Principles for Responsible Smart Cities

By 2020, it is estimated that the number of connected devices (commonly referred to as the Internet of Things or IoT) will exceed 50 billion. In the urban environment, these new "smart" technologies are transforming city life and helping pave the way for a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future.

When used effectively, connected devices – like sensors that capture pollution in the air or lights that only turn on when someone is in the room – can produce cost savings, bolster civic engagement, and strengthen public health and safety. IoT will also drive new economic opportunity and business development.

The expansion of connected devices can also carry significant challenges and risks for cities. Mitigating this risk requires that government play a hands-on role in establishing frameworks and standards, monitoring the expansion of IoT, and maximizing the public benefit derived from these new technologies.

Towards these goals, the City of Osaka hereby commits to the following principles:

1. When we use new smart technologies on city streets and in public spaces, we are committed to being open and transparent about the "who, what, where, when, and why" for any data or information being collected and used.

2. We will ensure that IoT and real-time data is captured, stored, verified, and made accessible in ways that maximize public benefit.

3. To capitalize on the value and benefits derived from public assets, we will deploy, use, maintain and dispose of IoT devices, networks and infrastructure in an efficient, responsible, and secure manner.

4. We will design and operate IoT systems to protect the public, ensure the integrity of services, and maximize resilience.

5. We are committed to streamlining operational processes and ensuring financial, operational, and environmental sustainability to ensure that our city keeps running better and faster.

Signed by: _H. Yoshimura_
Hirofumi Yoshimura
Mayor of Osaka

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