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MPHPT COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

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

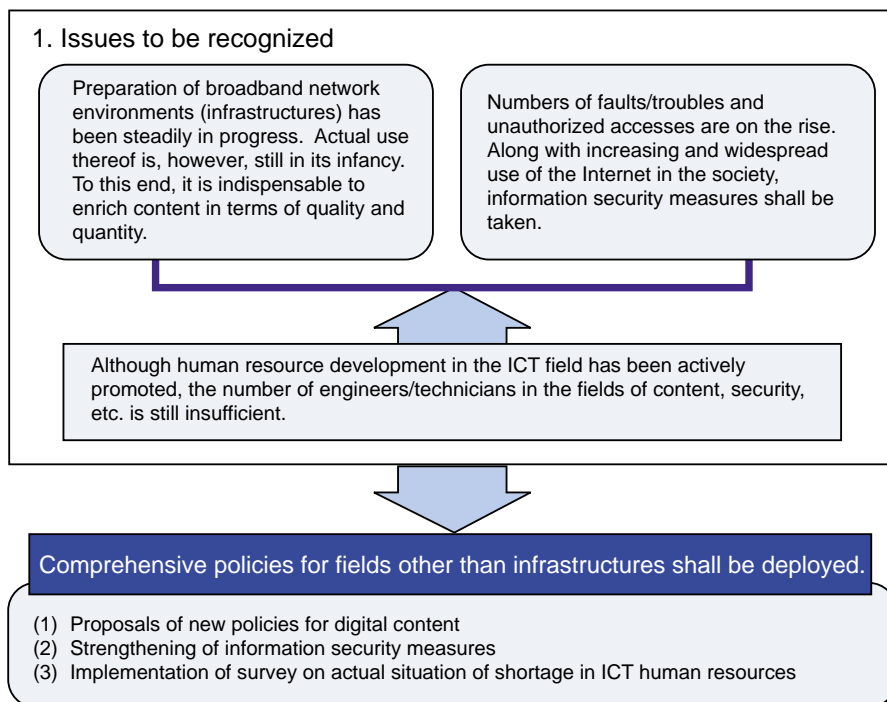
Final Report from "Roundtable on Info-Communications Software" Released

Since March 2003, MPHPT has been holding the "Roundtable on Info-Communications Software" (Chair: Mr. NAGAO Makoto, former president of Kyoto University), an advisory group to the Director-General for Policy Planning

(in charge of info-communications), with the purpose of deliberating upon basic directions concerning digital content, ICT security and human capacity building that target various current topics and solutions thereof. The

Roundtable has compiled its findings as a final report.

The outline of the final report is as follows:



