

MPHPT

Vol. 11, No. 23, February 26, 2001

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COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

Biweekly Newsletter of the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, Japan

Experiments Using IPv6 Started for Development and Widespread Use of Next-Generation Broadband Networks

-- Linking Four Locations in Japan and Europe --

MPHPT's Communications Research Laboratory (CRL) and the Telecommunications Advancement Organization of Japan (TAO) have commenced international joint experiments on the Next-generation Internet technology (IPv6) since January 2001 under the Global Experimental Networks for Information Society (GENESIS).

The project is carried out with the University College London (London), British Telecom Research Laboratory (BTL), Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule in Zurich (ETH: Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), NTT Communications and WIDE project jointly, among others by establishing a Japan-Europe broadband experimental network.



As the first experiment under the

project, an experimental "Live Session" (high-quality digital video conferencing) using IPv6 was held on January 31, for two hours in the evening (JST), and

was simulcast in four locations: Global IPv6 Summit (Madrid, Spain), University College London (London, UK), Communications Research Laboratory (Tokyo) and the 15th International Conference on Information Networking: ICOIN-15 (Beppu, Japan).

At the session, Mr. Seiji TANAKA
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Introduction of COAM System for DSL Modems

On January 30, 2001, MPHPT authorized applications from Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corp. (President: Mr. Shuichi INOUE) and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone West Corp. (President: Mr. Kazuo ASADA) based on Article 49 paragraph (1) and Article 52 paragraph (1) of the Telecommunications Business Law (Law No. 86 of 1984) concerning the set-up of technical conditions for connection of terminal equipment to introduce a COAM

(customer-owned and maintained) system for digital subscriber line (DSL) modems, as well as changes (that stipulates the demarcation point of responsibility) in the user tariff based on Article 31-4 paragraph (1) of said Law.

In accordance with the authorization, users of DSL modems that are currently being installed by telecommunications carriers will be able to install said modems by the users themselves.

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IPv6:*Continued from page 1*

(Director-General for Technology Policy Coordination of MPHPT) gave a lecture entitled “Expectations for Japan-Europe Joint IPv6 Experiment” from Tokyo site, and the following speeches and presentations were made:

- From Madrid, Mr. Latif LADID (Chairman, IPv6 Forum)

- From London, Mr. Mario CAMPOLARGO (DG Information Society, European Commission), Prof. Peter KIRSTEIN (Dept. of Computer Science, University College London) and Dr. KUBOTA (CRL)
- From Tokyo, Prof. Hiroshi ESAKI (Information Technology Center, the University of Tokyo), Dr. IIDA (CRL) and Dr. NAKAGAWA (CRL)

During the session, images and sounds sometimes became unstable; however, as some speakers pointed out, it rather indicated that this experiment is very challenging and a high-level task. Many researchers and guests in the four events participated in the session, exhibiting strong interest in the experiment.

Toward Realization of a Smart Town at an Early Stage

Final Report from the Study Group on Smart Town

In April 2000, MPT (now MPHPT) and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (now the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry: METI) jointly formed a “Study Group on ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) Smart Town (introduction of ITS into regional communities),” (Chair: Professor Hironao KAWASHIMA, Ph.D, Department of Administration Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University), in order to deliberate on promotion measures for the deployment of ITS, tailored to meet regional characteristics and problems such as:

- 1) road traffic accidents and congestion problems, and
- 2) enhancement of convenience in public transportation systems. After a series of meetings, the study group compiled its findings as a final report.

Outline of the final report is as follows:

1. Taking problems characteristic to

regional communities into account, ITS Smart Town initiatives greatly contribute to the construction of Japan’s society in the 21st century. The introduction of ITS into regional communities will help resolve regional problems and develop the regional communities.

