This is an Unofficial Translation of the Geospatial Information Utilization Promotion Bill. It is offered to the readership of the JOURNAL OF SPACE LAW as a convenience.

While this translation's title says the legislation is a "Bill," the Geospatial Information Law of Japan was enacted May 30, 2007, and has been effective since August 29, 2007. There were no differences between the bill and the enacted law. The Diet passed the law without amendment.¹

GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION UTILIZATION PROMOTION BILL

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CHAPTER ONE

General Provisions

(Purpose)

Article One

The purpose of this law shall be to promote in a planned and comprehensive manner the overall measures and policies to advance the utilization of geospatial information by means of establishing the fundamental items of an appropriate policy for the utilization of geospatial information along with clarifying the responsibilities together of national and regional public organizations and establishing the fundamental principles concerning the promotion of geospatial information by recognizing that it is extremely important to promote high level utilization of geospatial information to successfully materialize an economic society which can operate for the rich and stable life of the citizens now and in future.

(Definitions)

Article Two

For this law, “geospatial information” shall be deemed information that is derived from the information of (1) or the same as the information of (1) and the information of (2).

(1) Information that indicates the location of a particular geographical point or area from the space above (includes information relating to the point in time which concerns such information). (Hereafter is referred to as “position information”.)

(2) That information which is associated with the information of the preceding number.
Section 2 For this law, “Geo-information System” shall mean that system which makes it possible to understand or analysis geographically of geospatial information and is referred to as an information system that handles in a unified manner an electronic map derived from using an electronic computer on the geospatial information, which has been recorded by an electro-magnetic method (Termed an electro-magnetically recorded map. Hereafter will be referred as electronic map).

Section 3 For this law “base map information” shall become the fundamental point of measurement in order to establish the position of geospatial information for electronic maps and shall include the coast lines, the boundary lines of public facilities, administrative boundaries and other position information established by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport ordinances (this shall be limited to that which matches the standards established by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport ordinances) and shall be referred to as electromagnetically recorded materials.

Section 4 For this law, “satellite positioning” shall refer to the information obtained from a signal which has been projected from an artificial satellite used for determining position and the information obtained concerning the time of the aforementioned position together with associated information such as change of path over time.

(Fundamental Principles)

Article Three

The promotion of geospatial information utilization, which includes such things as base map information, statistical information and image information for surveying, has to be taken into consideration as an absolutely necessary fundamental to healthy national economic development and improvement of the lives of citizens. The accurate appropriate maintenance and delivery of this geospatial information by means of electro-magnetic methods and the delivery of geographical information system, promotion of the use of technology like satellite positioning, development of human resources, strengthening and
maintenance of the necessary system of cooperation between the related agencies of national and regional public organizations and other policies and measures, are subjects which must be conducted systematically and comprehensively in line with these principles.

Section 2 In terms of the policy concerning the promotion of the use of geospatial information, a mutual contributing reciprocal relationship by which the geographical information system delivering a base map for using the geospatial information that can be obtained from satellite positioning, and satellite positioning that delivers stable geospatial information which can be used with the geographical information system must be taken into consideration, and the subject of focus should be to maintain an environment that enables utilization of high level geospatial information with combined geographical information system policies, measures, and satellite positioning policies and measures in effect.

Section 3 The policies and measures concerning promotion of geospatial information utilization must take into consideration the current situation which is fundamental to improvement of the lives of citizens and the healthy development of the public economy through the delivery of information regarding satellite positioning such as change of path, time, and precise position, and must be discussed focusing on ensuring a environment that enables stable enjoyment with service from highly reliable satellite positioning.

Section 4 The policies and measures concerning promotion of geospatial information utilization must contribute to the protection of wealth and the people, national life along with the promotion of conservation and maintenance, take into account national land use, plan for promotion of fire prevention measures, and effectively and efficiently manage public facilities by implementing and positively taking up pursuance around business, or administration of those national and regional public organizations.

