

Report on Promotion of Regulatory Reform – Key Measures to be Taken

Review of regulations in response to technological innovation toward realizing the growth strategy

○ Regulations and Systems in the digital age

- In the digital age, traditional regulations and institutions should be drastically reformed. Amid the growing demand for a new lifestyle in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak, the promotion of regulatory reform is needed to make full use of digital technology and revitalize the Japanese economy with the post-corona world kept in mind.
- The relevant ministries will check the regulations and institutions that the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform specified as priority review items toward the digital age based on the following criteria: 1) review of regulations and institutions that require the use of certain technologies and methods; 2) review of face-to-face and documentation-based regulations through the substitution to digital technologies; 3) review of business regulations; 4) review towards devising flexible regulatory systems.

[Discussion and conclusions in FY2020. Implementation as soon as conclusions are drawn.]

- When introducing new regulations or changing regulations, the ministry will develop standardized procedures to evaluate in advance whether such regulations are designed from a digitization standpoint.

[Discussion and conclusions in FY2020]

○ Comprehensive review of regulations in light of developments in digital technology

- In order to promote new technologies such as drones and sensors and data-based infrastructure maintenance, the relevant ministries will review inspection procedure manuals for 22 business sectors under four ministries and agencies, such as roads and ports. These ministries will publish the study results and implementation schedules.

[Discussion and conclusions in FY2020]

○ Development, integration and opening of information for a data-driven society

- A forum for studying data formats and API standardization will be created to ensure the effectiveness of the guidelines for integrating MaaS-related data.

[Implementation in FY2020]

○ Promoting the spread of online medical care

- Concerning the mechanisms of online medical treatment and pharmaceutical guidance as an emergency response to the novel coronavirus outbreak, adequate follow-up studies will be made based on the initiative's verification results and toward the expansion of online medical treatment and pharmaceutical guidance.

○ Radio/communication system reform

- In order to ensure broadband access throughout the country in a reasonable manner, the ministry will accelerate their studies toward the push for universal broadband services. As soon as reaching a conclusion, such ministries will promptly take necessary measures.

[Implementation in FY2021]

○ Regulatory reform on broadcasting

- Regarding the obligation to provide universal broadcasting services, the ministry will study the case of replacing the broadcasting network with the broadband network, including cost benefits comparisons.

[Start of discussion in FY2020, conclusions should be drawn as early as possible]

- For smooth distribution of broadcast contents on the Internet, the relevant ministries will summarize, study, and draw conclusions from specific demands based on the following issues of the broadcasting industry: 1. simultaneous distribution of broadcasts on the Internet; 2. the extended collective license system; 3. the compulsory license system for orphan works and the mandatory license system for cases where no agreement is reached by consultations.

[1 and 3. The bills to be passed in an ordinary Diet session in 2021. 2. The necessity to be determined by the end of 2021.]

○ Smoother reconstruction of aged unit ownership buildings, etc.

- The requirements for the reconstruction resolution will be examined, including relaxing the requirement that at least four-fifths of the residents should agree, through discussions with a wide range of stakeholders.

[Start of discussion in FY 2020 to draw conclusions as soon as possible. Implementation immediately after the conclusions.]

Fostering the human resources who will support the future

○ Remote education

- Regarding the initiatives introduced as an emergency response to the novel coronavirus outbreak, follow-up measures will be taken to verify the effects and issues and apply the outcome to high-quality education utilizing the latest technology and individually optimized learning environment.

○ Development of an environment for fostering human resources for innovation

- The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will stipulate the availability of advanced placement depending on each child's level of understanding and interests in guidelines to provide thorough instructions to the parties concerned.

[Implementation in FY2020]

○ Employment support for various work styles and various worker types tailored to individual life stages

- One-stop consultation desks will be offered to support freelance and other employment-like work styles. Simultaneously, parties concerned will be given thorough instructions concerning the standards for determining worker category.

[Implementation in FY2020]

Responding to the economy in labor shortage due to the increasingly depopulating society

○ Task shifting of medical care and long-term care professionals

- Parties concerned will be given thorough instructions to the effect that care staff can now perform certain medical practices at fee-based nursing homes. The medical practices that long-term care staff can perform at nursing care sites will be summarized. Parties concerned will be given thorough instructions.

[Discussion and conclusions in FY2020. Implementation as soon as conclusions are drawn.]

○ More choices for OTC drugs (such as switch OTC)

- A cross-bureau system will be built in the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare to promote switch OTC. At the same time, switch OTC development goals will be set for progress management.

[Implementation in FY2020]

○ Reviewing institutions to encourage young people into entering the agricultural industry

- The number of new farmers will be increased by taking measures to offer necessary cropland preferentially to those new farmers who should be supported in acquiring cropland and verifying their accomplishments.

[Implementation in FY2020]

○ Smart agriculture, forestry, and fisheries

- Safety guidelines will be revised to enable self-driving tractors to automatically drive within a farmland through remote monitoring and between farmlands.

[Implementation in FY2020]

More efficient digital government and administrative services

○ 20% reduction of administrative procedure costs and initiatives to be continued

- The goal of "20% reduction of administrative procedure costs by March 2020" was achieved (-25.5%)
- The following initiatives still underway will be implemented as soon as possible.
 - 20% reduction of administrative procedure costs in commercial registration procedures [by the end of FY2021] and bidding and contract procedures [by the end of 2020]
 - Eliminating the need to affix seals on certificates of employment to build a completely digitalized system [Roadmap creation in 2020 and implementation in FY2021]

○ Development of an environment to boldly increase online usage rates

- In order to continue initiatives to reduce administrative procedure costs, various efforts will be made by setting the goal of boldly increasing online usage rates and establishing PDCA cycles. An environment will also be developed to promote digitalization, including drastic operational reviews and shared infrastructure development needed to push for online administrative procedures.

[Development of goals and plans in FY2020, implementation of necessary measures as soon as possible]

- Concerning administrative procedures of local governments and business operators, the government developing a unified platform for online procedures will be studied.

[Start of discussion in FY2020, prompt implementation of concluded items]

Review of regulations on documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements

○ Those related to administrative procedures

- Concerning administrative procedures subject to documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements, the relevant ministries will take necessary measures as an emergency response to the novel coronavirus outbreak and provide thorough instructions to concerned parties.
- As a permanent institutional response, the relevant ministries will study all administrative procedures subject to documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements one by one and amend laws and regulations, public notices, official notices, and the like within this year.

[Emergency response measures as soon as possible. Implementation of institutional response in 2020]

○ Procedures related to private-sector business practices

- To promote the abolishment of affixing seals, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will issue Q&As to indicate that the effect of affixing seals is limited.

[Implemented]

- In order to facilitate the use of electronic signature, the relevant ministries will explain in Q&As that some cloud-based electronic authentication services fall under the electronic signature. They will also provide thorough instructions to concerned parties.

[Implementation as soon as possible within FY2020]

- Concerning procedures for opening/closing accounts and applying for loans at financial institutions, the Financial Services Agency will set up a forum for discussions with the industry to promote the elimination and digitization of documentation, seal, and face-to-face requirements. [Implementation in the first half of FY2020]