# III-7-1 Promotion of international policies

## (1) Discussions at major international conferences





**Info-communications issues remain high on the agendas of important multinational conferences.**

Since the Summit of World Leaders convened in Naples in 1994, info-communications issues have been a regular item on the summit's agenda. In addition, discussions were actively held on the issues at the Third Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Ministerial Meeting on the Telecommunications and Information Industry in June 1998 (Refer to Appendix 51) as well as at the Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in October-November 1998 (Refer to Appendices 35 and 52), (Table).

**Table Outlines of major international conferences**

| Conference | Conclusions, communiques, etc. |
|---|---|
| Summit of World Leaders (Birmingham, the U.K., May 15-17, 1998) | 1. The participating countries called for close co-operation with industry to reach agreement on a legal framework for obtaining, presenting and preserving electronic data as evidence, and on sharing evidence regarding cross-border crime, with the aim of combating a wide range crime conducted via high technology.<br>2. The Year 2000 computer problem presents major challenges to the international community, especially in the areas of defense, transport, telecommunications, financial services, energy and environmental protection. Participating countries agreed to work closely with business and organizations working in those sectors, who will bear much of the responsibility for addressing the problem. |
| Third APEC Ministerial Meeting on Telecommunications & Information Industry (Singapore, June 3-5, 1998) | 1. The Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for Telecommunications Equipment was adopted to facilitate global trade in that area. Introduction of the MRA is expected to expand the export and import of telecommunications equipment on a global scale, as exporters can obtain in their own countries conformity certificates for equipment they plan to export, and are exempted from obtaining such certificates from a destination country.<br>2. The participating economies will promote ongoing work to make the Asia-Pacific Information Society (APIS) a reality, by strengthening and expanding the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (APII) throughout the region. The economies will also promote further liberalization in the telecommunications and information sector in the Asia-Pacific region. |
| Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (Minneapolis, U.S. October 12 - November 6) | 1. Plenipotentiary Conference elected Mr. Yoshio Utsumi, Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications of Japan, as the 16th Secretary-General of the ITU.<br>2. At the Conference, the ITU adopted a number of measures aimed at reflecting the importance of the private sector and agreed to adjust ITU's Constitution and Convention to reflect this need. This was done through adoption of a more flexible approach in approving questions or recommendations including technical standards, by giving the same authority as that of Member States to industry member participants of study groups in adopting standards that do not have policy or regulatory implications.<br>3. The Conference agreed to adjust ITU's Constitution and Convention to introduce market mechanisms such as cost recovery in the provision of ITU services. Cost recovery dictates that those who benefit most from a service should bear the brunt of its cost. To date, the ITU's activities have been maintained by funding from Member States and the private sector.<br>4. The Plenary Meeting adopted a resolution to continue the World Telecommunication Policy Forum, which was established at the Kyoto Plenipotentiary Conference in 1994 as a forum convened on an ad-hoc basis for high-level participants to develop a non-binding shared vision of policy and regulatory issues in the info-communications field. |

# (2) Trends in international satellite communications





## INTELSAT and Inmarsat have been undergoing a restructuring process

In recent years, INTELSAT and Inmarsat have been urged to restructure their organizations, due to the advent of global networks using private satellites and simultaneously, as regards INTELSAT, the shift of international communications traffic from satellites to optical submarine cables.

### 1. The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) (Refer to Appendix 53)

INTELSAT is an international organization providing satellite communications infrastructure for telecommunications service providers in every continent on a non-discriminatory basis.

At its 22nd Assembly of Parties in March 1998, INTELSAT decided to create New Skies Satellites NV, an independent subsidiary company based in the Netherlands, to support highly competitive services, including video transmission. INTELSAT itself continues providing capacity for such basic services as voice and data. In November 1998, INTELSAT officially transferred six operational satellites to New Skies Satellites NV.

### 2. The International Mobile Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) (Refer to Appendix 54)

Inmarsat was established as an internationally owned cooperative that provides satellite communications infrastructure to support maritime communications. Later, aeronautical and land mobile communications were added to its operational objectives.

