

Basic Act on the Advancement of Utilizing Geospatial Information

(Act No. 63 of May 30, 2007)

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Chapter I General Provisions

(Purpose)

Article 1 In view of the fact that promoting the advancement of utilization of Geospatial Information is essential in establishing an economy and society in which the people can live enriching lives with peace of mind both at present and in the future, the purpose of this Act is to promote policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information in a comprehensive and well-planned manner by establishing basic principles and clarifying the responsibilities of the State and local governments for policies on the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information as well as defining the basic elements of policies on the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information.

(Definitions)

Article 2 (1) The term "Geospatial Information" as used in this Act means information consisting of either item (i) or a combination of items (i) and (ii):

(i) information that represents the position of a specific point or area in geospace (including temporal information pertaining to said information, hereinafter referred to as "Positional Information"); and

(ii) any information associated with the information in the preceding item of this Article.

(2) The term "Geographic Information System" as used in this Act means an information system that comprehensively processes Geospatial Information,

recorded in electromagnetic form, on a digital map (a map recorded on an electromagnetic medium, the same shall apply hereinafter) with computers to enable geographic understanding and analyses of Geospatial Information.

- (3) The term "Fundamental Geospatial Data" as used in this Act means Positional Information, recorded in electromagnetic form which is one type of Geospatial Information that provides positional reference to Geospatial Information on a digital map, including geodetic control points, coastlines, boundaries of public facilities, administrative boundaries etc., as provided by ordinances of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (limited to that which meets the criteria provided by ordinances of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism).
- (4) The term "Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing" as used in this Act means the determination of positions calculated using signals transmitted from satellites and the acquisition of time corresponding to said position, and acquisition of track information associated with said position and time.

(Basic Principles)

Article 3 (1) In view of the fact that Geospatial Information such as Fundamental Geospatial Data, statistical information, and geo-imagery provides essential infrastructure for the improvement of lives of the people and the sound development of the national economy, the utilization of Geospatial Information must be advanced based on the comprehensive and systematic implementation of measures including preparation and provision of accurate and proper Geospatial Information in electronic or magnetic form, promotion of the utilization of technologies of Geographic Information System, Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing System, etc., development of human resources, enhancement of coordination among relevant institutions such as the State and local governments, and other measures.

- (2) In view of the fact that Geographic Information Systems and Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing Systems benefit from each other in that Geographic Information Systems provide Satellite Positioning Navigation and Timing with fundamental maps for the utilization of Geospatial Information acquired by Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing while Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing makes Geospatial Information constantly available for Geographic Information Systems, policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information must be implemented to develop an environment that enables advanced use of Geospatial Information by enhancing the synergy among policies pertaining to Geographic Information Systems, Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing, and others.
- (3) In view of the current situation in that Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing Systems have become the infrastructure for the improvement of lives of

the people and the sound development of the national economy by providing information such as accurate positioning, timing and tracking, policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information must be implemented to ensure an environment that will consistently provide highly reliable Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing services.

- (4) Policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information must contribute to the promotion of effective use, development and conservation of the national land, and to the protection of the lives of the people, their persons and their property by enhancing the effective and efficient management of public facilities, and the promotion of measures against disasters, etc., through active engagement of the State and local governments in accomplishing their administrative work and projects.
- (5) Policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information must contribute to the improvement of the administrative efficiency of governments as well as to their functional enhancement through the prevention of unnecessary duplication of mapping and the improvement of integration, flexibility and transparency of policies, etc., by sharing Geospatial Information that is essential for each section of government administration.
- (6) Policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information must contribute to the enhancement of the people's convenience through the provision of a variety of services that make full use of Geospatial Information.
- (7) Policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information must contribute to the vitalization and sustainable development of the economy and society through the creation and sound development of a variety of businesses utilizing Geospatial Information, as well as the enhancement of efficiency and quality, environmental soundness, etc., of those business activities.
- (8) When implementing policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information, consideration must be given to the appropriate employment of potential capabilities of businesses in the private sector by, among other measures, making full use of their creativity and ingenuity as well as their proposals regarding technologies for utilizing Geospatial Information.
- (9) When implementing policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information, consideration must be given not to harm the rights and interests of individuals, national security, etc., in the process of expanding the dissemination of Geospatial Information.

(Responsibilities of the State)

Article 4 The State is responsible for formulating and implementing policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information in a comprehensive manner based on the basic principles in the preceding Article (hereinafter referred to as "Basic Principles").

(Responsibilities of Local Governments)

Article 5 The local governments are responsible for formulating and implementing policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information in accordance with the circumstances of their respective regions based on the Basic Principles and appropriate division of responsibilities with the State.

(Efforts of Businesses)

Article 6 Businesses that conduct surveying, mapping, and/or providing services utilizing Geographic Information Systems and/or Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing Systems, and other related businesses shall endeavor in their business activities to provide high quality Geospatial Information based on the Basic Principles, and to cooperate with the State and/or local governments in their policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information.

(Enhancement of Cooperation among Related Organizations)

Article 7 In view of the fact that advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information is effectively implemented when mutual liaison and cooperation are facilitated among the State, local governments, related businesses, and research institutions such as universities, the State shall take necessary measures that are vital in enhancing cooperation among these organizations.

(Legislative Measures)

Article 8 The State government must take measures including legal, financial, or any other measures that are required to implement the policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information.

