

2026 MIC Minister's New Year's Greeting



HAYASHI Yoshimasa

Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications

I would like to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all. To introduce myself, my name is HAYASHI Yoshimasa, and I was appointed Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications in October 2025.

First, allow me to offer my heartfelt condolences to those who lost their lives in the recent disasters, including the heavy rains in August 2025, Typhoons No. 22 and No. 23, and the tsunami caused by the earthquake off the Kamchatka Peninsula. I also wish to express my sincere sympathies to everyone affected.

Japan is facing a variety of social issues such as a shrinking population and a declining birthrate and aging population. As Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications responsible for a wide range of administrative areas widely and closely related to the lives of all citizens, I will address those issues with all my strength under the Cabinet of Japan's basic policy of "building a robust economy, turning people's unease and apprehension over their current lives and the future into hope."

Ensuring a Reliable and Trusted Information and Communications Environment

On the Internet, the spread of false or misleading information and rights infringements such as defamation have become increasingly serious, particularly during disasters or elections.

Through the steady implementation of the Japan Information Distribution Platform Act (IDPA) enacted in April 2025, we will promote faster removal of such content by service providers and greater transparency in their operational practices.

We are promoting comprehensive measures in this area including initiatives to improve digital literacy across a wide range of generations and the research and development of technologies to counter disinformation and misinformation, all in collaboration with related operators and organizations.

Cyber-security measures are vitally important, and in addition to promoting R&D and the training of human resources in this area, we aim to enhance data analysis techniques to deal with cyber attacks and other threats.

We will also take a variety of measures to prevent improper use of telecommunication services to run frauds and scams that are becoming increasingly complex and sophisticated, including enhanced countermeasures to phishing emails.

Additionally, from the viewpoint of making broadcasting sustainable given its social role of fulfilling the public's right to know, we are promoting further studies on the future image of broadcasting and the way in which broadcasting systems should operate.

Strengthening International Competitiveness and Ensuring Economic Security

Based on the "DX and Innovation Acceleration Plan for 2030" released in May 2025, we will promote the technical development and building of a new digital infrastructure supporting the AI society and actively pursue its overseas deployment.

Specifically, in collaboration with the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT), the nexus between industry, academia, and government, we will promote the

research and development and international standardization of the All-Photonics Network as the core of the next-generation information and communication infrastructure. We will expand these efforts to the space and quantum fields as well and aim for the early social implementation and overseas deployment of related technologies.

To this end, we will work closely with international institutions such as the Universal Postal Union (UPU), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), which include many senior officials from Japan.

We will also promote the regional dispersion of data centers based on advanced Watt-Bit Collaboration between the communication and power infrastructures and push forward the building and defense of a digital infrastructure supporting the AI society including submarine cables, 5G, and optical fiber.

To ensure the autonomy of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) communication satellite constellations that are effective in times of emergency, we will promote infrastructure development through public and private investment.

We will promote the overseas development of digital infrastructures such as 5G and submarine cables vital to ensuring economic security through a sustainable and stable supply of risk money from the Fund Corporation for the Overseas Development of Japan's ICT and Postal Services (Japan ICT Fund) under international cooperation.

As for AI, a "Reporting Framework" has been implemented in relation to the "Hiroshima AI Process" in which Japan leads the way in formulating international rules. Based on this framework, we will work to expand the number of supporting countries and support initiatives by companies and other entities adhering to the rules of conduct.

Together with the above, we will widely disseminate and raise awareness of "AI Guidelines for Business" that sets guiding principles for the development, provision, and use of AI.

Additionally, to bolster the abilities of domestic enterprises to develop trustworthy AI, we will strongly support the maintenance and expansion of high-quality Japanese-language data for AI training held by NICT, its provision to domestic operators, and the research and development of AI evaluation platforms.

Next, we will provide production support, the training of human resources, and the overseas dispatching of personnel to promote the international expansion of Japanese broadcast content, and we will strongly work to establish a production and distribution environment to promote proper transactions and fair compensation.

Moreover, given that "information and communications" has been included as one of the strategic fields requiring comprehensive support at the newly established "Headquarters for Japan's Growth Strategy" established in November 2025, we will promote investments in the field of information and communications through public and private partnerships.

In Closing

Let me conclude by wishing everyone good health and prosperity in the year ahead.