

MPHPT

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Focusing on Priority Areas in FY2003 Budget

Upon requesting the FY2003 budget, MPHPT compiled a paper entitled "FY2003 IT Policy Principles," that outlines priority areas for IT policies in the FY2003 budget request in August 2002.

With regard to the FY2003 IT Policy Principles, the IT Strategic Headquarters in June 2002 developed the "e-Japan Priority Policy Program-2002" that reorganized the government's IT policy measures to be implemented swiftly with priority. Thus, MPHPT systematically reviewed and reorganized its IT policy measures in line with the "e-Japan Priority Policy Program-2002."

As a result of the review, the FY2003 IT Policy Principles were classified into layered structures under the following recognition:

- i) it is necessary to further preparation of network infrastructures so as to be ready for IP and broadband features;
- ii) it is essential to develop promotion policy measures for raise the number of actual network users that is smaller than that of potential network users; and
- iii) it is vital to cope with such cross-cutting issues as security measures/

privacy protection measures, bridging the digital divide, etc.

In order to make Japan the world's most advanced IT nation, priority fields are to be promoted strategically according to the recognition above. The priority fields included in the FY2003 IT Policy Principles are as follows:

- 1) Further preparation of network infrastructures
 - i) Frameworks for new pro-competitive policy ready for IP and broadband features, ii) Advanced strategy toward IPv6, etc., iii) Nationwide deployment of broadband networks (National Broadband Initiative), iv) Promotion of digitalization of terrestrial broadcasting, v) Promotion of effective use of radio spectrum, and vi) Preparation of an environment surrounding radio spectrum use, etc.
- 2) Promotion of network use
 - vii) Promotion of digital content distribution, viii) Promotion of e-com-

merce, ix) Promotion of e-government, etc., x) Promotion of e-local governments, xi) Development of human resources, and xii) Activation of local economies/support for venture businesses

3) Common/cross-cutting issues

xiii) Study on frameworks for networked society, xiv) Promotion of security measures/privacy protection measures, xv) Promotion of strategic R&D, xvi) Promotion of international strategy, xvii) Bridging of the digital divide, and xviii) Promotion of consumer support measures

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Inquiry Concerning Development
of Radio Policy Vision to

Telecommunications Council

-- Mid- to long-term outlook of radio spectrum use and the role to be played by the administration --

In recent years, as exemplified by cellular telephones and radio LANs, radio spectrum use is drastically expanding in terms of quality and quantity, resulting in the serious shortage of available ra-

dio spectrums. Furthermore, reflecting technological innovations in the IT field, demands by people for radio spectrums are increasingly diversifying and heading toward broadband wireless use.

Basic roles of radio spectrums include realization of comfortable and high quality of life, activation of industrial/economic activities, formation of a safe and disaster-tolerant society/national land,

promotion of science and technology, etc. In these years, however, circumstances surrounding the radio administration are dramatically changing, i.e., expansion of mobile carriers and other industries utilizing radio spectrums, development of IP-based networks, remarkable technological innovations including software defined radios (SDRs), development of globalization such as international roaming of cellular telephone, a mutual recognition agreement (MRA), etc.

Against these backdrops, the mid- to long-term outlook of radio spectrum use is anticipated on socioeconomic roles of radio spectrum in the future, future perspectives of radio spectrum use, future trends in wireless technology, demand forecasts for frequencies, etc. Thus, there are needs to develop the radio administration's policy goals and measures in the future, and to deploy the more strategic radio administration than ever.

To this end, on August 7, 2002, MPHPT inquired of the Telecommunications Council about the development of the mid- to long-term vision (Radio Policy Vision) in order to promote the radio administration from comprehensive viewpoints based upon the future outlook of radio spectrum use, the IT strategy, the international strategy, etc.

[Scheme for deliberations and items to be deliberated]

1. Scheme for deliberations

The Telecommunications Council will establish a "Special Department for Radio Policy" in order to deliberate on the Radio Policy Vision.