2. The report promotes understanding of ITS Smart Town initiatives through presentation of four applications by regional target to be introduced:
 - i) A town coexistent with inhabitants, vehicles and the nature
 - ii) A town in which the elderly, people with disabilities and children can enjoy community lives
 - iii) A town in which everyone can freely enjoy their mobility
 - iv) A town which creates new industries and advanced IT
3. There are a number of problems to be solved in order to introduce ITS Smart Town into regional communities
4. Based on those recognition, toward

the nationwide ITS deployment at an early stage, the final report describes necessary items to be implemented and items to be considered that help local governments implement ITS Smart Town initiatives. Those items cover measures ranging from an initial stage for commencing a feasibility study on ITS projects to an implementation and deployment stage. The report recommends that private-sector organizations for supporting the introduction of ITS into regional communities and the national government should take support measures based on a standpoint singular to regional communities and tailored to meet regional characteristics as well as related problems. These support measures include i) provision of more detailed information and ii) creation of an environment necessary for introducing ITS into regional communities.

Interim Report by Committee to Promote Research on the Possible Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields

MPHPT (formerly the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications) set up the Committee to Promote Research on the Possible Biological Effects of Electromagnetic fields (Chairman: Shoogo

UENO, Professor of the University of Tokyo) (hereafter abbreviated to “the Committee”) in 1997. The Committee has since been organizing the research program to assess the possible health

effects of radio waves on the human body.

On January 30, 2001, the Committee has issued an interim report on research projects it has carried out to date, in re-

sponse to increasing public concern about the effects of electromagnetic waves on human health.

Summary of the interim report by the Committee

1. Research into the effects of radio waves on the human body has been conducted for more than 50 years in countries around the world, including Japan. Based on voluminous findings from those studies, exposure guidelines including the Japanese guideline of the "Radio-Radiation Protection Guidelines for Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields" has been developed with a safety margin enough to protect human health from adverse effects of radio waves.
2. The rapid spread of mobile phones has raised public concern about the possible effects of radio waves on health, even though international expert organizations including those in Japan concur that there is no obvious evidence demonstrating any adverse effects of radio waves at intensities less than the guideline levels.
3. However, some reports state that low-level radio waves below guideline levels may cause some effects on the human body. Such research results should not be treated as evidence for health risks until their reproducibility is confirmed because many of those studies have been criticized in regard to the reliability of experimental methods and conditions. Lack of appropriate dissemination of precise information has created an obscure fear of radio waves among the public.
4. The Committee fairly and neutrally has coordinated a research program in accordance with the recommendation of the International EMF Project of the World Health Organization (WHO). The projects of the research program have been performed in close cooperation of medical and biological experts and engineers with expertise of dosimetry. The results obtained from the Committee's projects to date indicate that radio waves emitted from base stations and mobile phone devices have no adverse effect on hu-

man health. In addition, the replication studies of previous studies suggesting existence of health effects have not been successful in the replication studies this program using advanced and improved medical/engineering techniques.

5. Thus, the Committee currently considers that there is no firm evidence of the adverse effects of radio waves at intensities not exceeding the level defined in the Radio-Radiation Protection Guideline for Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields.
6. The Committee recognizes that there is an opinion that the guideline levels should be decreased to even lower levels than current guideline levels in consideration of the "precautionary principle." It should be noted that it is different from scientific-based guidelines. The Committee believes that the current guidelines do not need to be revised at present because the guideline levels for the general environment adopted by most countries including Japan already include a substantial safety margin (1/50) to the threshold for the effects confirmed by animal experiments, thus offering sufficient prevention.
7. The Committee will continue its activities to promote research to assess the safety of radio waves aimed at improving the reliability of scientific basis for the Radio-Radiation Protection Guideline for Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields. The Committee would otherwise recommend the revision of the Radio-Radiation Protection Guideline for Human Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields level if necessary. The Committee believes that continuation of reviewing the scientific basis for the guidelines will contribute to the development of a sound radio-wave environment where people can benefit from radio wave technology without any undue fear concerning health risks.

Future schedule

The Committee plans to successively conduct (1) experiments based on a two-year exposure (corresponding to a rat's average life span) of rats' heads to radio wave, and (2) epidemiological studies to clarify the relationship between the use of mobile phones and brain can-

cer in collaboration with the international study managed by IARC, and so on.

