

MPHPT

November 21, 2002, Vol. 13, No. 16

Please feel free to use the articles in this publication, with proper credits

COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

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

The Japan-Finland Policy Dialogue and IT Symposium Held

On October 31, 2002, MPHPT and the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, for the purpose of promoting mutual understanding in the IT field and strengthening collaborative ties between Japan and Finland, held the Japan-Finland Policy Dialogue to exchange information, etc.

At the meeting, exchange of opinions on "telecommunications policy and regulations," "IT policy," "Internet security," "development in the mobile communications field" and "digitalization of broadcasting" was made and the both sides agreed to further establish closer ties between the two countries.

In addition to the dialogue, on November 1, 2002, a Japan-Finland IT Symposium was held at a conference hall, Mita Kaigisyo, in Tokyo.

Results of these are as follows:

I. Policy Dialogue

[Finnish participants]

Mr. Pursiainen Harri, Director-General, Communications Department, and the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications; and others

[Policy Dialogue]

1. Telecommunications policy and regulations

The two countries exchanged opinions on the Final Report of the "Special Department for Desirable Pro-Competitive Policies in the Telecommunications Business Field for Promoting the IT Revolution" of the Telecommunications Council and the implementation status of the Finnish policies under the new EU Directives, and agreed to further cooperate on promotion of competition.

2. IT policy

The two countries exchanged information on Japan's "e-Japan Priority Policy Program - 2002" and Finnish IT policy in line with the "e-Europe 2005," both sides agreed to cooperate on and ex-

change information on opinions for developing policy measures concerning e-governments and e-commerce toward realization of information societies through use IT.

3. Internet security

Both sides exchanged information on consumer protection on the Internet, such as countermeasures against posting of illegal information on websites and unsolicited e-mails to mobile telephones in Japan. Then, the two agreed to establish collaborative ties toward secure use of the Internet and e-commerce for the future.

4. Development in the mobile commu-

CONTENTS

- The Japan-Finland Policy Dialogue and IT Symposium Held ----- 1
- "Study Group on Broadcast Program Production in the Broadband Age" Held ----- 3
- Special Training Course "Promotion of Local Informatization" Held ----- 4

International Policy Division,
International Affairs Department,
Ministry of Public Management, Home
Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications
1-2, Kasumigaseki 2-chome,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8926, Japan

- We welcome your comments by:
feedback-newsletter@soumu.go.jp
Fax: +81-3-5253-5924
Tel.: +81-3-5253-5920
- MPHPT information is available at:
<http://www.joho.soumu.go.jp/eng/>



The Japan-Finland Policy Dialogue

nications field

Information exchanges were made between Japan and Finland on the current status of 3G and measures for 4G mobile communications systems, both sides agreed to exchange opinions on R&D and standardization thereof while promoting further cooperative ties between the private/public sector in the two countries.

5. Digitalization of broadcasting

The two countries exchanged opinions on policies and the current status concerning the digitalization of broadcasting in Japan and Finland, and agreed to further exchange information from now on.

II. Japan-Finland IT symposium

[Results]

1. Outline

- i) Theme: "Mobile business partners" (followed by the "Japan-Finland Joint Announcement on Mobile Internet" of Mr. KATAYAMA Toranosuke, Minister for Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications, and Mr. Olli-Pekka Heinonen, Finnish Minister of Transport and Communications, on November 15, 2001)

- ii) Participants

Finnish side: Mr. Erkki Virtanen, Permanent Secretary, Finnish Ministry of Trade and Industry (closing remarks) and Mr. Pursiainen Harri, Director-General, Communications Department, and the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications (keynote address)

For reference: the number of audiences was about 350 including telecommunications carriers, mobile telephone manufacturers, content providers, etc. in the two countries.)

2. Panel discussion

- i) Development of mobile Internet

Discussions were made on the point that because the i-mode allows access to pre-selected content according to each provider, this feature may not be treated as the ordinary Internet.

NTT DoCoMo explained that its goal is a win-win model under which all stakeholders (network operators, content providers, platform

operators and manufacturers) may benefit on an equal basis, accordingly, inconvenience to some extents is allowed. Some said that GPRS is technically insufficient, however, there is a space to improve GPRS as a global standard, on the other hand, others appreciated that NTT DoCoMo's billing model facilitates participation of content providers in the i-mode.

In conclusion, the following points were recognized: i) there are local characters country-by-country in history, regulations, etc., ii) with regard to roaming, coexistence of global standards and localities upon developing business models shall be considered through localized service provision and standardization, and iii) common platforms may be constructed provided that standardization and interoperability are ensured and each software suitable for applications is easily downloaded.

