

**The Fourth Basic Plan on Measures for Providing Safe
and Secure Internet Use for Young People**

July, 2018

< Contents >

Introduction	1
---------------------------	---

Part 1 Basic Policies on Measures for Providing Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People

1. Basic Principles	3
2. Basic Policies	3
(1) Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities for voluntary and independent Internet use by young people	
(2) Implementation of awareness-raising activities for enabling guardians to properly control Internet use by young people	
(3) Encouraging efforts by business operators, etc. to prevent young people from viewing content harmful to them	
(4) Promotion of voluntary efforts by citizens to resolve problems on the Internet	
(5) Establishment of an effective PDCA cycle that takes into account changes in the related technology and the manner of use	
3. Aims in Implementing Measures.....	4

Part 2 Matters Concerning Measures for Promoting Education and Awareness-raising Activities on Appropriate Internet Use by Young People

1. Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities at schools, etc.	6
(1) Promotion of information morals education, etc. according to children's developmental stage	
(2) Promotion of awareness-raising activities via schools, etc. in consideration of increasing use of the Internet by younger children	
(3) Encouraging efforts to cope with "cyberbullying"	
2. Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities in society	7
(1) Support for continued education and awareness-raising activities by local communities, private bodies, business operators, and other parties concerned	
(2) Promotion and support for the gathering and sharing of information of the best practices in respective communities	
(3) Support for fostering a diversity of human resources who can be	

- familiar mentors)
- (4) Encouraging the effective use of Internet literacy indicators
- 3. Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities at home 8
 - (1) Support for guardians' control proportional to the developmental stage of young people
 - (2) Support for efforts at home, such as making family rules, with the aim of enabling young people to establish an appropriate lifestyle
- 4. Support for the research of developing and disseminating effective education and awareness-raising methods with a focus on the daily life cycles of young people..... 9
 - (1) Support for implementing effective information education according to children's developmental stage
 - (2) Review and promotion of effective awareness-raising activities for guardians in light of the changes in the environment for Internet use and diversification of needs
- 5. Development of national movements..... 10
 - (1) Promotion of comprehensive and intensive public relations and awareness-raising activities for coping with problems in society as a whole
 - (2) Support for voluntary activities by Internet users and business operators

Part 3 Matters Concerning Measures for Improving the Performance of and Disseminating the Use of Services of and Software for Filtering Content Harmful to Young People

- 1. Securing business operators' thorough performance of obligations to provide and enable filtering services, to confirm whether users are young people, etc. 11
 - (1) Securing thorough performance of obligations to provide and enable filtering services
 - (2) Securing thorough performance of obligations to confirm with guardians whether users are young people and to provide explanations to guardians
 - (3) Dissemination of standards for determining the best methods of providing filtering services
- 2. Promotion of means of protecting young people such as filtering

services and software, based on the concept of Protection of Children Online (PCO) by Design.....	12
(1) Efforts for achieving user-friendly and easy-to-understand filtering services and software	
(2) Support for efforts to establish the appropriate coverage of the content subject to restriction of viewing by filtering services and software and to make such restriction appropriate	
(3) Establishing appropriate measures in relation with new devices based on the concept of “Protection of Children Online (PCO) by Design”	
3. Awareness-raising activities for promoting dissemination of means of protecting young people such as filtering services and software	13
4. Surveys on awareness of protecting measures of young people such as filtering services and software in light of the changes in the environment for Internet use and diversification of needs.....	13

Part 4 Matters Concerning Support for Private Bodies, etc., Engaged in Activities for Appropriate Internet Use by Young People

1. Support for vitalizing activities in communities to allow young people to acquire skills for appropriate use of the Internet	14
2. Support for website operators to develop a system for measures to prevent young people from viewing content harmful to them	14
(1) Support for developing systems such as those for formulating model contractual conditions, etc.	
(2) Support for efficient and smooth implementation of activities	
3. Support for consultation on young people’s problems concerning the Internet	15
4. Support for other activities for the development of an environment for Internet use	15

Part 5 Important Matters Concerning Other Measures for Providing Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People

1. Promotion of control to prevent young people from becoming victims of crimes committed via the Internet.....	16
(1) Enhancement of law enforcement against crimes triggered by the use of SNS and support for voluntary efforts by business operators to prevent young people from becoming victims	

(2) Promotion of law enforcement against indecent dating service providers	
(3) Promotion of police guidance to children in cyberspace	
(4) Promotion of measures to eliminate children's victimization by sex crimes such as child prostitution and pornography triggered by the use of the Internet	
(5) Promotion of development of good cooperative relationships for investigation	
2. Promotion of requests for deletion, etc. of illegal and harmful content	17
(1) Promotion of actions such as requests for deletion, etc. through utilization of the Internet Hotline Center, etc.	
(2) Support for business operators and private bodies to take effective measures to prevent viewing, etc.	
3. Promotion of measures against defamation and violation of privacy against young people	17
(1) Counseling services for young people whose human rights are violated on the Internet	
(2) Measures against defamation and violation of privacy on the Internet	
4. Promotion of countermeasures against spam mail	18
(1) Steady enforcement of the law and other comprehensive measures	
(2) Promotion of international cooperation	
(3) Dissemination activities for countermeasures against chain mail	
5. Surveys on Japan and other countries	18
(1) Surveys on social impact of harmful content, etc.	
(2) Survey on efforts in foreign countries	

Part 6 Promotion System, etc.