2. Items to be deliberated

- i) Domestic and foreign trends in radio spectrum use
- ii) Future outlook of radio spec-

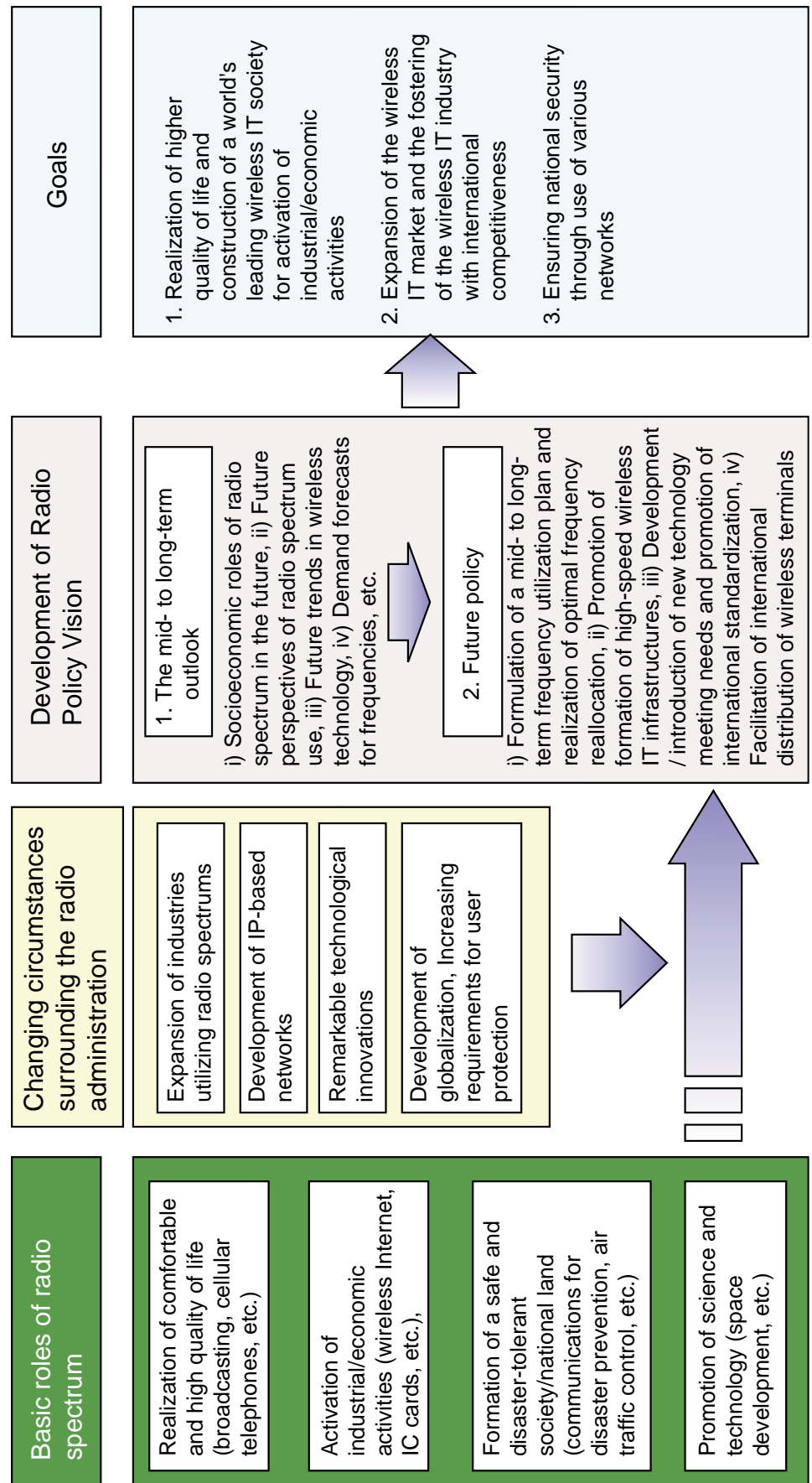
trum use (roles, usage, technological trends, demand forecasts for frequencies)

- iii) Future policy goals and measures of the radio administration

[Schedule]

The Telecommunications Council will compile its findings as a report by March 2003.

Fig. Background and objectives of Radio Policy Vision



Frequency Assignment Plan for Microwave Bands to Be Amended

To date, higher frequencies are assigned for mobile communications. With regard to frequencies for mobile services, it is anticipated that microwave bands beyond 3 GHz bands will be used for future mobile services.