Section 5 The policies and measures concerning promotion of geospatial information utilization must contribute to a higher level of these functions and efficient operation of the government in planning for improved transparency and mobility, com-
prehensiveness of policies and measures, multiple correction of map creation by means of the common use of geospatial information necessary for the various fields of government.

Section 6 The policies and measures concerning promotion of geospatial information utilization must contribute to improvement of the convenience of the citizens through actual delivery of the various services which use geospatial information.

Section 7 The policies and measures concerning promotion of geospatial information utilization with planning, in accordance with the environment, must contribute to continuous development, improvement of vitality in the economic society, higher and more efficient business activity, and healthy development and creation of various businesses which use geospatial information.

Section 8 In terms of the policies and measures concerning promotion of geospatial information utilization that must be discussed, consideration must be given to activating the capability of private businesses by making use of their originality and ingenuity, and proposals regarding technology in order to utilize geospatial information by private businesses.

Section 9 In terms of the policies and measures concerning promotion of geospatial information utilization that must be discussed, consideration must be given in order that national safety and the rights and profit of the individual are not harmed with expansion of the distribution of geospatial information.

(National Obligations)

Article Four

The national government in compliance with the fundamental principles of the preceding Article (hereafter referred to as “fundamental principles”) has the responsibility to formulate and implement comprehensive policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization.
Article Five

The local public organizations, in compliance with the fundamental principles, has responsibility to formulate and implement comprehensive policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization which respond to the conditions of each area in line with appropriate burden sharing with the national government.

Article Six

The details of surveying, creation of maps, or a geographical information system are the services which use satellite positioning and are performed by those businesses and other related providers in compliance with the fundamental principles. All participants shall strive themselves to deliver quality geospatial information, and along with the national government and local public organizations shall endeavor to cooperate in implementing policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization.

Article Seven

As a nation, the policies and measures necessary to strengthen the cooperation between these participants must be discussed by taking into consideration efficiently promoting geospatial information utilization by cooperating with the mutual partnerships planned between the research organizations of universities, business entities, and the national and local public organizations.
(Legislative Measures)

Article Eight

The government must take up legislative or fiscal and other measures that are necessary in order to implement policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization.

CHAPTER TWO

Geospatial Information Utilization Promotion Master Plan

(Formulation of the Geospatial Information Utilization Promotion Master Plan)

Article 9

The government must formulate a fundamental plan concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization (hereafter referred to as the “geospatial information utilization promotion master plan”), in order to promote comprehensive planning of policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization.

Section 2 The particulars for the geospatial information utilization promotion master plan are listed below.

a) The basic directions with regard to the policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization.
   b) Items relating to the policies and measures concerning the geographical information system
   c) Items relating to the policies and measures for satellite positioning
   d) In addition to the particulars of the preceding c), the items necessary in order to promote in a planned and comprehensive manner the policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization.

Section 3 In principle, the time period shall be established for the concrete goals of the policies and measures and their at-
tainment with regard to establishing the policies and measures for the Geospatial Information Utilization Promotion Master Plan.

Section 4 The Government, when the geospatial information utilization promotion master plan is formulated per the provisions of item a), must officially announce it without delay using the Internet and other appropriate means.

Section 5 The Government, at an appropriate time, will survey the conditions for attaining the objective established per the provisions of item c), and must officially announce the results using the Internet and other appropriate means.

Section 6 Mutatis Mutandis applies to the provision of item d), relating to changes in the geospatial information utilization promotion master plan.

(Maintenance of a cooperative framework of related government organizations)

Article Ten

The Government should take up measures necessary to maintain a system of cooperation by the related government organizations and other measures in relation to formulation of the geospatial information utilization promotion master plan and implementation of basic policies and measures.
CHAPTER THREE

Fundamental Policies and Measures

Section One General Provisions

(Implementation of Survey and Research)

Article Eleven

The national government shall formulate and implement the appropriate surveys and research necessary for the policies and measures concerning the promotion of geospatial information utilization.

