



Digital Government Strategies: Good Practices



Japan: Official Information System Total Management Database

The OECD Council adopted on 15 July 2014 the Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies. The Recommendation provides a set of 12 principles structured around 3 pillars. The OECD Secretariat is developing a Digital Government Policy Toolkit to support OECD member countries and non-member adhering countries with the implementation of the Recommendation. This practice was submitted by the government of Japan to be considered as a good practice in the implementation of one or more of the principles contained in the Recommendation.

Description of the practice:

Organisation: Administrative Management Bureau, Japan Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)

Name of the practice: Official Information System Total Management Database

Principles implemented: Principle 3 – Create a data-driven culture in the public sector
Principle 6 – Ensure a coherent use of digital technologies across policy areas and levels of government

Description: Official Information System Total Management Database (ODB) is a database of basic information for the management of government information systems constructed by Administrative Management Bureau of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC).

In December 2013, the Government came up with the "Roadmap for Renovating Government Information Systems (RRGIS)." Investment Plans 2014 for Government Information Systems (IPGIS) June 2014.

These two initiatives are supported by two other tools of management: ODB and Universal Guideline for Government Information Systems. While the latter provides a unified rulebook for managing government information systems, the former gathers such information of respective information systems necessary for management.

The information included in the ODB is:

- 1) basic profile such as system outline, organisation in charge, functions;
- 2) history of events and schedule;



- 3) budget and actual expenditure, both aggregated and detailed;
- 4) development method, language used, systems of encryption and user authentication;
- 5) components, i.e. hardware, software, and network;
- 6) plans, specifications, contract, and delivery of procurement.

The introduction of the ODB has enabled MIC to conduct across-the-board searches on management information of all government information systems of respective ministries. ODB has been extremely effective for planning to consolidate systems and take measures to strengthen the security level of government systems as a whole.

With the introduction of RRGIS in 2013 (the Roadmap for Renovating Government Information Systems) a new management tool was also necessitated. RRGIS set up blue-prints for consolidation and migration to cloud computing of all existing government information systems. Conventional management approaches, however, concentrated only on cost reduction in big systems, while letting ministries take care of other information systems on their own. Therefore, a new management tool covering all the government information systems was needed to coordinate between all existing systems including the history and future plan of development. Prior to ODB, there was no central databank listing the important specifications, as well as the development plans and history events, of all existing government information systems. Institutional memories in this field were stored only among individual staffers. With the introduction of ODB, information as mentioned above has become available to the PMO and PJMOs of respective ministries as well as central coordinating bodies of MIC and the Cabinet Secretariat. This has helped the review process of individual systems, planning for promoting e-Government across-the-board as well as for taking measures for higher security.

This innovation aims to provide useful information for those engaged in the management and operation of government information systems. The ODB makes it possible for staff to better coordinate between all existing government information systems in terms of security and budget, and to share information of development and procurement of information systems among the various ministries. All of these contribute to strengthening IT governance of all ministries.

Results

- In the Roadmap for Reforming Government Information Systems (declared by the government), research and analysis of budget information were required to make policies for the entire government. By utilizing budget information registered to ODB, research of budget information has become more efficient.
- ODB also enabled each ministry to get basic information related to the study of the consolidation of the system based on the Roadmap for Reforming Government Information Systems.
- Additionally, the ODB enabled each ministry to understand and manage their own system's security.



Development

Overall development time: 1 year

Design: This innovation started from the idea of the initial "O", the staff of MIC. Traditionally, asset management related to government information systems had been done by each ministry. The idea for centralizing asset management was to strengthen the IT governance of the entire government. Under strong leadership of the initial "O", this innovation was generated. This story has also become the origin of the "O" in "ODB".

Testing: A trial operation of the ODB was done by MIC from September 2013 to March 2014 before the actual operation of ODB. Feedback from ministry users contributed to deciding the final mode of operation.

Implementation:

Tools: In designing and developing ODB, OSS (Open Source Software) was fully utilised to reduce the time and cost necessary for development.

Resources: Designing and development cost about 88 million yen

Diffusion and scaling:

Partnerships: None

Lessons learned

ODB plays an important role in helping to implement "The Roadmap for Reforming Government Information Systems" by consolidating asset management and information management of each governmental ministry, strengthening IT governance based on "IT Governance and Management Guideline for Central Government Information Systems".

Conditions required:

Additional information: