My organization, IPA, is one of “incorporated administrative agencies” in Japan which are established by special Japanese law to support Government’s activities and IPA is at the position to support IT environment development of Japanese Government.

In July 2012, the cabinet office of Japanese Government issued a policy statement paper of “Open Government Data Strategy” and we started many projects to prepare to build open government data.

Before issuing the policy statement paper, we have several trial projects to enhance government’s transparency and citizen’s participation as shown in the figure below.

“Ideabox” in Oct.2009 was a trial project to gather citizen’s opinion to Government policy. “Databox” in Sep.2009 was a trial project to publish statistical data of Government to public via internet. In this project we were aware of the importance of data reusability but not took comprehensive measures for that.
The Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 reminded us the importance of reusable open data. The governments established several public data service for rescue, support, energy saving, etc over internet.

These experiences drew our government on to decide to issue “open government data strategy”.

Now we started projects to build plan to reconstruct IT environment of Japanese government according to the strategy.

One of the important things we need to do to enhance the reusability of information will be introducing interoperability in each layer in IT structure such as character code, data type, vocabulary, semantics, etc. So, we are planning to develop vocabulary definition, data type definition, and data structure definition for information exchange.

In Japan, definition of data type and character code set especially for describing name of people and place are unsolved and very important issues. We are trying to describe definition and relationship of Knji characters, Japanese ideographic characters which share their origin with Chinese, in RDF notation. This description will be one of the leaves of the link from description of vocabulary definition (cf. the chart below) in future and become one of basis of our linked structure of open government data.

In the workshop of ODW, I would like to share our experiences and learn leading edge experiences related Open Data in the world.