Center for AI and Digital Policy

CAIDP Update 2.16 (Apr. 21, 2021) - *US Japan to Align on AI Policy?*

President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga spoke last week at the White House about the US-Japanese alliancesand tech policy. It was first in person meeting with a foreign leader for President Biden.

Biden and Suga made commitments to move forward on secure and reliable 5G networks, and joint research on AI, genomics, and quantum computing. In prepared remarks, Biden said "Japan and the United States are both deeply invested in innovation and looking to the future. That includes making sure we invest in and protect the technologies that will maintain and sharpen our competitive edge. And those technologies are governed by shared democratic norms that we both share — norms set by democracies, not by autocracies."

Biden's comments echoed earlier remarks by the US President at the Munich Security Conference. In February President Biden called for, "rules that will govern the advance of technology and the norms of behavior in cyberspace, artificial intelligence, and biotechnology." (See CAIDP Update 2.08, Speaking to G7 Leaders, President Biden Calls for AI Rules that "Lift People Up,")

Under former Prime Minister Abe, Japan played a leading role in the development of global frameworks for AI, including the OECD AI Principles, which were later adopted by the G20 members at the 2019 summit in Osaka. (See CAIDP Update 1.7, Prime Minister Abe's AI Policy and Data Governance Legacy).

Prime Minister Suga did not speak directly about AI at the White House meeting, but did say, "there is no other time than today when the Japan-U.S. alliance needs to be strong. This is an alliance that is connected by universal values such as freedom, democracy, and the rule of law." In a joint statement, the two world leaders reaffirmed support for a "free and open rules-based international order."

Biden and Suga will have the opportunity to carry forward a democratic initiative for AI at the G20 leaders meetings, which will be held in Rome in October.

Also in the News: The European Commission this week released a Proposal for a Regulation on a European approach for Artificial Intelligence, a comprehensive approach to AI that aims to promote innovation and safeguard fundamental rights. In a statement, CAIDP said "this

initiative may be the single most important legal framework for the digital economy to ensure the protection of fundamental rights."

Marc Rotenberg, Director
Center for AI and Digital Policy
The Center for AI and Digital Policy advises governments on technology policy.