MPHPT decided to review the Frequency Assignment Plan pertaining to microwave bands, etc., in line with the two reports from the Telecommunications Council, "Technical Conditions for the Digital STL/TTL (studio to transmitter link/transmitter to transmitter link) for Television Program Transmission" (January 2002) and "Technical Conditions for 5 GHz-Band Wireless Access System" (May 2002), based upon the report from the "Study Group on Use of Microwave Band for Fixed Communications Systems" (June 2001) and the "e-Japan Priority Policy Program" (IT Strategic Headquarters Decision of March

2001). MPHPT will promulgate and enforce partial amendments to the Frequency Assignment Plan in September 2002, upon reception of a report from the Radio Regulatory Council stating that the relevant amendments to the Frequency Assignment Plan are appropriate.

Note: e-Japan Priority Policy Program, "frequency assignment will be reviewed and frequency re-allocation carried out by FY2002 in order to ensure frequency for the fourth-generation wireless communications system, etc."

1. Ensuring frequencies for 5-GHz band wireless access systems

In order to introduce 5-GHz band wireless access systems, the 4.9 - 5-GHz band, which is used for fixed microwave communications, shall be made available for wireless access systems while spectrums assigned for fixed services shall be limited to the current licensing period

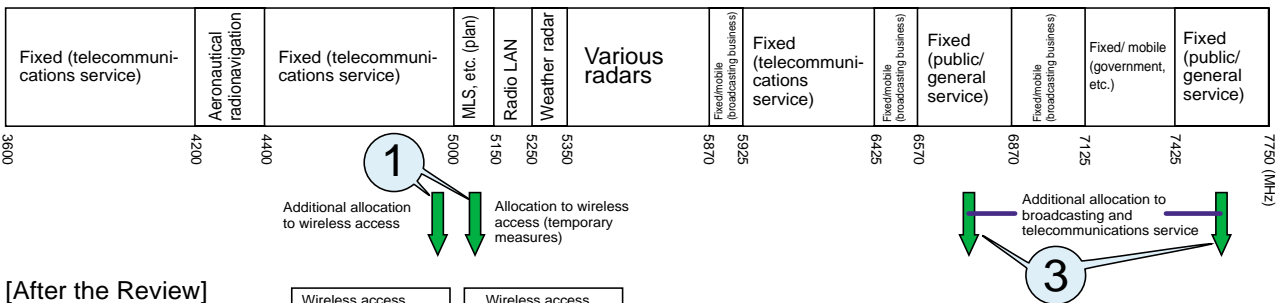
before the next re-licensing in 2007. Before 2007, the 5.03-5.09-GHz band, which is reserved for microwave landing system (MLS), shall be provisionally made available for wireless access systems.

2. Ensuring frequency bands for future mobile services

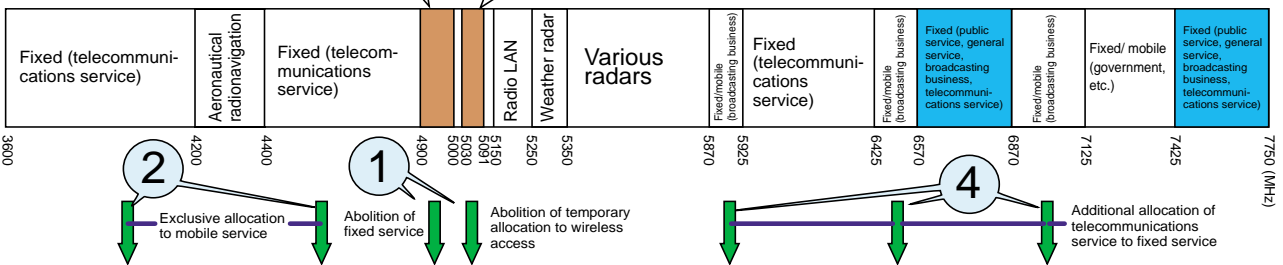
Based upon e-Japan Priority Program, in order to ensure frequencies for future mobile services, taking into consideration the report from the "Study Group on Use of Microwave Band for Fixed Communications Systems" (June 2001), i) 4 GHz and 5 GHz bands for fixed services for commercial telecommunications service shall be reserved within the next 10 years, ii) current assignments in the 4 GHz and 5 GHz bands shall cease prior to the re-licensing in 2012, and iii) those 4 GHz and 5 GHz bands shall be made available for mobile services for