At the 12th Assembly of Member Governments in April 1998, it was agreed to amend Inmarsat's Convention and Operating Agreement to transfer its mobile satellite communications service unit to a private firm. In addition, the official name of Inmarsat was changed from International Maritime Satellite Organization to International Mobile Satellite Organization.

**Fig. 1 Restructuring of INTELSAT organization**

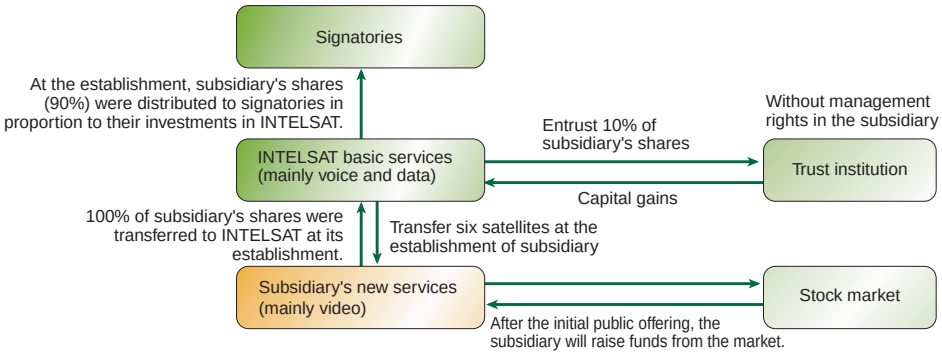
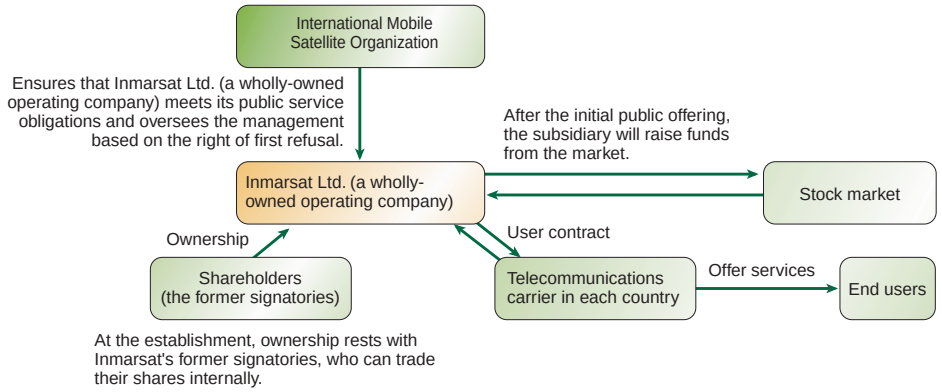



