now	Not determined	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Not determined	Not determined
	Policy of health	http://www.mhlw.go.jp/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryohou/kenkou/	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
Science and Research	Research and educational activity	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/02_c.htm http://www.mhlw.go.jp/seisakunitsuite/bunya/hokabunya/kenkyujigyou/ http://www.s.affrc.go.jp/docs/project/information/index.htm http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/economy/gijutsu_kakushin/index.html http://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_seisaku/ictseisaku/ictR-D/kenkyuu_suishin.html http://nrid.fdma.go.jp/about/index.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
	Experiment results	http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/02_c.htm http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/economy/gijutsu_kakushin/index.html http://agriknowledge.affrc.go.jp/ http://mhlw-grants.niph.go.jp/ http://www.soumu.go.jp/menu_seisaku/ictseisaku/ictR-D/index.html http://nrid.fdma.go.jp/open_tech/index.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now	After autumn 2013	Now	After autumn 2013 (partly)
	Policy of science and technology	http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/stmain.html http://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/a003.htm	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
Statistics	Population Census	http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/GL02100104.do?tocd=00200521	Now	Now	Now	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014

Statistics	Infrastructure	http://www.e-stat.go.jp/SG1/estat/GL08020101.do?_toGL08020101_&tstatCode=000001015811&requestSender=search http://www.mhlw.go.jp/topics/bukyoku/kenkou/suido/database/kihon/ http://www.maff.go.jp/j/tokei/kouhyou/noudou/index.html http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/j/gyoko_gyozyo/g_zyoho_bako/index.html http://www.enecho.meti.go.jp/info/statistics/index.htm http://www.soumu.go.jp/johotsusintokei/	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Now	Now (partly)	Now	Now (partly)
	Wealth	http://www.mof.go.jp/national_property/reference/statistics/	Now	Now	Now	After march 2014 (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
Social Mobility and Welfare	Housing	http://www.mlit.go.jp/statistics/details/jutaku_list.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
	Health insurance	http://www.mhlw.go.jp/bunya/iryouhoken/database/	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
	Unemployment benefits	http://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/list/150-1.html	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	Not determined
	Policy of welfare	http://www.mhlw.go.jp/seisakunitsuite/bunya/hukushi_kaigo/	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)
Transportation and Infrastructure	Public transportation timetables	(example) http://www.jreast-timetable.jp/ * website of East Japan Railway Company http://www.jal.co.jp/dom/time/ * website of Japan airlines	Published by private enterprise	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Access points broadband penetration	http://www.soumu.go.jp/johotsusintokei/field/tsuushin01.html http://www.soumu.go.jp/main_sosiki/joho_tsusin/broadband/index.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now	Now (partly)	Now	Now	Now	Now (partly)
	Land and Transportation	http://www.mlit.go.jp/index.html	Now	Now	Now (partly)	Now (partly)	Not determined	Now	After FY 2014	Now	After FY 2014 (partly)

Notes:

1. Examples of machine-readable data format are XML, txt, csv, xhtml, epub, docx, xlsx, doc, xls, etc. Examples of open format are XML, txt, csv, xhtml, epub, docx, xlsx, pdf, etc.
2. 'Bulk': Function of collectively downloading dataset, for example, in case to provide the data through application program interface (API).
3. 'TBL 3 Star': Satisfying three requirements of "open license", "machine-readable" and "open formats".

4. In case of dealing with the matter about main data in a certain dataset, we describe “Now”.
5. Japan will launch a trial version of national open data portal site which are openly licensed in the autumn of this year. In case of releasing some data in a certain dataset on this portal site, we describe “After autumn 2013” on “When openly licensed”.