Review on Assignments of Microwave Bands

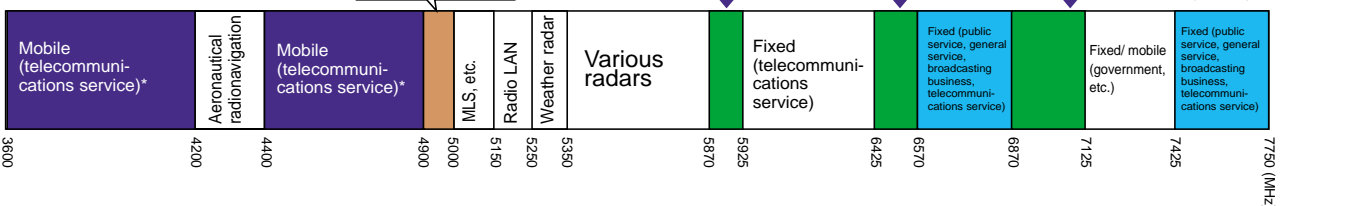
[Before the Review]



[After the Review] (As of 2002)



(As of 2012) *After 2010



commercial telecommunications service.

3. Additional assignment of 6.5 and 7.5 GHz bands for general and public services to STL/TTL, etc.

Frequency bands for broadcast auxiliary service shall be newly added to 6.5 and 7.5 GHz bands for fixed service of general and public services. Of fixed microwave links to be reallocated to ensure frequency bands for future mobile

services, limited to cases where those links are difficult to be replaced with optical cables, the 6.5 and 7.5 GHz bands shall be made available for commercial telecommunications service so as to reallocate those links to these frequency bands.

4. Additional assignment of 5.8, 6.4 and 6.8 GHz bands for broadcast auxiliary service to commercial tele-

communications service

In order to further promote effective use of 5.8, 6.4 and 6.8 GHz bands allocated for broadcast auxiliary service, these bands shall be made available for fixed service for commercial telecommunications service after the completion (2012) of digitalization of terrestrial broadcasting.

Telecommunications Council Compiles Report on “Desirable R&D Approach for Ensuring Technological Competitiveness Pertaining to Information and Communications Technology in Japan”

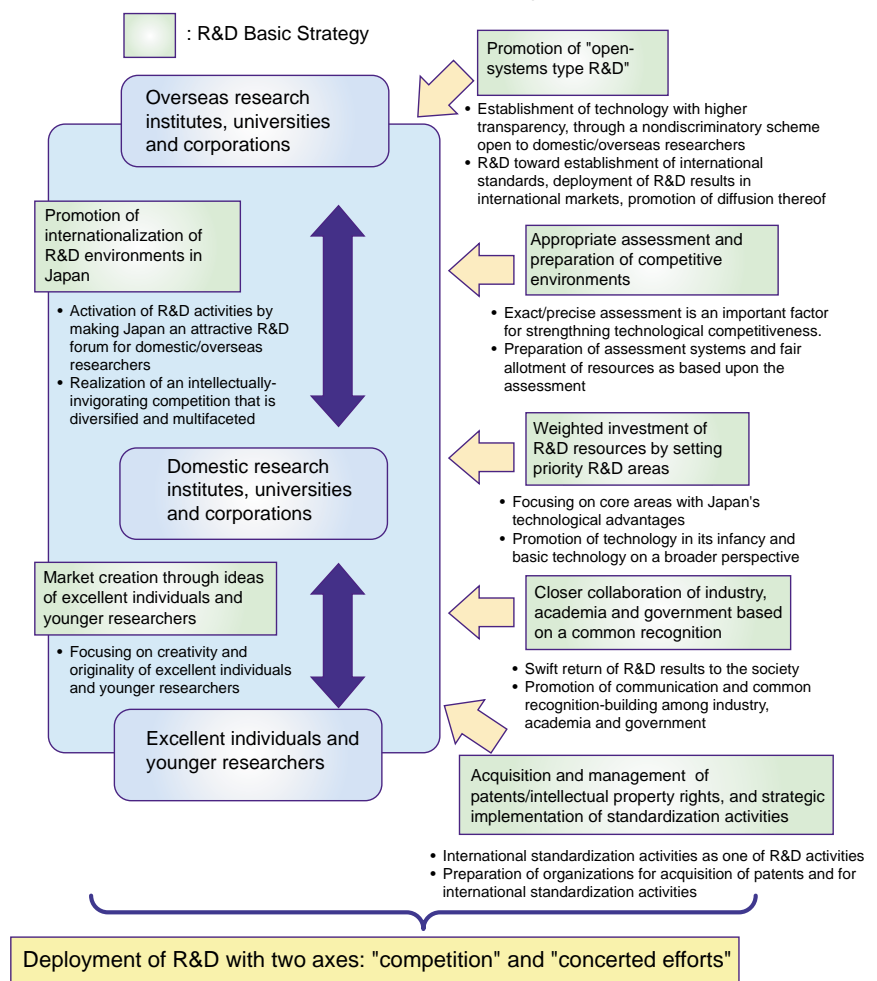
On August 7, 2002, MPHPT received a report on a “Desirable R&D Approach for Ensuring Technological Competitiveness Pertaining to Information and Communications Technology in Japan” compiled by the Telecommunications Council (Chair: Mr. AKIYAMA Yoshihisa, Chairman of Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc.).