(Dissemination of Knowledge)

Article Twelve

The national government should take up the necessary policies and measures to enlighten and disseminate knowledge and other policies and measures relating to geospatial information utilization in order to deepen the appreciation and understanding of citizens concerning the importance of geospatial information utilization.

(Development of Human Resources)

Article Thirteen

The national government should take up the policies and measures necessary to develop human resources having the specialized knowledge or technology for promoting geospatial information utilization.
Article Fourteen

The national government and local government public organizations should take up the policies and measures necessary to plan improved convenience for citizens relating to the promotion of geospatial information utilization along with improving the variety of services, quality, and other aspects in the public field as well as the expansion of the utilization of the geospatial system to efficiently manage government administration and business, and be conducive to sophisticated functionality.

Article Fifteen

The national and local public organizations should take up the policies and measures necessary for citizens to be able to use geospatial information appropriately and with assurance, maintaining the appropriate handling and protection of personal information, in order to display base map information maintaining its reliability, quality, and other aspects.

SECTION TWO

Policies and Measures for the Geographic Information System

Article Sixteen

In terms of the technology for the maintenance of base map information, the national government shall establish a standard in order to plan for the dissemination of the geographic information system by promoting common use of base map information.

Section 2 In order for the national and local public organizations to attain the objectives of the preceding item, the policies and measures should be addressed which are necessary for the maintenance of base map information which matches the
standard of the technical basis of same preceding item, appropriate timing of renewal, and other aspects.

(Mutual Utilization of Base Map Information for Map Related Affairs)

Article Seventeen

The national government and local government public organizations shall endeavor to utilize reciprocally base map information, which is already maintained with regard to areas that become objects of the map, when creating maps in order to implement administration or business for executing use of the map for each necessary government field such as city planning, management of public facilities, agricultural land, management of forests and other resources, cadastral surveying, title registry of real estate, taxes, statistics, and others.

(Smooth Circulation of Base Map Information and other information)

Article Eighteen

The national government and local government public organizations should take up the policies and measures in consideration of base map information being conducive to high level utilization of geospatial information which can be used for the whole society and that is deemed necessary for constructive delivery of base map information, statistical information, and electro-magnetically maintained image information for surveying, and delivery and smooth circulation of geospatial information.

Section 2 The national government shall in principle deliver base map information such as it possesses free of charge using the internet.

Section 3 The national government, in addition to the preceding item Two, shall take up policies and measures as necessary in order to accelerate the utilization of geospatial information by citizens and businesses, to provide technical advice, to deliver information, and others.
(Promotion of Research and Development for the Geographical Information System)

Article Nineteen

The national government shall take up policies and measures as necessary in order to plan development of the geographical information system to accelerate the development and research, conduct prompt evaluation, disseminate the results, and other aspects.

SECTION THREE

Policies and Measures for Satellite Positioning

(Liaison and Coordination for Satellite Positioning)

Article Twenty

The national government should take up policies and measures as necessary in order to promote utilization of geospatial information by efficiently maintaining an environment that makes it possible to enjoy sustainable service by highly reliable satellite positioning.

(Promotion of Research and Development for Satellite Positioning)

Article Twenty One

The national government should take up policies and measures as necessary in order to promote utilization of geospatial information which can be obtained by satellite positioning, promote the demonstration in relation to research and development for satellite positioning, technology, and utilization possibilities along with the limitations for accelerating the utilization of satellite positioning based upon the outcomes of the research conducted.
SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

This law shall be implemented as a designated government ordinance within 3 months from the date of official announcement.

GROUND

In consideration of it being of extreme importance to promote high level utilization of geospatial information to successfully materialize an economic society which can operate for the rich and stable life of the citizens now and in future, it is necessary to establish the items that are fundamental to the policies and measures relating to the promotion of geospatial information utilization, along with clarifying the responsibilities together of national and regional public organizations in establishing the fundamental principles concerning the promotion of geospatial information in order to determine the policies and measures to promote geospatial information utilization in a planned and comprehensive manner. These are the grounds for submitting this bill.