Chapter II Basic Plan for the Advancement of Utilizing Geospatial Information

(Formulation of the Basic Plan for the Advancement of Utilizing Geospatial Information)

Article 9 (1) In order to accomplish policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information in a comprehensive and well-planned manner, the State government must formulate a Basic Plan for the Advancement of Utilizing Geospatial Information (hereinafter referred to as "Basic Plan for AUGI").

(2) The Basic Plan for AUGI shall provide the following:

(i) basic guidelines for the policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information;

- (ii) particulars concerning policies pertaining to Geographic Information Systems;
 - (iii) particulars concerning policies pertaining to Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing Systems; and
 - (iv) in addition to what is set forth in the preceding three items, particulars that are essential to promote policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information in a comprehensive and well-planned manner.
- (3) As a general rule, the specific goals and period of time that is required to achieve each policy provided for by the Basic Plan for AUGI, shall be provided.
- (4) When the Basic Plan for AUGI is formulated pursuant to the provision of paragraph (1) of this Article, the State government must publicize the Basic Plan for AUGI without delay through the Internet and other appropriate media.
- (5) The State government shall review the achievements of the goals provided pursuant to the provision of paragraph (3) of this Article at appropriate occasions, and must publicize the results through the Internet and other appropriate media.
- (6) The provision of paragraph (4) of this Article shall apply mutatis mutandis to amendments of the Basic Plan for AUGI.

(Development of Cooperation Systems among Relevant Administrative Organs)
Article 10 The State government shall develop the cooperation system among relevant administrative organs and take other necessary measures concerning the formulation of the Basic Plan for AUGI and the implementation of policies based on the Basic Plan for AUGI.

Chapter III Basic Policies

Section 1 General Provisions

(Research and Study Activities)
Article 11 The State shall conduct research and studies that are necessary for the formulation and proper implementation of policies for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information.

(Dissemination of Knowledge)
Article 12 The State shall take measures including the informing on and the dissemination of knowledge for utilizing Geospatial Information, and other necessary measures in order to foster the people's understanding of and interest in the importance of utilizing Geospatial Information.

(Development of Human Resources)
Article 13 The State shall implement necessary policies in order to develop

human resources possessing technical knowledge and skills for the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information.

(Utilization of Geospatial Information in Administrative Affairs)

Article 14 Concerning the advancement of utilizing Geospatial Information, the State and local governments shall take measures including the broader use of Geographic Information Systems in their administrative work and projects, the diversification and improvement of the quality of public services thereof, and other necessary measures in order to enhance the people's convenience as well as the efficiency and functionality of administrative management.

(Protection of Personal Information)

Article 15 The State and local governments shall take measures including proper management of Geospatial Information to protect personal information, indicate the quality of information to assure the reliability of Fundamental Geospatial Data, and other necessary measures in order to enable the people to appropriately and confidently use Geospatial Information.

Section 2 Policies Pertaining to Geographic Information Systems

(Development of Fundamental Geospatial Data)

Article 16 (1) The State shall provide technical standards pertaining to the development of Fundamental Geospatial Data in order to disseminate the use of Geographic Information System by promoting the sharing of Fundamental Geospatial Data.

(2) In order to achieve the purpose set forth in the preceding paragraph, the State and local governments shall take measures including the development and timely revision of Fundamental Geospatial Data conforming to the technical standards set forth in the preceding paragraph, and other necessary measures.

(Interoperable Use of Fundamental Geospatial Data in Geospatial Services)

Article 17 The State and local governments shall endeavor to maximize the interoperable use of existing Fundamental Geospatial Data when they prepare maps in regions where they conduct their work or projects in administrative functions that require the use of maps including city planning, management of public facilities, management of areas such as agricultural lands and forests, cadastral surveys, real property registration, taxation, statistics, etc.

(Seamless Distribution of Fundamental Geospatial Data)

Article 18 (1) In view of the fact that the use of Fundamental Geospatial Data

etc., among the general public contributes to the advanced utilization of Geospatial Information, the State and local governments shall take measures to achieve seamless distribution of Geospatial Information including the concerted provision of Fundamental Geospatial Data, and development and provision of statistical information, geo-imagery in electromagnetic form, and other necessary measures.

(2) As a general rule, the State shall provide the Fundamental Geospatial Data and others that it possesses through the Internet without compensation.

(3) In addition to what is provided in the preceding two paragraphs, the State shall take measures including the provision of technical advice and information, and other necessary measures in order to promote the utilization of Geospatial Information by the general public, businesses, and others.

(Promotion of Research and Development Pertaining to Geographic Information Systems)

Article 19 The State shall take measures including the promotion of research and development, the timely evaluation of their results, the dissemination of accomplishments, and other necessary measures in order to promote the development of Geographic Information System.

Section 3 Policies Pertaining to Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing

(Liaison and Coordination Pertaining to Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing)

Article 20 The State shall take measures including necessary liaison and coordination with organizations that operate global systems related to Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing, and other necessary measures in order to advance the utilization of Geospatial Information by effectively establishing an environment that enables the people to consistently receive highly reliable services by Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing.

(Promotion of Research and Development Pertaining to Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing)

Article 21 In order to advance the utilization of Geospatial Information acquired by Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing, the State shall promote research and development as well as validation tests of the technology and feasibility pertaining to Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing, and the State shall take necessary measures to promote the use of Satellite Positioning, Navigation and Timing based on the results.

Supplementary Provisions

This Act shall come into effect on the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding three months from the date of promulgation.