**Fig. 2 Restructuring of Inmarsat organization**

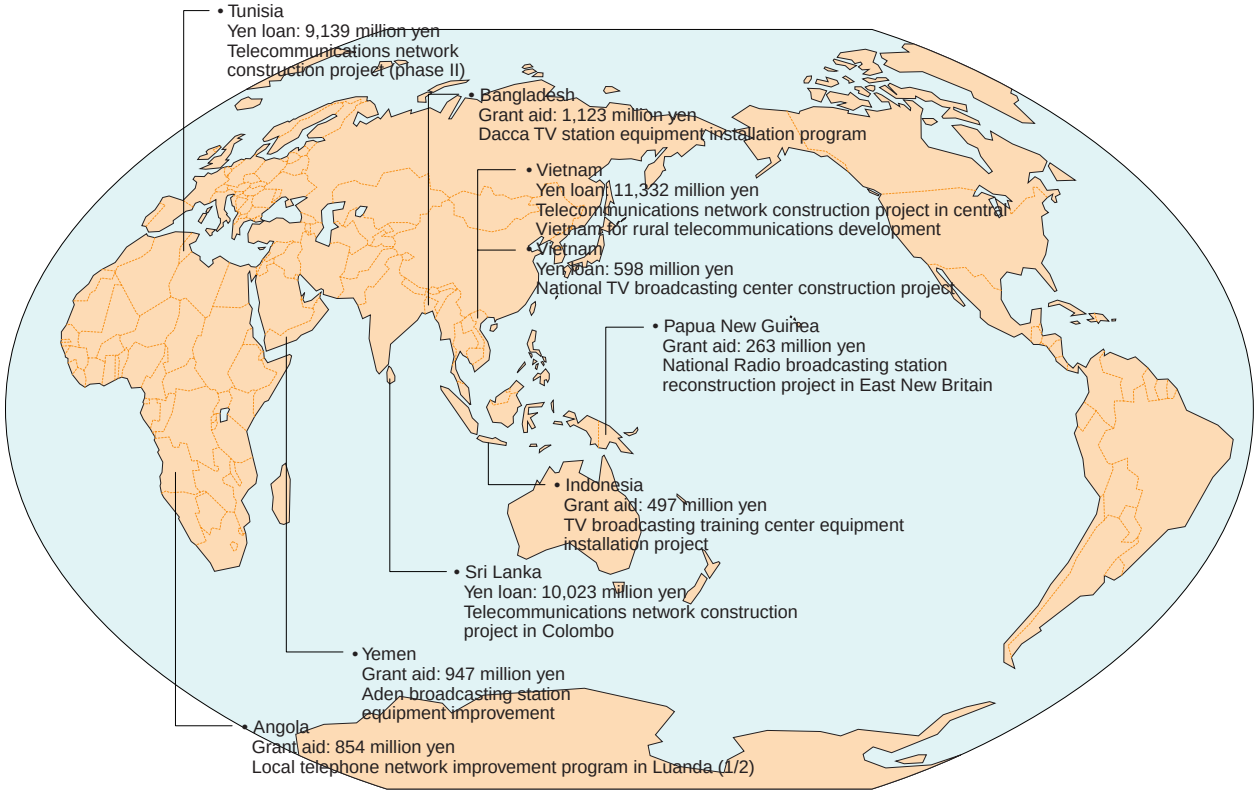


# III-7-2 Promotion of international cooperation



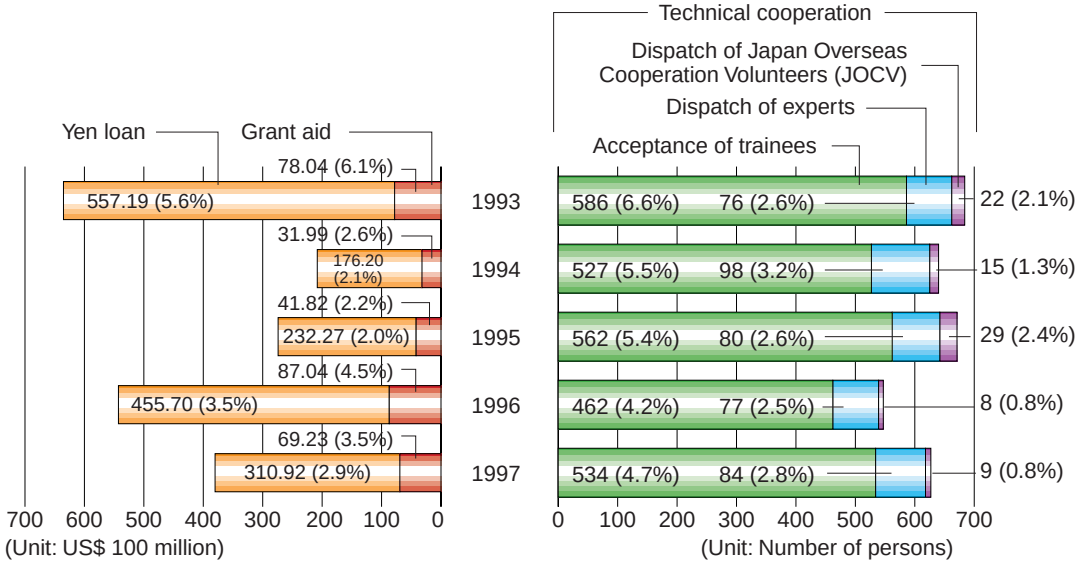
## Japan's contribution to developing countries

### Fig. 1 Financial aid programs for fiscal 1997




Notes: 1. Projects that fall under jurisdiction of MPT only are listed.
2. Grants and yen loans are based on Exchange of Notes (E/N)-basis.