Important Notice

To Our Readers

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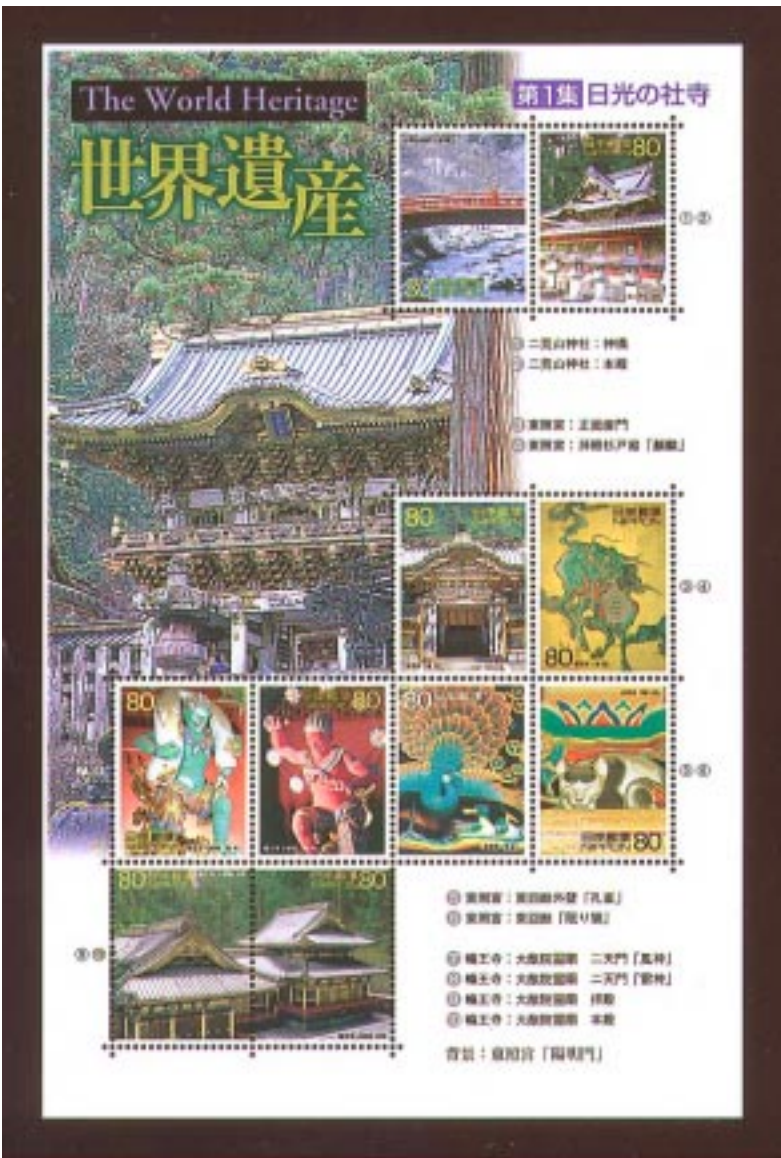
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Thank you for your cooperation.
 The editorial staff

First “World Heritage Series” Stamps to Be Issued

The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972, as one of the most universal international legal instruments for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage.

Based on the Convention, many Japanese sites were inscribed as world heritages. In 1994, MPT issued special stamps commemorating the world heritages in Japan, inscribed in 1993, as “World Heritage Series” stamps. This year, the Postal Services Agency will issue new “World Heritage Series” stamps to commemorate the world heritages in Japan that have been inscribed since 1994.



Postal Services Agency Starts Accepting Relief Donations to Earthquake Victims in El Salvador and India

On January 13, 2001, earthquakes struck El Salvador while on January 26, 2001, struck Gujarat State in India, killing and injuring many people as well as damaging many houses. The Postal Services Agency (PSA), in order to support earthquake relief efforts in those two quake-stricken areas, started accepting relief donations at all post offices, including postal agencies, in Japan.

Those post offices and postal agencies accept relief donations without handling charges to postal giro accounts of the following two social-welfare organizations.

• Relief donation to El Salvador

Postal giro account holder	Japanese Red Cross Society
Postal giro account number	00110-2-5606
Time period	January 19 to March 16, 2001

• Relief donation to India

Postal giro account holder	Japanese Red Cross Society
Postal giro account number	00110-2-5606
Time period	January 30 to March 29, 2001
Postal giro account holder	Japan Committee for UNICEF
Postal giro account number	00110-5-79500
Time period	February 2 to August 1, 2001