Title of Project: Comprehensive, International, and Universal Access to Public Policy Information

Mikitaka Masuyama
(National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, School of Policy Studies, Professor)

Research Area: Political Science

Keyword: Public Policy

Purpose and Background of the Research
The government has steadily increased public information supply for citizens, and succeeded in launching the electronic government project. However, the policy information available mostly focuses on administrative activities, and our accessibility to legislative information is limited. The government has not made a full-fledged effort to provide policy information in foreign languages, although it is essential to make information available in English in order to facilitate international understanding of Japan’s policy activities. In this study, we analyze the use of public information by citizens, and seek innovative ways to provide policy information with the help of latest digital technology.

Research Methods
We establish a research base at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, and work in cooperation with the University of Tokyo, the University of Kyoto, and the secretariat office of the Japanese Diet.

1. Analysis of Public Information
We examine the effectiveness of information supply, which has traditionally concentrated on administrative records management.

2. Comprehensive Access to Policy Information
We establish database on public information concerning legislative activities, and provide comprehensive accessibility to information, not limited to administrative activities.

3. International Access to Policy Information
We establish database on policy information in English, in order to improve international access to policy information and lay the foundation of international understanding.

4. Universal Access to Policy Information
We develop a portal site to provide citizens with universal access to public policy information, regardless of their knowledge and abilities to utilize information technology and language.

Expected Research Achievements and Scientific Significance
Our basic concern in this study is whether the improvement in public information has affected the ways in which we make policy decisions. We believe that any proposal to establish an effective system of information supply must have empirical foundations. In this study, we examine the use of public information, and create a gateway to integrate various sources of policy information, providing citizens with universal access to public policy information.

Publications Relevant to the Project

Term of Project
FY2010-2014

Budget Allocation
100, 400 Thousand Yen

Homepage Address and Other Contact Information
http://www.grips.ac.jp/