1. Promotion system in the national government	20
2. Collaboration with local public entities, guardians, business operators and private bodies, etc.	20
3. Promotion of international collaboration	20
4. Review of the Basic Plan, etc.	20

Introduction

Nine years have passed since the enforcement of the Act on Development of an Environment That Provides Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People (Act No. 79 of 2008; hereinafter referred to as the “Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People”), and the government has reviewed the “Basic Plan on Measures for Providing Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People” formulated based thereon (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Plan”) twice so far. The government has deliberated changes in the environment for Internet use by young people and has addressed various new problems accompanying those changes on each occasion of reviewing the Basic Plan.

The government decided the Third Basic Plan (decision by the Headquarters for the Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People on July 30, 2015) and has dealt with challenges concerning the development of the environment for Internet use for young people, in collaboration with local public entities and private bodies, etc. As the main pillars for promoting efforts and implementing related measures, particular attention was given to the following three issues: (i) strengthening measures to protect young people, such as enhancement of filtering functions, irrespective of devices or access environments; (ii) strengthening support for guardians and families, enhancing young people’s Internet literacy, and encouraging them to establish appropriate lifestyle habits; and (iii) gathering and sharing information on pioneering activities and building a promotion system, while bearing the PDCA cycle in mind.

At the same time, comprehensive and intensive public relations and awareness-raising activities were carried out through cooperation and collaboration among related organizations and associations. One such example is the “Spring Safety Net Campaign with Chain of Moves in New Semester” (in FY2017, renamed as “Safety Net Campaign with Chain of Moves in Winter Holidays and New Semester”). In addition, initiatives concerning information morals education and awareness-raising seminars on safe and secure Internet use were implemented nationwide. Autonomous efforts for protecting young people by business associations, such as mobile-service providers and SNS business operators, have been also promoted. Various activities were thus carried out under the Third Basic Plan.

The Internet has become one of the most important social infrastructures and its usefulness is too obvious to mention, but on the other hand, information deemed inappropriate for young people is flooding the Internet and new applications and diverse services attracting young people's attention are provided by global service providers one after another and are rapidly prevailing, posing serious problems such as causing crimes and damage through their wrongful use.

Internet access by young people has also been further diversified, not only through devices for connecting to the Internet, such as smartphones, mobile game machines, and mobile music players, but also through rapidly expanding use of wireless LAN, in addition to communication lines provided by mobile phone companies.

Additionally, younger children, such as preschoolers and early elementary school children, have come to use smartphones and tablet computers, and the number of children victimized by crimes of child prostitution and pornography triggered by the use of SNS is constantly increasing. There are even cases of child pornography in which children are deceived or threatened to photograph their own naked bodies and send those shots by mail. In November 2017, the case of murder and abandonment of corpses in Zama City, Kanagawa, committed through the wrongful use of SNS, was revealed. In this manner, new types of problems concerning the use of SNS are emerging.

Amid such circumstances, the government amended the Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People (enforced on February 1, 2018), under which strengthened efforts are expected for further disseminating the use of filtering services and software and for developing a better environment for young people's Internet use.

In light of these rapid changes in circumstances affecting Internet use by young people, the government has revised the Third Basic Plan to establish a new Basic Plan, in order to clarify the intensive measures to be taken over the next three years toward the development of a safe and secure environment for Internet use by young people.

The review of the Basic Plan was made focusing on the following three points to note:

- (i) further promoting the use of filtering services and software based on the amended Act;
- (ii) supporting guardians and families from their children's earlier ages; and
- (iii) promoting measures to prevent troubles, bullying and damage triggered by the use of SNS.

Based on the new Basic Plan, the government, together with local public entities and private bodies, shall continue to proactively promote measures designed to ensure safe and secure Internet use by young people.

Part 1 Basic Policies on Measures for Providing Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People

1. Basic Principles

The Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People prescribes the following basic principles for the government and local public entities to follow in formulating and implementing measures for providing safe and secure Internet use for young people.

First, young people shall be prompted to acquire skills for independently utilizing information and communication equipment, properly sorting out information available on the Internet, and appropriately transmitting information via the Internet.

