

Communications News

Newsletter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications(MIC), Japan

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TOPIC 1

Results of 10th Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting

The 10th Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting (hereinafter referred to as “the Policy Meeting”) was held in Singapore on Tuesday, October 10, and Wednesday, October 11, 2017. The Policy Meeting has been held approximately once a year since 2009 with the aim of strengthening the international cooperation and efforts of Japan and ASEAN countries in the cybersecurity field. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Policy Meeting, where the participants confirmed and assessed the efforts achieved in the past year concerning the following subjects: (1) The protection of critical information infrastructures, (2) An emergency liaison system for responding to incidents due to cyberattacks, and (3) Human resource development in the field of cybersecurity. In addition, they also comprehensively reviewed and assessed the past activities of the Policy Meeting, and discussed cooperation for the coming year based on the results of the review and assessment.

As a result, the participants in the meeting acknowledged the progress of efforts to foster trust and cooperative relationships at the respective levels of all officials in charge of Japan-ASEAN policies, and also agreed on future efforts between Japan and the ASEAN region, including the continuation of ongoing joint awareness-raising activities, inter-governmental exercises for an information liaison system, discussion for fortifying a collaboration and cooperation framework to further promote information sharing on a regular basis, and sharing advanced and leading efforts for the protection of critical information infrastructures.

1. Time and date, etc.

Time and date, etc.: Tuesday, October 10, and Wednesday, October 11 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel (Singapore)

Hosted by: The National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity (NISC), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)

Co-chairs: Japan (Prof. Ryoza Hayashi, Director of the Meiji Institute for Global Affairs, Meiji University) and Singapore (Mr. Hoo Ming Ng, Deputy Chief Executive Operations, Cyber Security Agency)

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Results of 10th Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting

2. Major achievements

At the ninth Policy Meeting in Tokyo in October 2016, the participants agreed that they would cooperate in the fields of information liaison training, protection of critical information infrastructures, and human resource development. At the 10th Policy Meeting, the participants confirmed the progress of these cooperative efforts and the past achievements, taking the opportunity of the 10th meeting as a milestone of the Policy Meeting, and discussed future Japan-ASEAN collaboration and cooperation. Major content of the policy meeting are as follows:

(1) Further enhancement of the Japan-ASEAN information sharing system related to cybersecurity

To address the cyberthreats emerging around the world, the participants confirmed the achievements the member countries in the present fiscal year in inter-governmental information liaison training and table-top exercises to establish and enhance the Japan-ASEAN information sharing system for cybersecurity and to swiftly respond to the occurrence of incidents through collaboration among the participating countries. In addition, they agreed that they would continue such training and exercises even more practically, and expand the number of participating organizations and individuals in and after fiscal 2018. Furthermore, they agreed to revise common rules to increase efficiency and ensure the advancement of information liaison efforts and to advance discussions toward conducting information sharing on an ordinary basis and further enhancing the information sharing system.

(2) Survey on the progress in cooperation efforts under the guidelines concerning protection of critical information infrastructures and future directions of these efforts

The participants received a briefing on the results of a survey on the progress on cooperation efforts made by each ASEAN country under the guidelines revised at the ninth meeting in 2016 on the protection of critical information infrastructures in Japan and the ASEAN region, and confirmed the dissemination levels of voluntary efforts in member states. The participants confirmed that they would discuss the possibility of holding workshops in 2018 following those held in fiscal 2017 so that ASEAN economies will be able to exchange views and information with entities engaging in advanced and leading efforts in order to introduce and implement policies for protecting critical information infrastructures specific to their latest situations.

(3) Promotion of cooperation in human resource development

The progress of Japan's long-term training program was reported at the Policy Meeting in addition to the progress of the conventional short-term training and workshops that Japan has been providing to ASEAN countries. The long-term training program, which started this fiscal year, accepts overseas students from ASEAN countries at Japanese universities.

Furthermore, the participants received a briefing on a list of roles required for the Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRT) of the governments of the member countries. The list will be used as a reference for the member states in advancing human resource development on a continuous, voluntary basis. In addition, the participants confirmed that the member countries would continue conducting joint awareness-raising activities in the field.

(4) Review of the past efforts, and future directions of cooperation and collaboration

Taking the opportunity presented by the 10th meeting as a milestone for the Policy Meeting, the participants reviewed their past efforts. They agreed to change the current title of the Japan-ASEAN Information Security Policy Meeting to the Japan-ASEAN Cybersecurity Policy Meeting and compile a Japan-ASEAN Cybersecurity Policy Handbook (a tentative title) in a project launched to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the Policy Meeting.

3. Future plans

The 11th Policy Meeting will be held in autumn next year.

Results of 23rd Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue and 6th Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the European Commission held the 6th Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop on Monday, October 2, and Tuesday, October 3, followed by the 23rd Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue on Wednesday, October 4.

1. 23rd Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue

(1) Overview

MIC and the European Commission (In charge: Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology) has been holding Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue on a regular basis. In this round (the 23rd round), the Japan side and the EU side discussed the following matters with consideration of the policy trends and other factors in both Japan and the European Union (EU).