- ii) Relationship between PCs and mobile telephones

At present, addition of mobile functions to PCs and vice versa is in progress. Discussions were made on whether content and software will be installed on PCs.

Some said that reflecting use of content and software by mobile telephones, PCs will in some cases employ such content and software which have not been used by PCs. It was concluded that flexibility of mobile telephones will accel-

erate trends toward fusion of PCs and mobile telephones.

- iii) Convergence of communications and broadcasting

Discussions were conducted on whether competitive relationships will emerge among the mobile Internet and Internet use by PCs as well as digital TV, and whether coexistence among them will be allowed.

Some said that coexistence between the mobile Internet and Internet use by PCs will be achieved thanks to differences in mobility. As a conclusion, it is recognized that TV per se is a media for unilaterally transmitting information to unspecified many audiences, however, provided that digital TV with interactive functions fully penetrates into the society, potentials of digital TV will come into bloom.

- iv) Others

Regarding 4G mobile communications, relationship with wireless LANs was discussed. In this aspect, some said that the 4G technology is still at R&D stage, however, 4G may subsume wireless LANs.

At the Q&A session, discussions were made on demand forecast for mobile telephones with camera in the European market and effects of electromagnetic waves on human bodies, etc. Vigorous deliberations on a range of themes lasted beyond the closing time of the Panel Discussion.



“Study Group on Broadcast Program Production in the Broadband Age” Held

On October 23, 2002, considering the necessity for improvement of broadcast program production capability in the broadband age and the growing demand for the secondary use of broadcast programming, MPHPT convened the first meeting of a “Study Group on Broadcast Program Production in the Broadband Age” (Chair: Professor FUNADA Masayuki, Faculty of Law, Rikkyo University) with members consisting of academic experts, lawyers, stakeholders from the National Association of Commercial Broadcasters in Japan (NAB), the Association of All Japan TV Program Production Companies (ATP).

The outline of the Study Group is as follows:

1. Purpose

Broadcast programming is positioned as major role in the content industry in Japan. Along with diversification/digitalization of broadcasting media and ongoing deployment of broadband platforms, demand for broadcast programming increases. As a result, necessity grows for strengthening and improvement of broadcast program production capability and demand increases for the secondary use of broadcast programming. Meanwhile, broadcasting has an

important part to play vital social/cultural functions as the most familiar means for citizens to obtain information, such as means for providing news/entertainment for operating a democratic society and information for consumers. Thus, the freedom of the compilation of broadcast programming is widely guaranteed under restrictions to the necessary degree, so as to ensure sound development of broadcasting.

Broadcast program production is both an economic and an industrial activity, but on the flip side of the coin, has significance as social activities supporting the social role of broadcasting. People engaged in program production are liable for producing higher quality programs even in the broadband age in response to trust of the public. To this end, interested parties including broadcasters and production companies, etc. engaging in program production shall strive to produce higher quality programs in the broadband age under a common understanding.

This Study Group was convened with the purpose of i) comprehensively considering broadcast program production from not only the economic/industrial aspects but also social/cultural aspects of

broadcast, ii) deliberating and proposing concrete measures for improving fairness and transparency of program production systems, and iii) thus, contributing to further enhancement of social confidence of broadcasting in the broadband age and strengthening/improvement of broadcast program production capability including its quality with members consisting of academic experts, lawyers, stakeholders from NAB and ATP.

2. Major topics to be deliberated upon

- i) With regard to broadcast program production, matters to be under the common recognition among broadcasters and program production companies
- ii) With regard to broadcast program production, measures to be implemented by broadcasters and program production companies

3. Schedule

The Study Group will hold a series of meeting since October 23, 2002, and compile concrete measures until the end of CY2002.

Special Training Course “Promotion of Local Informatization” Held

Since FY2000, for the purpose of supporting the local governments' international cooperation measures in the ICT field and of gaining mutual understanding between Japanese local governments and foreign counterparts, MPHPT has been holding the Training Course “Promotion of Local Informatization.”

In FY2002, the third Training Course was held from October 16 through 26, 2002 with participation of 16 local government officials from five mostly Asian countries.

The training comprised lectures on MPHPT's policy measures to promote local informatization, technical visits to

ICT-related facilities and e-government model facilities, and practical ICT training using PCs. Such practical training were appreciated by the participants of the course. It is expected that the trainees, after returning home, will play a leading role in promoting ICT in the local governments they work for.