Second, the chances of young people viewing content harmful to them via the Internet shall be reduced as much as possible, by improving the performance of and disseminating the use of software for filtering content harmful to young people, and through measures preventing young people from viewing content harmful to them, which shall be taken by persons engaged in businesses related to Internet use by young people.

Lastly, voluntary and independent efforts in the private sector shall play a substantial role, and the government and local public entities shall respect this, in light of the significance of free expression activities and characteristics of the Internet that enable diversified entities to engage in diverse activities to express themselves to the whole world.

2. Basic Policies

Based on the abovementioned basic principles prescribed in the Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People, the government shall take measures for providing safe and secure Internet use for young people in accordance with the following basic policies (1) to (5).

(1) Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities for voluntary and independent Internet use by young people

In order to secure voluntary and independent Internet use by young people in accordance with their developmental stage, guidance on better use of ICT and information morals education shall also be provided at schools according to children's developmental stage. At the same time, awareness-raising activities for young people at local communities and at home shall also be promoted and

supported. For example, support shall be provided with respect to efforts at home toward encouraging young people to establish an appropriate lifestyle.

(2) Implementation of awareness-raising activities for enabling guardians to properly control Internet use by young people

Awareness-raising activities for guardians shall be promoted and supported at schools and local communities, so that guardians can properly control the Internet use of young people in accordance with their developmental stage, focusing on their daily life cycles, while taking into account their Internet literacy and the status of their use of the Internet. These activities shall cover the following issues: harmful content on the Internet, risks on the Internet threatening young people, how to deal with these problems, and efforts at home toward reviewing their lifestyles (e.g. making family rules on Internet usage).

(3) Encouraging efforts by business operators, etc. to prevent young people from viewing content harmful to them

In order to enable guardians to prevent young people from accessing content harmful to young people, satisfying the guardians' needs and based on the concept of Protection of Children Online (PCO) by Design, the government shall encourage business operators' effort to perform their obligations to provide filtering services for young people, etc., their efforts to disseminate filtering services and software and other effective means of protecting young people, advance filtering services and software in accordance with guardians' needs, and also promote measures to prevent young people from viewing content harmful to them through means such as blocking child pornography.

(4) Promotion of voluntary efforts by citizens to resolve problems on the Internet

The government shall encourage each of private Internet users to make voluntary efforts to pay caution to young people's Internet usage when transmitting information or to report problematic content so as to resolve problems on the Internet, including content harmful to young people.

(5) Establishment of an effective PDCA cycle that takes into account changes in the related technology and the manner of use

Based on the recognition that the Internet environment changes dramatically due

to rapid technology innovation, and in light of the significant changes in technology and use that are characteristics of the Internet, the government shall establish an effective PDCA cycle to quickly identify emerging problems affecting young people and promptly respond to these problems.

3. Aims in Implementing Measures

The following five aims shall be observed while promoting measures based on the abovementioned basic policies to ensure that the initiatives taken to ensure safe and secure Internet use by young people will protect young people from harmful content while allowing them to enjoy the benefits of Internet use:

(i) Balance between improving information literacy and minimizing the chances to view harmful content

In order to develop a safe and secure environment for Internet use for young people, every effort shall be made to improve the ability of young people to properly use the Internet, focusing on their daily life cycles. To supplement these efforts, measures shall be taken to minimize the opportunities for young people to view content harmful to them.

(ii) Roles of guardians and other responsible parties

Guardians, who directly care for and educate young people, have the primary right and responsibility to ensure an environment that provides safe and secure Internet use for young people. However, as the Internet usage environment is subject to significant and rapid change due to technological innovations, it is difficult for guardians alone to fulfill this role. Therefore, other responsible parties should cooperate and fulfill their respective roles in supporting and helping guardians perform their obligations properly. For example, business operators should further promote measures for protecting young people, based on the concept of PCO by Design.

(iii) Approaches on the information recipients' side

Measures shall be taken to minimize opportunities for young people to view harmful content on the information recipients' side, in principle, from the perspective of ensuring freedom of expression on the Internet.

(iv) Private initiatives and support by the administrative organs

Independent and voluntary efforts by the private sector to develop an environment that provides safe and secure Internet use for young people shall first be respected, and the administrative organs shall provide support for such efforts.

(v) No administrative interference concerning the determination of what constitutes harmful content

The private sector should evaluate what contents are harmful to young people, and the governmental administrative organs shall not interfere with such judgment.

(vi) Promotion of measures in light of the Policies for the Prevention of Recurrence of the Case in Zama City

Measures relating to the “Policies for the Prevention of Recurrence of the Case in Zama City (decision by the Ministerial Meeting on December 19, 2017)” should be promoted in light of those policies.