### Fig. 2 Trends in international cooperation in the communications field




Notes: 1. Figures in parentheses indicate overall grant aid (excluding debt relief grants, non-project grants and grassroots grants), or ratios (%) to the overall yen loans (excluding debts with grace period); and in cases of technical cooperation, ratios (%) to the total.
2. Grant aid and yen loans are based on E/N-basis. Technical cooperation projects are carried out through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Sources: MPT; "Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA)," Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# III-7-3 Achieving global technical standards
# (1) Work on international standardization

**Japan is actively participating in standardization activities by the ITU and in the Asia-Pacific region.**

As the globalization of info-communications progresses, it is more and more important that international technical standards be recognized. As a UN agency, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is playing a key role in achieving international standardization in the telecommunications field. Its activities in this area are carried out by the ITU-Telecommunications Sector (ITU-T) and the ITU-Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) (Tables 1, 2; Refer to Appendix 55).

On the other hand, de facto standards, set by industry or by specialist forums, are becoming increasingly common. Taking this into account and in order to promote tie-ups with the private sector, in September 1998 the ITU concluded a cooperation agreement on Internet protocol-related standardization with the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), a forum for Internet standardization.

Whether or not Japan can play a leading role in international standardization activities will be a decisive factor in the nation's international competitiveness in information technology amid the trend toward globalization. Therefore, Japan has been making various efforts in this regard. For example, concerning standardization of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), Japan submitted proposals for candidate technologies in Vehicle Information and Communication Systems (VICS), Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) systems and collision avoidance radar. Also, in the field of satellite digital broadcasting systems, Japan proposed the Integrated Services Digital Broadcasting System (ISDB) as a candidate technology.

In the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) under the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Japan is promoting standardization activities in important fields including ITS (Refer to Appendix 56).

In addition, the Telecommunications Advancement Organization of Japan (TAO) has been promoting international standardization activities led by Japan, by establishing "R&D Grants for Realization of International Standards" in fiscal 1998 as part of its program to encourage private-sector participation in telecommunications research and development. Through this program, the TAO aims to promote Japanese projects that will contribute to the establishment of international standards.

**Table 1 Major standardization activities by ITU's Telecommunications Sector**

| Standardization area | Outline |
|---|---|
| Global Information Infrastructure (GII) | Recommendations determine standards were adopted in June 1998. |
| High-speed Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) | Standardization activities have begun for high-speed DSL systems such as High-bit-rate DSL (HDSL); Very high-speed Digital Subscriber Lines (VDSL) and the Asymmetric DSL (ADSL) system, which is currently being introduced in the U.S. |
| International Mobile Telecommunications-2000 (IMT-2000) | IMT-2000 network standards that will ensure compatibility with existing networks are under study, with planned completion date by the end of 1999. |

**Table 2 Major standardization activities by the ITU's Radiocommunications Sector**

| Standardization area | Outline |
|---|---|
| IMT-2000 | In March 1999, ITU's Task Group 8/1 approved key characteristics of the radio interfaces of IMT-2000 based on proposals from Japan, the U.S. and the EU. |
| ITS* | Standardization work is underway for each radio system composing this intelligent transport system. |
| Digital terrestrial broadcasting systems | Three standards for digital terrestrial broadcasting systems were set based on proposals by Japan, the U.S. and the EU. For digital satellite broadcasting systems, two U.S. systems and an EU system were adopted as standards. |

Note: The ITU term for ITS is the "Transport Information and Control System (TICS)."

