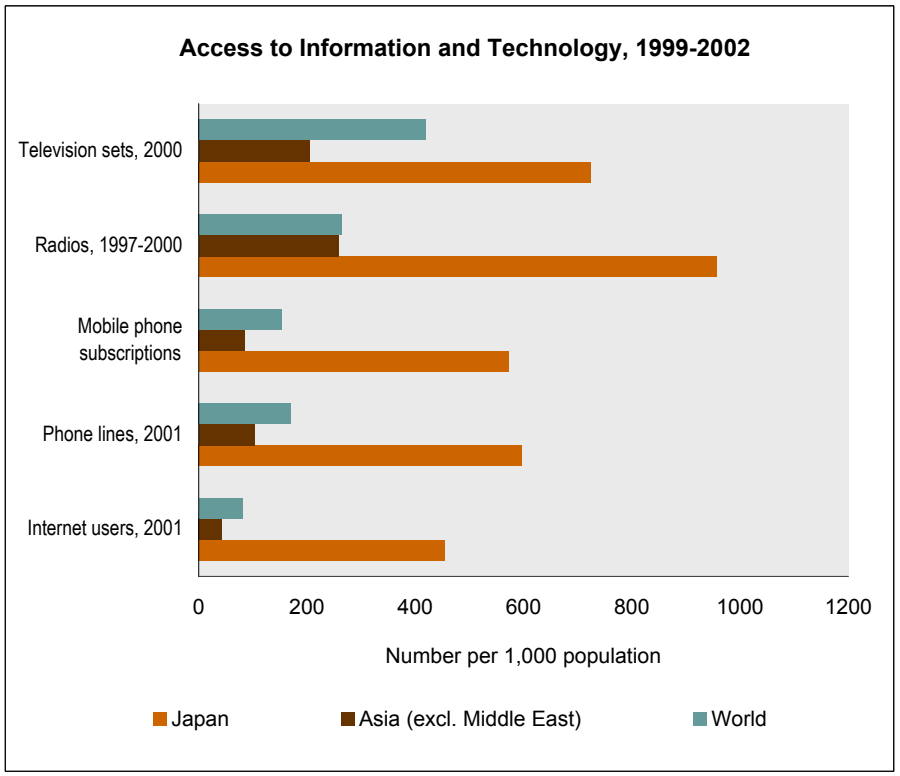
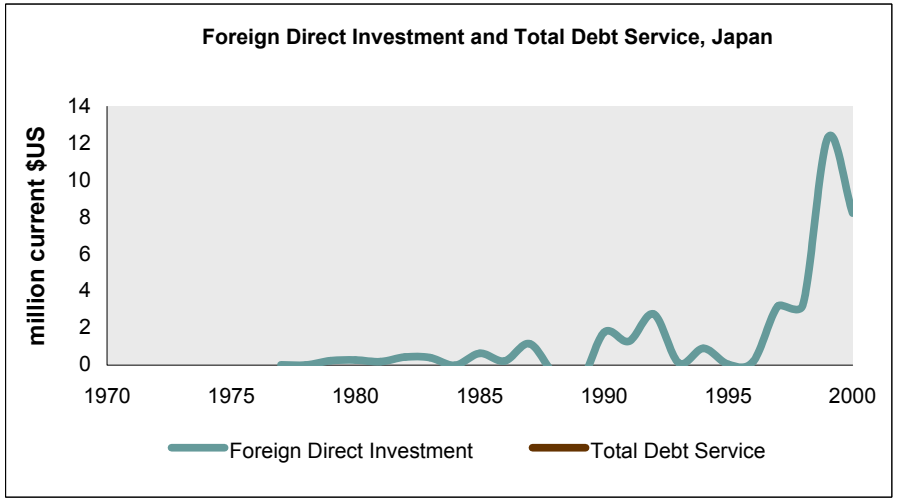
Environmental Institutions and Governance-- Japan

