

Looking squarely into the 21st century, we must develop an information literate generation !

Improvement of individual information literacy is a key for maximum utilization of effects from informatization of the society.

For this purpose, Committee on Information & Telecommunication Policy is looking deeply into concrete plans for improvement of information literacy, the results of which are compiled as "proposal for desired human resources to take charge of the next generation and desirable plans for improving information literacy".

Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations)

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< < < SUMMARY [tentative version] > > >

Future economic society and information literacy

Information network is an infrastructure indispensable to an economic society.

Qualitative improvement of daily living, enhancement of industrial competitiveness, improvement and advancement of government efficiency, etc

Information literacy must become a basic capability of each citizen

To be able to master information network and to apply information network in daily living, corporate activities and government procedures

Management reform and improvement of information literacy

1 . Significance of informatization aimed at management reform

Application of information network is urgent for creation of flexible, dynamic and energetic corporations

Speeding up of series of operation processes

From research and development, to production process through follow-up services

Information Network

Improvement of productivity

Management support division, sales division, and software development division, etc

2 . Improvement of information literacy for management reform

(1) Information literacy

Computer literacy

Ability to operate information equipment

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Business literacy

Ability to apply information network in order to satisfactorily execute situation analysis, problem solving, operation reform, management administration, and logical explanation, etc

(2) Challenges and plans for improvement of information literacy

< Challenges >

- (a) Creation of informatization culture and reformation of informatization environment
  - \* Thorough utilization of information network
  - \* Reformation of operations and procedures to accomplish thorough utilization of information network
- (b) Enhancement of business literacy
  - \* Production, transmission and utilization of information
  - \* Creation of information oriented minds

< Plans >

- (a) Management leadership and improvement of information literacy of the managerial staff
- (b) Creation of environment for information transmission (Motivation and system organization)
- (c) Enhancement of information literacy education (Fostering of information utilization capability, etc.)
- (d) Establishment of seamless information network, etc

Enhancement of environment for improving information literacy

1 . Expansion of information education in educational institutions

Expansion of information education in educational institutions is urged in order to improve information literacy of the entire economic society

Improvement of information literacy for principals and teachers

- \* Execution of concentrated information literacy education for principals and assistant principals
- \* Promotion of information network in teachers' rooms (e.g. one PC for every teacher)
- \* Utilization of human resources from the private sector

Expansion of education which utilizes network

- \* Accelerate by three years (currently 2003) the goal of connecting all schools by the Internet and speed up Internet connections to each class room (U.S. goal is the year 2000)
- \* Financial assistance, etc., for Internet related expenses for each school

Dynamic reevaluation of government education guidelines and text books

- \* Make the government education guidelines the fundamental guidelines and dynamically reevaluate to cope with the speed by which informatization is taking place (currently reevaluation is conducted every 10 years)
- \* Shift emphasis from information science to aspects of application and utilization to daily social life and other courses of study

2 . Enhancement of information utilization environment

Establishment of an environment in which information is utilized in daily life in order to maintain and improve information literacy is urgently needed

Promotion of informatization of executive, legislative and judicially branches

- \* Promotion of information based operations (executive EDI, etc)
- \* Promotion of electronic disclosure of information, etc

Reevaluation of depreciation system for information related equipment

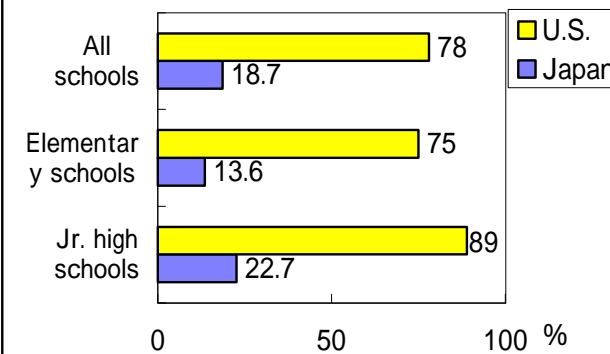
- \* Shortening of legal depreciation period (currently 6 years → 3 years)
- \* Increasing of upper limit for depreciation loss for small depreciable assets (currently 100,000 yen → 300,000 to 400,000 yen level)

User friendly personal computer hardware and software

Economical communication services

For comparison

School Internet connection rate



\* Japanese figure is the result of survey taken by the Ministry of Education in the spring of 1998  
 \* U.S. figure is the result of survey taken in the fall of 1997

Comparison of expenses used for Internet utilization in the U.S. and Japan (an example in which dial-up process is)

	Japan (24 hours in a month)	U.S. (fixed amount system)
Telephone charge	6,550 yen	16.00 dollars
Provider charge	7,400 yen (2,000 yen up to 15 hrs/month and 10 yen/min after 15 hrs)	19.35 dollars
Total	13,950 yen	35.95 dollars (about 4,680 yen)

(Source: "Aiming to create environment in which children can utilize the Internet more freely", a proposal made in June 1998 by the group to promote Internet utilization in the education field)