Part 2 Matters Concerning Measures for Promoting Education and Awareness-raising Activities on Appropriate Internet Use by Young People

In order to have young people acquire skills for appropriate use of the Internet according to their developmental stage, education and awareness-raising activities on appropriate Internet use by young people shall be promoted at schools, in society and at home, etc., while keeping increasing use of the Internet by younger children in mind. Measures shall also be taken to assist research for the purpose of developing and disseminating effective education and awareness-raising methods, also with consideration to guardians of younger children, and to promote and support the gathering and sharing of information on best practices.

Furthermore, the government shall be united in carrying out public announcements and awareness-raising activities, proactively supporting private bodies' awareness-raising activities, and prompting the development of national movements in society as a whole for the development of an environment that provides safe and secure Internet use for young people.

1. Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities at schools, etc.

(1) Promotion of information morals education, etc. according to children's developmental stage

All children at elementary schools, junior and senior high schools steadily learn about information morals education according to the school grade level and the children's developmental stage.

For that purpose, the government shall revise the teachers' manual on information morals education, prepare awareness-raising materials for children, and provide training to education supervisors, etc., in light of increasing use of the Internet by younger children and the current status of related problems and damage, etc., thereby endeavoring to enhance teachers' skills in information morals education and improving the content of information morals education at school.

(2) Promotion of awareness-raising activities via schools, etc. in consideration of increasing use of the Internet by younger children

With the view of ensuring young people will not become victims or inflict harm to others in relation to Internet use, materials for awareness-raising activities to support education at schools shall be prepared and provided. Awareness-raising courses

concerning appropriate Internet use (including appropriate use of SNS, such as basic rules not to post suicide-inducing content or other inappropriate content, and preferable use of filtering and other technical tools; hereinafter, the same applies in Part 2), such as Internet Safety Class and e-Net Caravan in collaboration between the public and private sectors, shall be provided for young people, teachers, and guardians. Awareness-raising activities shall further be promoted by making the most of the effective opportunities where guardians, etc. meet together at schools.

In addition, the government shall prepare awareness-raising materials for guardians of younger children and promote activities to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness among those guardians concerning children's use of the Internet, including preferable use of filtering and other technical tools, by encouraging corporate efforts and carrying out projects to assist childrearing through kindergartens, nursery centers and centers for early childhood education and care.

Based on the notice, which requests the prohibition of bringing mobile phones to elementary schools and lower secondary schools in principle, efforts shall be promoted, in accordance with the circumstances at respective schools and communities.

(3) Encouraging efforts to cope with “cyberbullying”

In accordance with the Act for the Promotion of Measures to Prevent Bullying (Act No. 71 of 2013), efforts shall be made to clarify the reality of “cyberbullying” via SNS or so-called off-school websites, etc., and through cooperation among related organizations, etc., effective measures shall be taken for prevention, early detection, and early action toward resolving this problem. In addition, more opportunities shall be provided for students themselves to consider bullying problems including cyberbullying.

Under the current circumstances where many young people use SNS as their major communication tool and proper responses against bullying on SNS have come to be recognized as a social issue, efforts shall be promoted to build consultation systems utilizing SNS and other tools targeting children facing various troubles including bullying.

2. Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities in society

(1) Support for continued education and awareness-raising activities by local communities, private bodies, business operators, and other parties concerned

With the view to ensure that students will neither become victims nor inflict harm to others in relation to Internet use, reference materials compiling actual cases where young people have been involved in Internet problems and crime, and countermeasures taken in response shall be provided. Awareness-raising courses concerning appropriate Internet use shall be provided for young people through cooperation between the public and private sectors.

Furthermore, support shall be provided for efforts to establish and develop a cooperative framework between the public and private sectors wherein education and awareness-raising activities are carried out by local communities, private bodies, business operators, and other parties concerned (including parties engaged in education other than that conducted at school) autonomously and continuously in accordance with their respective circumstances, and also these activities shall be assisted by way of holding symposiums and forums helpful for solving problems faced by each community, promoting the use of private bodies' Internet-use skill tests for young people, and preparing and distributing awareness-raising materials.

(2) Promotion and support for the gathering and sharing of information of the best practices in respective communities

Useful information on concrete measures taken by related organizations and associations for the development of an environment for safe and secure Internet use for young people shall be provided promptly in the form of an easy-to-understand list by effectively utilizing websites and other portal sites. Support shall be provided to related organizations and associations in respective communities to promote their initiatives toward gathering and sharing information on the best creative practices.

(3) Support for fostering a diversity of human resources who can be familiar mentors in communities

In order to ensure that education and awareness-raising activities concerning appropriate Internet use by young people will be promoted effectively according to the circumstances of respective communities, the government shall provide more support for fostering a diversity of human resources who can be familiar mentors in communities, not limited to university students serving as cybercrime prevention volunteers, through public-private collaborative awareness-raising courses targeting young people, teachers, and guardians, etc. and forums held jointly with local public entities.

(4) Encouraging the effective use of Internet literacy indicators

Due to the emergence of smartphones and other new devices, the knowledge needed to enable young people to use the Internet in a safe and secure manner has become diversified. Therefore, with the effective use of Internet literacy indicators for young people, the government shall evaluate the Internet literacy and actual Internet use among young people and guardians and promote measures to improve their Internet literacy based on the evaluation results.

3. Promotion of education and awareness-raising activities at home

(1) Support for guardians' control proportional to the developmental stage of young people

Regarding technical tools that enable guardians to understand and control their children's Internet use based on their choices in accordance with the developmental stage of their children, efforts for disseminating related information and raising awareness shall be made, while exchanging opinions with mobile-service providers, mobile phone manufacturers, and OS developers, so that guardians will be able to use these tools appropriately. These tools include those enabling checking of children's browser history while giving due consideration to their privacy, and limiting children's Internet use through enabling restrictions of functions of mobile phones and smartphone applications.

(2) Support for efforts at home, such as making family rules, with the aim of enabling young people to establish an appropriate lifestyle

It is important for guardians to fulfill their responsibilities for appropriate Internet use by young people, by understanding the actual Internet use of their children and controlling their children's Internet use based on the guardians' choices depending on the youth's development stages. Therefore, with the aim of improving guardians' Internet literacy and enabling young people to establish an appropriate lifestyle, awareness-raising courses concerning appropriate Internet use by young people shall be provided for guardians with cooperation from the public and private sectors.

The government shall provide young people and their guardians with awareness-raising materials concerning family rules for Internet use at home so as to ensure safe and secure Internet use by young people, methods to avoid potential risk involving their use of SNS and their involvement in troubles and crimes on the Internet, including the risk of "Internet addiction" resulting from long hours of use,

and consultation services to cope with issues concerning Internet use by children. The government shall also provide teaching materials for guardians to cultivate media literacy on the Internet, thereby supporting various efforts at home.

4. Support for the research of developing and disseminating effective education and awareness-raising methods with a focus on the daily life cycles of young people

(1) Support for implementing effective information education according to children's developmental stage

The government shall conduct research, aiming to resolve problems in implementing information education, in order to support implementation of more effective information education.

(2) Review and promotion of effective awareness-raising activities for guardians in light of the changes in the environment for Internet use and diversification of needs

Amid changes in the environment for Internet use, consideration shall be given to the appropriate provision of information to guardians with regard to countermeasures against troubles on the Internet and consultation services concerning these troubles, so that they may properly control Internet use by young people. At the same time, with the view of promoting and supporting voluntary efforts of guardians of younger children, review shall be promoted on awareness-raising and support measures that can attract more attention from guardians. Such review shall cover consideration for preparing awareness-raising materials, desirable consultation services concerning Internet problems involving young people, as well as effective awareness-raising activities at various occasions such as the purchase or replacement of the equipment that allows access to the Internet, or the purchase of application software.

In order to enhance the effects of these efforts, an ongoing survey shall be conducted on the Internet literacy of young people and their guardians, including guardians of younger children, and on the status of their children's Internet use.

5. Development of national movements

(1) Promotion of comprehensive and intensive public relations and awareness-raising activities for coping with problems in society as a whole

In order to prompt society as a whole to achieve an environment that provides safe and secure Internet use for young people, comprehensive and intensive public relations and awareness-raising activities shall be carried out continuously on occasions such as the “National Month for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Damage” and the “Children and Young People’s Development Support Month,” as well as the “Spring Intensive Campaign for Safe Internet Use by Students” which is held at the time young people enter schools or advance to new grades, when many young people are expected to purchase smartphones, etc.

(2) Support for voluntary activities by Internet users and business operators

Support shall be provided for activities to further promote expansion of voluntary activities by Internet users and business operators using third party organizations activities for the development of a better environment for safe and secure Internet use by young people. These voluntary activities include the business operators make independent decisions to determine their own details of measures, such as by obtaining accreditation from a third party organization that their measures satisfy the standard requirements established by the organization, and representing this fact with the use of logos issued by the organization.

Part 3 Matters Concerning Measures for Improving the Performance of and Disseminating the Use of Services of and Software for Filtering Content Harmful to Young People

In order to reduce chances of young people viewing harmful content as much as possible, the government shall take measures to ensure business operators' performance of their obligations to provide and enable filtering services, based on the amended Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People, and further disseminate the use of filtering services and software. Such measures also aim to enable guardians to easily use filtering services and software or other functions for protecting young people that are effective from the users' perspective, irrespective of devices or access environments, in accordance with the developmental stage of young people.

