



## **Preface**

# **Special Issue on Healthcare Solutions**

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Japan is said to be the most aged society in the world. Public health expenditure for the 2009 fiscal year as announced by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare rose to 35.3 trillion yen (a 3.5% increase over the previous year), and this upward trend shows no signs of abating. At the same time, the medical care environment is becoming increasingly severe. For example, a shortage of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals working in healthcare is driving some regional hospitals to close their doors.

Under these circumstances, there are great expectations for information and communications technology (IT) systems in the healthcare field. “A New Strategy in Information and Communications Technology” (IT Strategic Headquarters, May 2010) approved by the Japanese Cabinet makes special provisions for healthcare, as reflected by this excerpt: “By 2020, we shall enable every citizen, regardless of his or her location, to receive high-quality medical services through effective applications of IT. Also by 2020, all citizens, including senior citizens, shall be able to receive medical, nursing care, and monitoring services right at home, again through effective use of IT.” This strategy presents priority measures toward future objectives and proposes specific undertakings.

Fujitsu has been active in the healthcare field from early on. It was the first to adopt a strategy of packaging integrated medical information systems, and it has contributed to the adoption of IT in medical institutions by providing one-stop electronic medical record (EMR) solutions covering implementation, operation, and maintenance. Looking forward, Fujitsu is dealing with the following two issues in an era of change.

First, the need is felt for more sophisticated EMR systems that can provide functions for genuinely supporting medical care and enabling

advanced use of medical data. Moreover, medical information, which up to now has been confined to the systems of individual medical institutions, must be released from its institutional boundaries and be shared and applied among regions. In this regard, much is expected of Fujitsu, which has many regional customers throughout Japan. Behind these developments, there will be a need to revitalize community bonds, design systems in units of areas, create a nationwide network for designated diseases, and enhance networks and center functions to realize the above. It will also be necessary to develop and deploy Cloud computing platforms so that a large number of users will be able to safely and securely use medical information systems in a straightforward manner. As an extension of this area-based development and deployment, Fujitsu envisions overseas tie-ups and global expansion.

Second, Fujitsu must deal with the trend toward a human-centric society that emphasizes the individual. In this society, information that is now dispersed among different healthcare institutions, companies, governing bodies, and organizations must become interconnected with a focus on the individual, and data that covers the entire lifecycle of the individual must become accessible. All in all, the scope of medical information usage must be broadened significantly. At the same time, advances in sensing technologies and mobile terminals will enable information pertaining to an individual person to be collected from moment to moment in everyday, real-life situations. In this way, the person will be able to utilize his or her information in relation to both health and lifestyle and navigate optimally through life in terms of personal behavior and decision making. To support such an advanced, human-centric information society, Fujitsu is pursuing the health information business to provide an individual-oriented information platform that merges medical, nursing, and health information.

In addition to a customer and global focus, consideration of the environment is also necessary in healthcare solutions. Fujitsu wants to work closely with its customers in enhancing the environmental-protection effect of its healthcare solutions and reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and other environmental loads by reducing paper and film usage.

To this end, I look forward to your invaluable suggestions and support.