

(Information security measures for critical infrastructure)

IT disturbances in critical infrastructure like railways, airways, and distribution can have grave effects on public life and socioeconomic activities. Matters like the following must be addressed as information security measures for this critical infrastructure in coordination with concerned government bodies and private businesses: reinforcing measures across sectors, raising information security standards, and enhancing systems for information sharing and provision.

**[Responding to the risks posed by hazardous substances]**

In order to respond to the risks posed by hazardous substances and ensure the safety and security of Japan's citizens, it is important to take appropriate measures against environmental risks and address the recent asbestos problem in light of the mistakes that need to be reflected on in that area.

With hazardous substances it is crucial to prevent harm to health before it occurs. This is why we must address these issues based on the concept of the preventive approach.

In addition, based on the fact that coordination between concerned government ministries and agencies on the asbestos problem has not always been adequate in the past, concerned government ministries and agencies will exchange information and opinions relating to new expertise on the toxicity of chemical substances and so on. Furthermore, when examination of individual substances becomes necessary these matters will be reviewed in communications conferences and other meetings.

**[Promoting appropriate maintenance and renewal of infrastructure]**

As the infrastructure developed up to now successively deteriorates, it needs to be systematically and efficiently maintained and renewed in the future in order for it to continue serving its original purpose of ensuring safety. The matter of how to balance appropriate maintenance and renewal with investments in new construction to accommodate new needs is something requiring a great deal of consideration.

Considerations like the following are also required in going forward with appropriate maintenance and renewal: the promotion of systematic repairs to keep life cycle costs (total expenses through the course of the life of the facility) to a minimum, further cost reduction, efficient maintenance utilizing the private sector as well, the conducting of maintenance with appropriate management standards, equalization of infrastructure renewal periods, and review of facility renewal policies in light of depopulation.

In addition, since maintenance and renewal is a major issue for local authorities as well, the national government must review policies on matters like local authority maintenance and renewal systems as well as the provision of technical assistance.