Japan's AI Adoption Plans

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Summary of Key Findings

- Only **26.7% of people in Japan** used generative AI in FY 2024

- This falls far below the **U.S. (68.8%)** and **China (81.2%)**

- Source: Japan's 2025 White Paper (Internal Affairs Ministry)

Demographics and Usage

- Highest adoption: people in their **20s (44.7%)**

- Common uses: **search, summarization, translation**

- Nonusers: see AI as unnecessary or don't know how to use it

- Growing digital engagement among older Japanese population

Implications for Japan

- **Economic:** risk of falling behind in global AI race

- **Geopolitical:** Japan lags while U.S. & China dominate

- **Social:** digital divide — younger vs older adoption

- **Industrial Policy:** government urging greater AI application

Japan's Future

- Japan developing **smaller but capable AI models**

- Government frames AI as "pillar of the future digital society"

- Challenge: scaling adoption beyond niche use cases

Questions & Discussion

• Should Japan focus on catching up with U.S. and China in large-scale AI, or carve out a niche strategy (e.g., smaller, specialized AI models)?

• How can Japan close the gap in AI adoption while maintaining competitiveness against U.S. and China?

References

Kyodo News. (2025, July 8). *Japan lagging in generative AI use with 26.7% adoption in FY 2024*. Kyodo News. https://english.kyodonews.net/articles/-/56890