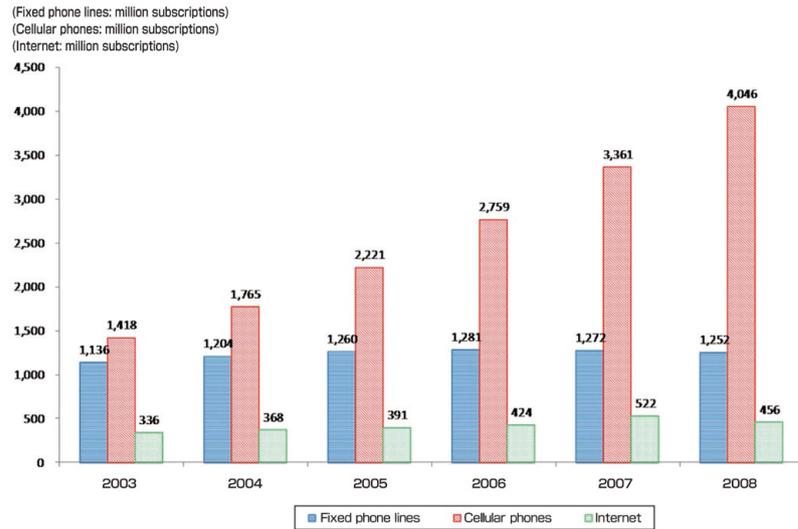


## Section 8 Overseas Trends

### 1. Penetration of global communications services

The number of lines for fixed phones in 2008 was 1.25 billion lines, with an average growth rate of 2.5% per annum over the period 2003-2008. The number of cellular phone subscriptions was 4.05 billion lines, with an average growth rate 23.2% per annum over the period 2003-2008 (figure 4-14).

**Figure 4-14 Number of subscriptions to fixed phone lines, cellular phones and the Internet**

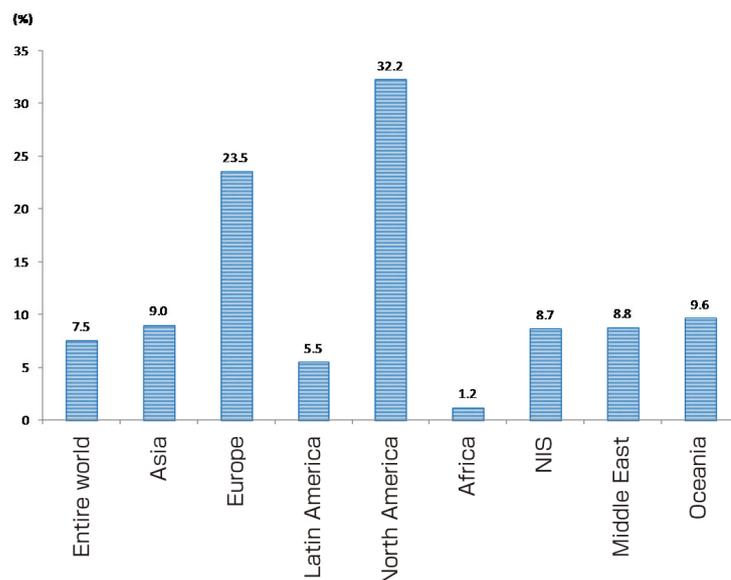


(Source) Compiled from the ITU Statistics Database (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ICTEYE/Indicators/Indicators.aspx>)

### 2. Internet penetration rate by region

In 2008, the global average internet penetration rate (number of subscriptions divided by population) was 7.5%. By region, North America has the highest penetration rate, at 32.2%, followed by Europe (23.5%), Oceania (9.6%) and Asia (9.0%) (figure 4-15).

**Figure 4-15 Internet penetration rate by region (based on number of subscriptions) (2008)**



(Source) Compiled from the ITU Statistics Database (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ICTEYE/Indicators/Indicators.aspx>)