In particular, the Internet environment surrounding young people is characterized by the constant introduction of new devices, services and transmission technologies, which then spread rapidly among young people. Considering this feature, the government shall promote and support the efforts of the private sector that when they design new devices, services or technologies, business operators should assume that these will be used by young people, and should design devices and services that incorporate effective means of protecting young people and develop proper internal and external systems (PCO by Design).

1. Securing business operators' thorough performance of obligations to provide and enable filtering services, to confirm whether users are young people, etc.

(1) Securing thorough performance of obligations to provide and enable filtering services

The government shall secure that business operators thoroughly perform their obligations to provide and enable filtering services under the amended Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People.

Additionally, the government shall disseminate information and raise awareness among guardians that they are obliged under the same Act to report the fact that their children, who are users of mobile phone units, etc., are young people.

(2) Securing thorough performance of obligations to confirm with guardians whether users are young people and to provide explanations to guardians

The government shall secure that business operators thoroughly perform their

obligations to confirm with guardians whether users are young people and to provide explanations to guardians under the amended Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People.

Additionally, the government shall disseminate information and raise awareness among guardians that they are obliged under the same Act to report the fact that their children, who are users of mobile phone units, etc., are young people.

(3) Dissemination of standards for determining the best methods of providing filtering services

Amid continuing changes in the Internet use environment for young people, in order to enable people to determine the best methods in which related business operators can jointly provide filtering services for devices used to access the Internet, standards for determining methods of providing filtering services shall be widely disseminated, thereby facilitating the provision of proper filtering services by related business operators.

2. Promotion of means of protecting young people such as of filtering services and software, based on the concept of Protection of Children Online (PCO) by Design

(1) Efforts for achieving user-friendly and easy-to-understand filtering services and software

In order to minimize opportunities for young people to view content harmful to them, efforts shall be made to promote the use of filtering and customizing functions easy to set that guardians can select in accordance with their children's developmental stages, in light of emergence of new services and transmission technologies, while taking into account good balance between standardized usability and diversity of choices.

(2) Support for efforts to establish the appropriate coverage of the content subject to restriction of viewing by filtering services and software and to make such restriction appropriate

In order to help filtering service providers establish the appropriate coverage of content to be made subject to restriction from viewing, support shall be provided for

the Internet Hotline Center Japan to continuously provide filtering service providers with URL information of websites reported by general users as containing harmful or illegal content.

The government shall support efforts of the private sector to disseminate the use of customizing functions that enable diverse choices by guardians, so as to ensure that information necessary for young people is not made subject to restricted viewing through filtering services and software.

(3) Establishing appropriate measures in relation with new devices based on the concept of “Protection of Children Online (PCO) by Design”

The government shall support the efforts of the private sector to accelerate the initiatives for designing and providing devices that incorporate effective means of protecting young people and developing proper internal and external systems with keeping the concept of PCO by Design in mind when providing new devices.

Furthermore, in order to ensure the effectiveness of these efforts, the government shall support independent and voluntary initiatives by business operators in providing guardians with an easy-to-understand explanation the necessity and methods of using a means of protecting young people such as filtering services and software.

In response to rapid changes in the Internet use environment, represented by the further dissemination of new Internet access devices, continuous review shall be made with regard to how to implement effective means of protecting young people such as filtering services and software, irrespective of devices, from the users’ perspective, and the government shall ensure thorough performance of manufacturers’ obligations to take measures to facilitate the use of filtering services and software and OS developers’ obligations to make efforts to facilitate such measures.

3. Awareness-raising activities for promoting dissemination of means of protecting young people such as filtering services and software

In order to further disseminate the use of effective means of protecting young people such as filtering services and software, irrespective of devices or access environments and from the users’ perspective, the government shall cooperate with local public entities, organizations that promote filtering and other awareness-raising bodies, related business operators, PTAs, and other related bodies to continue and

promote awareness-raising activities.

4. Surveys on awareness of protecting measures of young people such as filtering services and software in light of the changes in the environment for Internet use and diversification of needs

In order to contribute to the review and implementation of measures for further improving the performance and disseminating the use of effective means of protecting young people such as filtering services and software, irrespective of devices or access environments, from the users' perspective, surveys shall be carried out continuously on the Internet literacy of young people and their guardians and the status of their use of the Internet.

Part 4 Matters Concerning Support for Private Bodies, etc., Engaged in Activities for Appropriate Internet Use by Young People

The government shall provide financial and other support, including support for technological development, to private bodies or business operators engaged in activities for ensuring safe and secure Internet use by young people, respecting their voluntary and independent efforts as much as possible, without interfering with their judgment of harmful content and setting of standards for filtering.

Furthermore, the government shall support the establishment and development of a public-private cooperative framework so that initiatives for developing an appropriate environment for Internet use by young people are carried out autonomously and continuously in respective communities.

