

Implementation of the training courses for citizens to acquire basic IT skills

Report Summary

To provide basic IT training courses to about 5.5 million people throughout Japan, the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications gave prefectural governments emergency subsidies of about 54.5 billion yen from the revised budget for fiscal 2000.

Prefectural governments are expected to implement the courses suited to local conditions, with the fund raised with the abovementioned State subsidy until the end of fiscal 2001 when the fund is to be settled.

As a result of audit, the Board of Audit found the followings:

- (1) there were many courses whose fees lowered the standard level due to competition in winning the orders;
- (2) more courses were established than planned because the lower fees made excess funds available;
- (3) some courses were not effective because the number of actual participants was less than half of the estimated one;
- (4) there were courses for which new participants did not have priority for admission, courses that did not include training in basic IT skills, and courses in which general public could not participate. Under these circumstances, expenses for the implementation of the courses were lower than planned, and some of the funds are left over. Many prefectures have exceptionally continued to carry out the project in fiscal 2002, counting on latent demand.

Based on the results of audit by the Board, the Ministry directed prefectural governments to carry out the projects efficiently in accordance with the purpose of the subsidies.

The prefectural governments that intended to continue the project in fiscal 2002 are required to comply with this direction.