

Open data development in Japan: Drivers and Challenges

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A bit about myself

- Academic (full time): ICT policies, information society issues

(Senior Research Fellow & Associate Prof.
at GLOCOM)

- Advocate (volunteer): open licensing

(Creative Commons Japan; executive director for its
host organization CommonSphere)

Open Knowledge Foundation (Co-founder)

National Policy Development

A Brief history I

<setting agenda>

- 2010.5. “New Information& Communications Technology Strategies” adopted by National IT Strategy Headquarters
- (open-by-default + reusable)

<discussing details>

- 2011 - 2012.6 national open data policy discussed at eGovernment TaskForce
- (policy objectives, org. arrangement, roadmap)

<adopting>

- 2012.6. “eGovernment Open Data Strategy“ draft
- 2012.7. adopted by National IT Strategy Headquarters

A brief history II

<implementation>

- 2012.12 - present eGov Open Data Practitioners Conference: technical standard, prioritization of data release, legal and licensing issues discussed. working towards a trial version of national open data catalogue/ portal

<political change>

- 2012.12 Prime Minister Abe took office
- 2013. the new Abe Administration quickly expressed support for open data

IT Strategy Headquarters

A cabinet level entity

Chaired by the Prime Minister

Members include ministers and experts

New Administration by a new party 2009.9.

--> new strategy 2010.5.

eGov Task Force

- Under IT Strategic Headquarters
- Members: Experts
- Decision chain: eGov TF -> Plan Committee -> HQ

Other Policy Development

- **2013.4. Conference for Promoting the Use of Big Data& Open Data - Cities of Takeo, Chiba, Nara, Fukuoka**
- **Yokohama Open Data Solution Development Committee**

Major Projects

METI's pioneering programs

- Post 3.11 Earthquake Actions:
 1. Database of recovery assistance programs
 - > provided open API, hosted hack-a-thon
 2. App contest for addressing power shortage
- Others:
 3. A website for sharing infographics

Other Programs

<data reuse>

- Reuse of geospatial information (a cabinet level entity) *
- Reuse of govt-administered statistics through a consortium (MIC) *

* (not necessarily “open” data)

- Weather Agency hack-a-thon

Other early programs

<local level>

- Numerous data sets and application (City of Sabae (Fukui prefecture) and a local engineer)
- Shizuoka Prefecture launched a data catalogue

<civic sector>

- Open Linked Data Challenge - some participation by an entity closely related to City of Yokohama
- Open Data Initiative formed; Open Spending community growing

Policy Objectives

- Improving Transparency, Trust
- Participation & Collaboration
- Improving economy & government

How to provide data

- machine-readable
- allow commercial use
- easily publishable data first

Tasks Ahead (til 2013.4.)

- Better understanding of existing needs for data
- Explore technical format
- Promote service/app development
- Clarify use conditions, govt responsibilities
- catalogue data sets
- Review govt workflow

A bigger picture

- Political support: weaker
 - Government resistance: the same
 - > risk of too little data
 - Public awareness: low
 - > risk of too little re-use
- > combined risk of not meeting the critical threshold; eventually being deemed ineffective

Thank You!

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