1. Support for vitalizing activities in communities to allow young people to acquire skills for appropriate use of the Internet

For further expansion and enhancement of education and awareness-raising activities by private bodies, efforts shall be made to establish and develop a cooperative framework that enables each community to develop a better environment for Internet use autonomously and continuously, so that these activities will be carried out on an ongoing basis in accordance with their respective circumstances and with the PDCA cycle in mind. Support shall be provided to vitalize activities depending on circumstances, such as holding symposiums and forums helpful for solving problems faced by each community, promoting the use of private bodies' Internet-use skill tests for young people, and preparing and distributing awareness-raising materials.

2. Support for website operators to develop a system for measures to prevent young people from viewing content harmful to them

(1) Support for developing systems such as those for formulating model contractual conditions, etc.

Support shall be provided for private bodies to formulate model contractual conditions and develop a system to implement such contractual conditions, in order to promote voluntary measures to prevent young people from viewing harmful content by website operators, or other service providers.

Regarding prohibition of posting suicide-inducing content or other inappropriate content, related business operators shall be encouraged to make responses and promote awareness of users based on their terms of service, respectively.

(2) Support for efficient and smooth implementation of activities

For efficient and smooth implementation of business operators' countermeasures against content harmful to young people, support shall be provided for research, etc., of detection technology for illegal and harmful content on the Internet by the private sector.

3. Support for consultation on young people's problems concerning the Internet

Support shall be provided for activities of private bodies that detect content on the Internet that is likely to be harmful to young people, or provide consultation services concerning troubles caused by Internet use by young people, etc.

4. Support for other activities for the development of an environment for Internet use

Support shall be provided for education, awareness-raising and human resource development activities to enhance the development of an environment for Internet use for young people by private bodies such as the Japan Internet Safety Promotion Association to promote voluntary efforts through the cooperation between industry and academia. Support shall also be provided to promote the participation by more diversified parties and to strengthen collaboration among the participants in such bodies.

Part 5 Important Matters Concerning Other Measures for Providing Safe and Secure Internet Use for Young People

In order to provide safe and secure Internet use for young people, the government shall promote measures to prevent young people from becoming victims of crimes committed via the Internet, and shall comprehensively promote provision of support for voluntary efforts by SNS business operators, and development of a system for requesting deletion of illegal and harmful content such as child pornography posted on the Internet or for providing consultations on damage.

1. Promotion of control to prevent young people from becoming victims of crimes committed via the Internet

(1) Enhancement of law enforcement against crimes triggered by the use of SNS and support for voluntary efforts by business operators to prevent young people from becoming victims

The government shall enhance law enforcement against crimes triggered by the use of SNS and support activities of the Council on the Development of Internet Use Environment for Young People by providing information on damage trends, etc. so that SNS business operators' voluntary efforts aimed at preventing young people from becoming victims will promote effective countermeasures against posting of content highly likely to lead to crimes victimizing children, such as child prostitution and pornography, and posting of suicide-inducing content.

(2) Promotion of law enforcement against indecent dating service providers

In order to prevent young people from becoming victims of crimes committed via the Internet, the government shall enhance the law enforcement against unregistered or other indecent dating service providers and those having committed a breach of prohibition against inducement on online dating sites, and seek strict sentencing on offenders of these crimes.

(3) Promotion of police guidance to children in cyberspace

In order to ensure sound development of children by protecting them from crimes on the Internet that could harm their welfare, the government shall enhance the police guidance scheme whereby police conduct cyber patrol to detect inappropriate messages posted by children on the Internet such as seeking compensated dating and

give warnings and advice directly to these children in person.

(4) Promotion of measures to eliminate children’s victimization by sex crimes such as child prostitution and pornography triggered by the use of the Internet

Based on the “Basic Plan on Measures against Child Sexual Exploitation” (adopted by the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime on April 18, 2017), the government shall promote measures to prevent child sexual exploitation on the Internet, such as preventing the creation and spread of victims of child pornography and providing protection and support for child victims.

(5) Promotion of development of good cooperative relationships for investigation

The development of cooperative relationships with private bodies, etc. should further be promoted with a view to increasing arrests of suspects and preventing the expansion of damage.

2. Promotion of requests for deletion, etc. of illegal and harmful content

(1) Promotion of actions such as requests for deletion, etc. through the utilization of the Internet Hotline Center, etc.

In order to promote countermeasures against illegal and harmful content that is flooding the Internet (including suicide-inducing information; the same applies hereinafter), requests to delete illegal and harmful content on the Internet shall be encouraged through use of the Internet Hotline Center, etc. At the same time, the government shall encourage people to make reports on suicide-inducing information, etc. on the Internet to the Internet Hotline Center through promoting outsourcing of the cyber patrol business to the private sector.

(2) Support for business operators and private bodies to take effective measures to prevent viewing, etc.