Related sites: International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (http://www.itu.int/); Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) (http://www.inet.co.th/org/apt/); Telecommunications Advancement Organization of Japan (TAO) (http://www.shiba.tao.go.jp/)

# (2) Standards certification systems for radio equipment

**The System for the Certification of Conformity with Technical Regulations for Specified Radio Equipment (SRE) have been simplified in line with the ongoing globalization of the telecommunications sector.**

As globalization in the telecommunications sector intensifies, so has demand heightened for international harmonization of standards and certification systems for radio equipment. It has also become necessary to revise the Systems for Certification of Conformity with Technical Regulations to cope with the rapid increase in the number of mobile telephone subscribers.

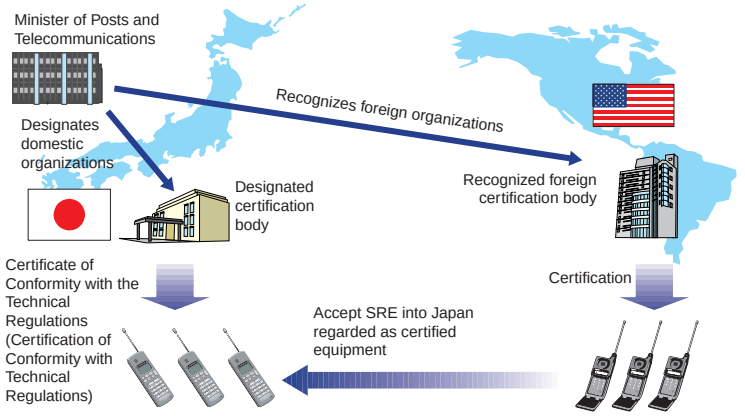
Therefore, MPT made revisions to the Radio Law and simplified the System for Certification of Conformity with Technical Regulations for Specified Radio Equipment (SRE) in March 1999, such as mobile telephones (Fig. 1 to 3).

**Fig. 1 System for accepting SRE certified by recognized foreign certification bodies**

The new system accepts certification of SRE issued by foreign certification bodies recognized by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications

Merits

There is no need for foreign-made SRE (including SRE manufactured overseas by Japanese companies) to obtain certificates in Japan.




Under the new system, TTE (SRE) that are approved (certified) by foreign recognized approval (certification) bodies are regarded as approved (certified) in accordance with the Japanese System for Technical Conditions Compliance Approval and Certification of Conformity with Technical Regulations.

**Fig. 2 Simplified system for mass-produced SRE (Type Certification System)**

Under the current system in Japan, in principle, every single SRE must be examined and certified as being in conformity with technical regulations. To ease this burden, a new system to examine and certify SRE by type (Type Certification System) has been introduced.

Merits

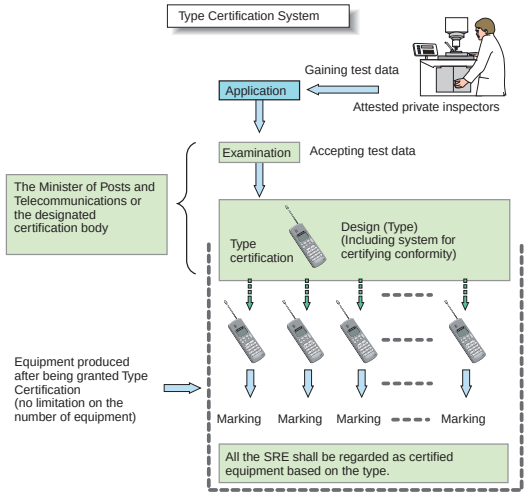
1. Promotion of international harmonization in certification systems
2. Shorter time required for examination
3. Reduction in costs for examination procedures
4. Simplified administrative procedures

**Fig. 3 System for accepting test results conducted by domestic and foreign private inspectors**

In applying for the certification of conformity with technical regulations, if manufacturers submit test data on their SRE conducted by domestic or foreign private inspectors attested by the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications (e.g., manufactures; Refer to Appendix 57), these data will be accepted and used in examination.

Merits

When applicants submit such test data obtained through attested examiners, no documentation is required on test methods and certificates of inspectors in charge of the tests.




Certification on the basis of "type of equipment" (Individual examination and certification not required to assure conformity for each equipment as produced based upon each design.)