EarthTrends
Country Profiles

Governance Indices	Japan	Asia (excl. Middle East)
Freedom House Indices {a}, 2001		
Level of Freedom (free, partly free, not free)	Free	
Political Rights (1=most free, 7=least free)	1	
Civil Liberties (1=most free, 7=least free)	2	
Press Freedom (1-30=Free, 31-60= Partly Free, 61-100=Not Free)	17	
Polity IV Indices, 2000		
Level of Democracy/Autocracy (-10 is strongly autocratic, +10 fully democratic)	10	
Level of Political Competition {a}	5 Competitive	
Transparency International Indices		
Corruption Perceptions Index, 2001 (10=least corrupt, 0=most corrupt)	7	
Civil Society		
Number of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), 2000	3,567	30,415
NGOs per million population, 2000	28	9
Number of formally committed municipalities to Local Agenda 21, 2001	110	461
Agenda 21 national reporting status, 2002	submitted	
Government Expenditures and Financial Flows		
Development Assistance as a percent of government expenditures, 1995-97 {c}	X	X
Govt. Expenditures as a percent of GDP		
Military, 2000	1.0%	X
Public health, 1997	5.7%	4.4%
Public education, 1996-1998 {c}	3.5%	3.5%
Foreign Direct Investment, net inflows, 2000 (million current $US)	8,227	71,197
Total Debt Service, 1997 (million current $US)	X	X
Development Assistance per capita, 1997 (current $US)	X	X





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Environmental Institutions and Governance-- Japan

	Japan	Asia (excl. Middle East)
Access to Information and Technology		
Number of Internet hosts, 2000	4,640,863	5,764,262
Number per 1,000 population of:		
Internet Users, 2001 {d}	455	42
Phone Lines, 2001 {d}	597	103
Mobile Phone Subscriptions, 2001 {d}	572	85
Radios receivers, 1997-2000 {c}	956	258
Television Sets, 2000	724	204
Status of Freedom of Information (FOIA) legislation, 2002 {e}:	in effect	

Footnotes:

a. Freedom House is a U.S.-based, non-profit organization that advocates for American-style leadership in international affairs; the organization conducts extensive research about the level and nature of freedom and civil liberties around the world.

b. Index values range from 0 to 5, as follows: (0) Not Applicable, (1) Repressed, (2) Suppressed, (3) Factional, (4) Transitional, and (5) Competitive.

c. Data are for the most recent year available in the range of years listed.

d. Some regional data for Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa are for the year 2000, not 2001.

e. An 'X' indicates either that data are not available or that no Freedom of Information Legislation exists for this country.

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Governance Indices

Freedom House Indices evaluate governments and levels of freedom within countries. They measure real world situations caused by state and nongovernmental factors, rather than government intentions or legislation. Freedom House is a U.S.-based, non-profit organization that advocates for American-style leadership in international affairs; the organization conducts extensive research about the level and nature of freedom and civil liberties around the world.To determine each country's political rights, researchers answer a series of survey questions through country visits and an extensive network of sources.

Level of Freedom. Freedom House designates one of three levels of freedom for each country: Free (F), Partly Free (PF), or Not Free (NF). In Free countries, a broad range of political rights and civil liberties are respected. Partly Free countries have a mixed record or political rights and civil liberties, often accompanied by corruption, weak rule of law, and the inordinate political dominance of a ruling party, in some cases characterized by ethnic or religious strife. In Not Free countries, basic political rights and civil liberties are denied.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=506&theme=10)

Political Rights Freedom House rates political rights on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 representing the most free and 7 representing the least free. A rating of 1 indicates free and fair elections, political competition, and autonomy for all citizens, including minority groups. In countries with a ranking of 2, 3, 4, or 5, corruption, violence, political discrimination against minorities, and military influence on politics play a progressively larger role in political life. Countries and territories with political rights rated 6 are ruled by military juntas, one-party dictatorships, religious hierarchies, or autocrats. For countries with a rating of 7, political rights are basically nonexistent due to extremely oppresive regimes, civil war, extreme violence or warlord rule.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=507&theme=10)

Civil Liberties Freedom House rates civil liberties on a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 representing the most free and 7 representing the least free. Countries with a rating of 1 generally have an established and equitable rule of law with free economic activity. Citzens enjoy freedom of expression, assembly, association, and religion. A rating of 2 indicates some deficiencies, but these countries are still relatively free. A rating of 3, 4, or 5 may indicate partial compliance with all of the elements of civil liberties; it may also indicate complete freedom in some areas coupled with complete denial in others. Countries with a rating of 6 enjoy partial rights—a few social and religious freedoms and some restricted business activity. A rating of 7 indicates virtually no freedom. Freedom House notes that a poor rating for a country "is not necessarily a comment on the intentions of the government, but may indicate real restrictions on liberty caused by non-governmental terror."
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=508&theme=10)