This report contains the desirable R&D approach of Japan, which aims to become a creative nation built on a scientific and technological basis (“knowledge-emergent nation”), on information and communications technology positioned as core technology in the 21st century supporting all industries.

This report proposes the following seven basic strategies based upon recognition that Japan shall have a clear-cut strategy:

1. Promotion of “open-systems type R&D” toward establishment of technology with higher transparency, through a nondiscriminatory approach open to domestic/overseas researchers
2. Realization of an intellectually-invigorating competition that is diversified and multifaceted, by making Japan an attractive R&D forum for domestic/overseas researchers
3. Weighted investment of R&D resources by setting priority R&D areas focusing on Japan’s technological advantages

Points of R&D Basic Strategy



- such as mobile communications
4. Appropriate assessment of R&D and researchers, and fair allotment of resources as based upon the assessment
 5. Strategic implementation of standardization activities, taking into consideration acquisition and management as well as diffusion of patents/intellectual property rights
 6. Strengthening of object-oriented R&D and closer collaboration of industry, academia and government based on a common recognition
 7. Market creation through ideas of excellent individuals and younger researchers
- The report stresses that it is vital to

promote strategies consisting of two axes: "competition" of R&D brought about by intellectual invigoration and mobilization among domestic/overseas researchers, and "concerted efforts" through open-systems type R&D. Furthermore, based upon these strategies, the report proposes the following specific promotion measures to be taken by the government:

- Implementation of open-systems
- Prioritized R&D areas, research institutes and R&D facilities
- Construction of "networks of intellectuals" through creation of human resource databases and utilization thereof
- Development of R&D basic guide-

lines

- Fostering of and support for human resources who will work for international organizations

In addition, this report makes proposals for the government, private research institutes and universities on their desirable roles and directions of R&D functions to be strengthened.

MPHPT will, based upon this report, further promote R&D in the information and communications field as well as exchanges of researchers, so that Japan can ensure technological competitiveness that leads countries around the world in the future.

Mr. Reuven Rivlin, Israeli Minister of Communications, Pays Courtesy Visits to Minister KATAYAMA and Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination TSUKIO

Mr. Reuven Rivlin, Israeli Minister of Communications exchanged opinions with MPHPT Minister KATAYAMA Toranosuke and people in the telecommunications field, and paid technical visits to telecommunications facilities during his visit to Japan from August 21 through 25, 2002.

At a meeting with Minister KATAYAMA held on August 22, Minister KATAYAMA expressed cordial thanks for the visit by the Israeli Minis-

ter of Communications in the year commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Israel, and stated that both countries shall further deepen relationships toward the future. Minister Rivlin then invited Minister Katayama to "Telecom Israel 2002 Exhibition," in which major corporations in the information and communications field around the world will participate, to be held from November 4 through 7, 2002,

in Tel Aviv.

At a meeting with Dr. TSUKIO Yoshio, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination, held on August 23, Vice-Minister Tsukio highly evaluated the current status of Israeli information and communications industry as one of the world's leading. Then, Minister Rivlin commented that he gained the feeling of the higher level of Japanese industries through visits to NTT DoCoMo, Inc., J-Phone Co., Ltd., KDDI Corp. and SOFTBANK Corp., and stated that further development of information and communications in the two countries can be anticipated from bilateral cooperation. It is expected that the Israeli Minister's visit to Japan will further promote bilateral cooperative ties in the information and communications field.



Mr. Reuven Rivlin (right), Israeli Minister of Communications, pays courtesy visits to Minister KATAYAMA (second from left)