(2) Main achievements

i. International collaboration

With regard to Internet governance, the EU side explained the importance of the continuous collaboration of Japan and the EU in the opportunities of international discussions, such as the recent G7 ICT and Industry Ministers' Meeting in Torino, Italy. The Japanese side explained initiatives to maintain a free and open Internet environment.

Regarding the above point, both sides confirmed that Japan and the EU would continue working together within international frameworks, including G7 and G20.

Furthermore, both sides exchanged opinions on the importance of the free flow of information.

ii. Telecommunications regulations

The EU side explained its strategic goal in the field of telecommunications for 2025, including its efforts towards the development of Wi-Fi, the early realization of the 5th generation (5G) mobile networks, and revisions to telecommunications regulations in Europe. In addition, the EU side explained the migration status of the fixed telephone networks to the IP networks in EU member countries. The Japanese side explained the latest trends in Japan's telecommunications regulations and the ideal state of a smooth migration to the IP networks from the fixed telecommunications networks.

iii. Cybersecurity

The EU side explained its efforts towards cybersecurity strategies. The Japanese side explained the ideal state of cybersecurity countermeasures pertaining to the IoT. With consideration of an increase in the importance of cybersecurity with the progress of the IoT, the Japanese side and the EU side exchanged opinions on the criteria for the security authentication of IoT devices, and decided to exchange expert opinions in the future.

iv. ICT human resource development

The EU side explained the ideal state of human resource development in the ICT society. The Japanese side explained its efforts towards the training of security human resources as well as the development of human resources necessary for the ICT society. Both sides reached an agreement to share challenges and continue exchanging opinions.

Results of 23rd Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue and 6th Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop

v. 5G

The EU side explained a future roadmap for the early realization of 5G mobile networks and international cooperation in the allocation of frequencies. The Japanese side explained its 5G standardization and demonstration experiment initiatives.

With regard to international collaboration in the allocation of 5G frequencies, in particular, both sides agreed to share the progress of their initiatives and challenges and exchange expert opinions in the future.

vi. Joint research

The EU side explained the results and evaluations of Japan-EU joint ICT R&D programs in the past. The Japanese side explained the scheme of international collaborative research.

Both sides decided to continue their collaboration in international joint research.

vii. AI and Robotics

The EU side explained its efforts towards AI and robotics. The Japanese side explained its efforts towards AI R&D guidelines and AI applications. Furthermore, the Japanese side and the EU side discussed the impact of the progress of AI on society and the stance of each country towards it. The importance of future discussions about AI was confirmed at the G7 ICT and Industry Ministers' Meeting as well, and both sides decided to continue sharing challenges and work together.

(Reference) Attendees at the 23rd Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue

Japanese side: Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination Masahiko Tominaga (the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) and others

EU side: Deputy Director-General Khalil Rouhana (the Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology)

2. 6th Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop

(1) Overview

The 6th Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop was held as a place for both public and private exchange of opinions freely on critical issues in the digital economy. With consideration of the policy trends of both Japan and the EU and issues in practical business areas, both sides held talks on the following matters.

(2) Main achievements

i. Sharing initiatives for ICT standardization, including 5G and IoT standardization

The Japanese side and the EU side discussed the schedule, standardization requirements, allocation of frequencies, etc. for the realization of 5G mobile networks in 2020. Both sides agreed to continue their cooperation through expert meetings and other opportunities.

ii. Blockchain

There was an explanation of practical case examples of blockchains in non-financial fields and the importance of international collaboration while various demonstration experiments were being conducted. In addition, discussions were held on areas expected to utilize blockchains.

Results of 23rd Japan-EU ICT Policy Dialogue and 6th Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop

iii. Electronic authentication

The Japanese side and the EU side discussed electronic authentication, including that of time stamps. The EU side explained the progress of eID regulations and the importance of security maintenance was discussed.

iv. Standard Essential Patents (SEPs)

The Japanese side explained the trends of disputes over standard-essential patents and guidelines on granting licenses. The Japanese side and the EU side discussed the importance of balancing the maintenance of access to technology and the provision of innovation incentives.

v. Data economy

The Japanese side and the EU side discussed issues on promoting data utilization and distribution and the ideal state of institutional development. In addition, the EU side explained its efforts towards automatic driving, followed by a discussion over a number of matters, including the maintenance of interoperability for the promotion of data utilization, responses to security, and the international coordination of rules.

With regard to personal information, the EU and the Japanese side explained their efforts towards the establishment of the framework of personal information distribution between Japan and the EU, and the Japanese side and the EU side discussed a number of issues, including the necessity of developing practical and flexible guidelines, the importance of securing an appropriate balance between the free flow of information and the protection of personal information, and the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches.

(Reference) Attendees at the 6th Japan-EU ICT Strategy Workshop

Japanese side: Director-General of the Global Strategy Bureau Kenichi Imabayashi (the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) and participants from the Secretariat of Personal Information Protection Commission, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan Business Federation, related companies and others

EU side: Director Gerard de Graaf (Digital Economy & Coordination (Directorate F) DG CONNECT, European Commission) and participants from the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, related companies and others