Press Freedom is defined by Freedom House as "the degree to which each country permits the free flow of information." It is ranked on a scale of 1 to 100. Countries with a score between 1 and 30 are cosidered to have a "Free" media, 31 to 60, "Partly Free", and 61 to 100, "Not Free". The final index ranking incorporated a number of factors, including the influence of a country's laws and administrative decisions on the media; the degree of state censorship and intimidation; access to information within a country; and, the economic influences on the press from government funding, corruption, licensing bias, or quotas.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=566&theme=10)

Polity IV Indices contain information on regime and authority characteristics for all independent states in the global state system. The Polity IV project consists of a group of international governance experts that assign index values (often numbers) to describe the nature of a country's system of government over time.

Level of Democracy/Autocracy is measured on a scale from -10 to +10 measuring the degree to which a nation is either autocratic or democratic. A score of +10 indicates a strongly democratic state; a score of -10 a strongly autocratic state. A fully democratic government has three essential elements according to the Polity index: fully competitive political participation, institutionalized constraints on executive power, and guarantee of civil liberties to all citizens in their daily lives and in political participation.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=509&theme=10)

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Level of Political Competition measures the extent to which alternate preferences for policy and leadership can be pursued in the political arena, on a scale of 0-5, as follows: "Not Applicable" (0) is used for an "unregulated" government without stable political groups. "Repressed" (1) is assigned to any regime where oppositional activity is not permitted outside of the ruling party. "Suppressed" (2) governments contain some limited political competition outside of government; however, peaceful political competition and large classes of people are excluded from the political process. "Factional" (3) polities contain parochial or ethnic-based political factions that compete for influence in order to promote agendas that favor the interests of group members over common interests. "Transitional" (4) arrangements accommodate competing interests, but parochial interests are not fully linked with broader, general interests. "Competitive" (5) groups are characterized by relatively stable and enduring political groups with regular competition and voluntary transfer of power.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=510&theme=10)

Transparency International is an international non-governmental organisation devoted to combating corruption through coalitions among civil society, business, and governments. As part of their mission, TI collects, analyses and disseminates information on the impact of corruption around the world.
Corruption Perception Index (CPI) ranks 91 countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. Scores range between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt). CPI focuses on corruption in the public sector, defining corruption as the abuse of public office for private gain. It is a composite index, derived from 14 different polls and surveys carried out among business people and country analysts, including surveys of residents, both local and expatriate. CPI is based solely on perceptions instead of hard empirical data such as cross country comparisons of prosecutions or media coverage of corruption.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=647&theme=10)

Civil Society

Number of International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and **NGOs per Million Population.** The Union of International Associations (UIA) compiles as complete a list as possible of international non-governmental organizations, based on seven criteria: aims, membership, structure, officers, finance, activities, and relations with other organizations. According to Resolution 288 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, "any international organization which is not established by intergovernmental agreement shall be considered as a non-governmental organization." NGOs can also include "organizations which accept members designated by government authorities, provided that such membership does not interfere with the free expression of views of the organization" (Resolution 1296).
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=575&theme=10)

Number of Formally Committed Municipalities to Local Agenda 21 measures the number of government authorities that have made a formal commitment to Local Agenda 21 (LA21) or are actively undertaking the process. LA21s were created to promote sustainable development at the municipal level in response to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development's call to local governments to create their own agenda outlining local priorities. Since 1992, thousands of municipalities have joined the initiative to generate action plans, implement sustainable development activities, and measure their progress in addressing the environmental, social and economic needs of the communities.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=661&theme=10)
Agenda 21 National Reporting Status indicates if a country has submitted a report on the status of its implementation of Agenda 21 in relation to the specific themes. Countries with reports "pending" submission are participants in the Agenda 21 process that have not yet submitted reports to in 2002. "Non-reporting" countries are not participating in the Agenda 21 process.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=709&theme=10)

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Government Expenditures and Financial Flows

Development Assistance as a Percent of Government Expenditures. Government expenditures include the expenditures of all bodies that are agencies or instruments of a central government authority. In countries with strong subnational authorities, these figures can substantially understate total government expenditures, thus care should be taken in making national comparisons. Development assistance constitutes the net amount of disbursed grants and concessional loans given or received by a country, less repayments of concessional loans. Grants include gifts of money, goods, or services for which no repayment is required. Data is compiled by the World Bank from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) 1998 Development Co-operation Report.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=246&theme=10)