In order to minimize opportunities for young people to view illegal content that hinders sound growth of young people via the Internet, support shall be provided for business operators and private bodies to take effective measures to prevent viewing of such content for protecting rights of young people.

3. Promotion of measures against defamation and violation of privacy against

young people

(1) Counseling services for young people whose human rights are violated on the Internet

In order to make young people feel free to consult with counselors when they get damaged by defamation, etc. on the Internet, the government shall continue to promote several measures which include providing counseling services by telephone hotline or on the Internet, and distributing letters with a stamped envelope for counseling (“Children’s Rights SOS Mini-Letters”) to all students of elementary and junior high schools nationwide.

Furthermore, the government shall carry out awareness raising activities focused on the enhancement of young people’s Internet literacy from the viewpoint of the human rights protection, and further endeavor to disseminate information on counseling services and remedial measures available in the case of suffering human rights violation and devise means to facilitate connection to counseling services using ICT (including display of information on counseling services upon search using terms relating to suicide).

(2) Measures against defamation and violation of privacy on the Internet

With regard to consultations on information on the Internet which violates human rights such as defamation and violation of privacy, the government shall promote measures to inform victims of the methods to request the providers, etc. to disclose the information of the sender pertaining to said violation of rights or to delete the contents constituting defamation or violation of privacy, and, if necessary, to request the providers, etc. to delete the contents.

4. Promotion of countermeasures against spam mail

(1) Steady enforcement of the law and other comprehensive measures

Regarding spam mails sent without recipient’s consent about so-called online dating service websites or sexually explicit sites, regulations shall be steadily enforced based on the Act on Regulation of Transmission of Specified Electronic Mail (Act No. 26 of 2002) and the Act on Specified Commercial Transactions (Act No. 57 of 1976), so that such mail should not lead young people to access illegal and harmful content. Furthermore, the government shall take comprehensive measures such as the promotion of business operators’ technological countermeasures.

(2) Promotion of international cooperation

The government shall exchange information on countermeasures against spam mail with other countries, providing foreign authorities with information contributing to the enforcement of the legislation concerning spam mail if necessary, and thereby collaborate internationally in execution of laws.

(3) Dissemination activities for countermeasures against chain mail

Regarding chain mails (meaning a kind of spam mail that continues by urging receivers to pass along a chain letter by mail) that many young people receive and send, countermeasures, etc. shall be disseminated via the Anti-Spam Consultation Center.

5. Surveys on Japan and other countries

(1) Surveys on social impact of harmful content

Support shall be provided for industry-academia surveys on the social impact of harmful content on young people, etc.

(2) Survey on efforts in foreign countries

Survey shall be carried out on the current conditions and efforts in foreign countries which have promoted measures relating to content harmful to young people.

Part 6 Promotion System, etc.

1. Promotion system in the national government

In order to promote measures based on the Basic Plan in a comprehensive and effective manner, the Headquarters for the Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People shall take the initiative, under the leadership of the Prime Minister, to formulate close collaboration and cooperation among related administrative agencies.

2. Collaboration with local public entities, guardians, business operators and private bodies, etc.

When implementing measures based on the Basic Plan, voluntary and independent efforts by guardians, business operators, and private bodies play a significant role. In light of this, the government shall endeavor to develop a system of mutual collaboration and cooperation among guardians, business operators, and private bodies, together with local public entities.

3. Promotion of international collaboration

In light of the characteristics of the Internet that enable the transmission and viewing of information across borders, the government shall participate in various meetings with international organizations and other related countries to actively transmit information on Japan's efforts and exchange information on other countries' activities.

In particular, with regard to the OECD Recommendation of the Council on the Protection of Children Online adopted in February 2012 and efforts made in response, ongoing activities shall be conducted through collaboration among the related ministries and agencies.

Furthermore, the government shall promote efforts aimed at realizing international collaboration in the private sector's efforts for developing a better environment for Internet use. Specifically, the government shall support business operators or other related parties located in and outside of the country in carrying out voluntary and independent initiatives, by making guidelines established by international organizations available to them and providing them with information on effective

measures of protecting young people promoted under the initiative of the private sector based on these guidelines.

4. Review of the Basic Plan, etc.

With regard to this Basic Plan, the government shall promptly respond to new problems faced by young people concerning the use of the rapidly changing and evolving Internet, and shall follow up once a year and verify, as quantitatively as possible and with the PDCA cycle in mind, the status of the implementation of concrete measures through the Fact-finding Survey on the Internet Use Environment of Young People, etc.

Based on the results of the follow-up, changes in social and economic circumstances, changes in the environment for Internet use by young people, and progress of measures based on the Act on Development of Internet Environment for Young People and the Basic Plan, necessary measures, including the revision of laws and regulations, shall be discussed and the Basic Plan shall be reviewed in around three years.