Govt. Expenditures as a Percent of GDP. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures the total output of goods and services for final use occurring within the domestic territory of a given country, regardless of the allocation to domestic and foreign claims. ***Military*** expenditures are based on estimates of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); the World Bank provides estimates for ***Public Health and Public Education*** expenditures.
Military. Military expenditure includes as all current and capital expenditure on: a) the armed forces, including peacekeeping forces; b) defense ministries and other government agencies engaged in defense projects; c) paramiltary forces, when judged to be trained an equipped for military operations; and d) military space activities. Expenditures include the cost of procurements, personnel, research & development, construction, operations, maintenance, and military aid to other countries.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=251&theme=10)
Public Health. Public health expenditure consists of recurrent and capital spending from government budgets and social health insurance funds. Health expenditures include preventative and curative health services, family planning activities, nutrition activities, and emergency aid designated for health.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=642&theme=10)
Public Education. Public education expenditure consists of public spending on public education plus subsidies to private education at the primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Foreign aid for education is excluded; spending for religious schools, which constitutes a sizable portion of educational spending in some developing countries, may also be excluded.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=643&theme=10)

Foreign Direct Investment, net inflows are net inflows of investment that acquire a lasting management interest (10 percent or more of voting stock) in an enterprise operating in an economy other than that of the investor. It is the sum of equity capital, reinvestment of earnings, other long-term capital, and short term capital, as shown in the balance of payments. Data are based on balance of payments data reported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), supplemented by data on net foreign direct investment reported by the OECD and official national sources.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=250&theme=10)

Total Debt Services (in foreign currencies, goods, and services) comprises interest payments and principal repayments made on the disbursed long-term public debt and private, non-guaranteed debt, International Monetary Fund (IMF) debt repurchases, IMF charges, and interest payments on short-term debt. Debt data are reported to the World Bank in the units of currency in which they are payable. The World Bank converts these data to U.S. dollars, using the IMF par values, central rates, or the current market rates, where appropriate.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=249&theme=10)

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Development Assistance per capita is the amount of aid received per person in recipient countries. Official development assistance and net official aid record the actual international transfer of financial resources or of goods or services valued at the cost to the donor, less any repayments of loan principal during the same period, as calculated by the World Bank. Grants by official agencies of the members of the Development Assistance Committee are included, as are loans with a grant element of at least 25 percent, and technical cooperation and assistance.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=244&theme=10)

Access to Information

Number of Internet hosts refer to the number of computers in the economy that are directly linked to the worldwide Internet network. One internet host can provide access to many internet users. Data are compiled by the Internet Software Consortium and RIPE (Réseaux IP Européens.)
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=553&theme=10)

The indicators below present the number of the following appliances/users that exist for every thousand people in a country's population. Data are supplied by annual questionnaires sent by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) to telecommunication authorities and operating companies, supplemented by annual reports and statistical yearbooks of telecommunication ministries, regulators, operators and industry associations. Data on radios is the only exception. The World Bank obtains their data on radio receivers from statistical surveys conducted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
Internet Users are people that have used the internet at any point in time during a specific year.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=554&theme=10)
Phone Lines refer to telephone lines connecting a customer's equipment (e.g. telephone set, facsimile machine) to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and which have a dedicated port on a telephone exchange. For most countries, main phone lines also include public payphones.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=556&theme=10)
Mobile Phone Subscriptions refer to the users of portable telephones who subscribe to an automatic public mobile telephone.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=557&theme=10)
Radios refer to radio receivers used for broadcast to the general public. Private sets installed in public places are also included as well as communal receivers.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=699&theme=10)
Television Sets as used by both businesses and households.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=558&theme=10)

Status of Freedom of Information. Freedom of Information (FOI) laws require disclosure of government records to the public. A country's guarantee of public access to information in classified in one of 3 categories. 1) ***In Effect:*** countries that legally guarantee public access to government records, either by recently creating or updating constitutions, or passing FOI legislation. 2) ***Pending:*** countries that are considering adopting freedom of information acts. 3) ***No Data:*** marked by an "X." These are countries where no FOI legislation exists, or, in a few cases, no data is available concerning the status of FOI legislation.
(View full technical notes at: http://earthtrends.wri.org/searchable_db/variablenotes_static.cfm?varid=608&theme=10)

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