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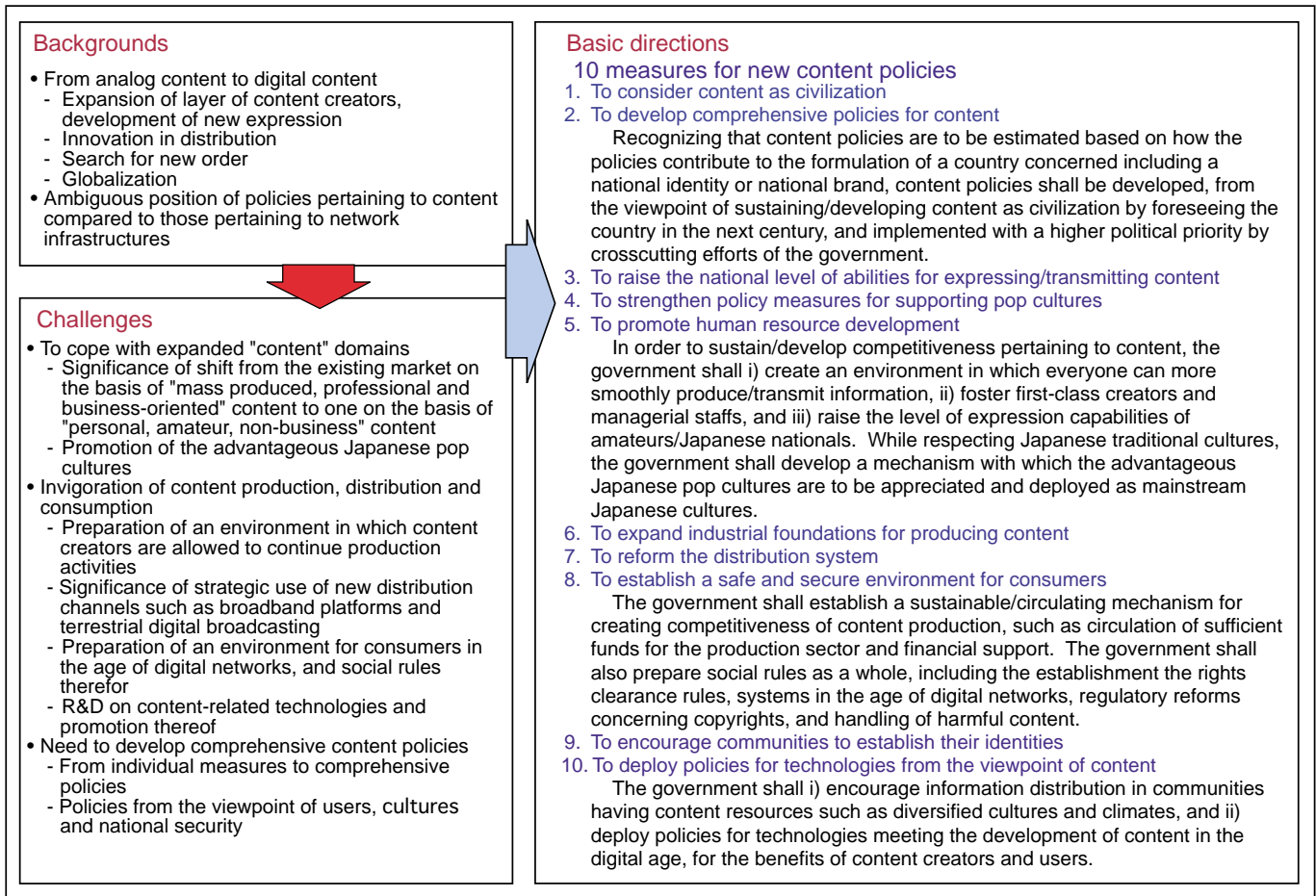
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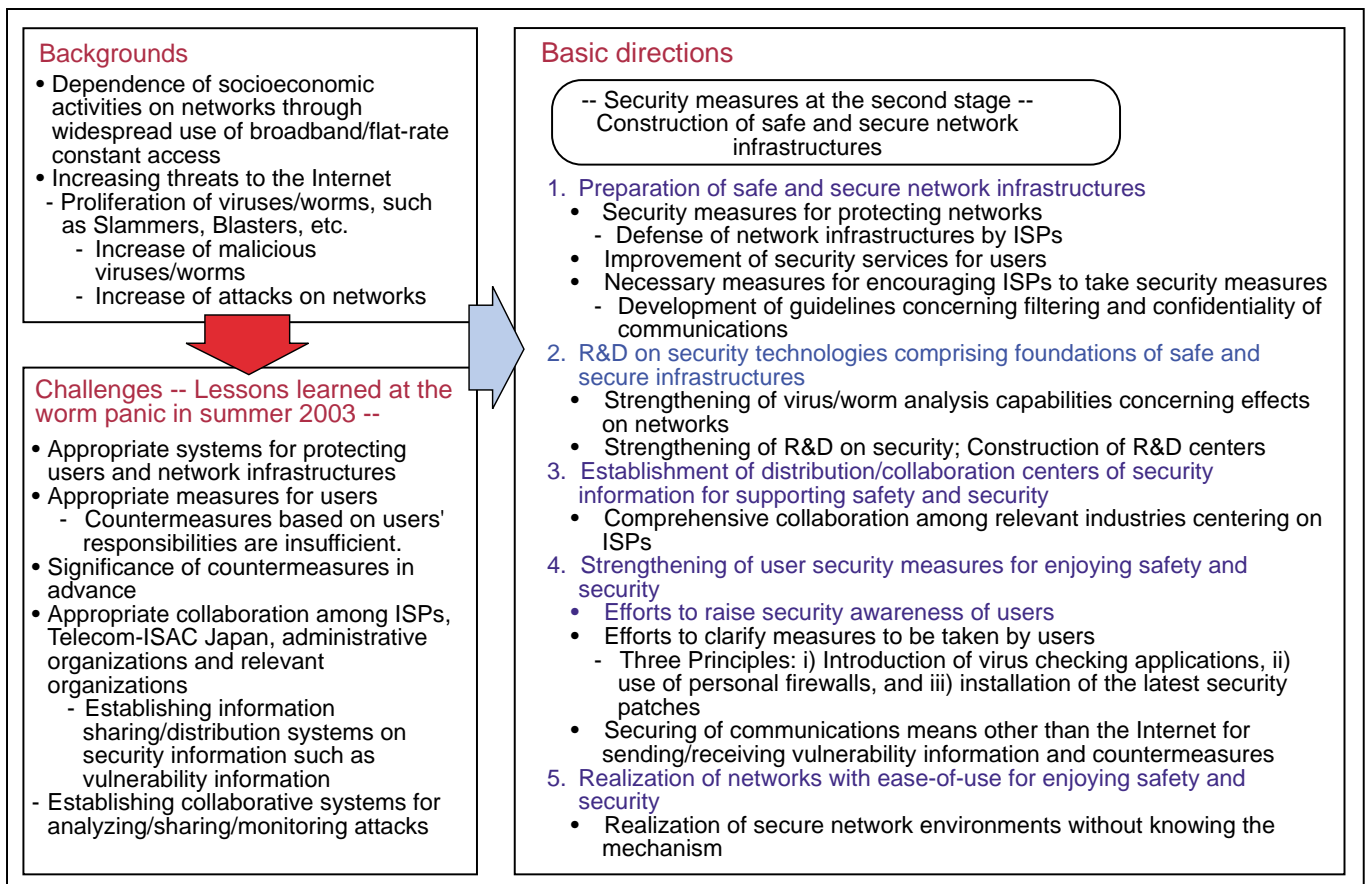
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2. Challenges to be met for promoting ICT software and basic directions

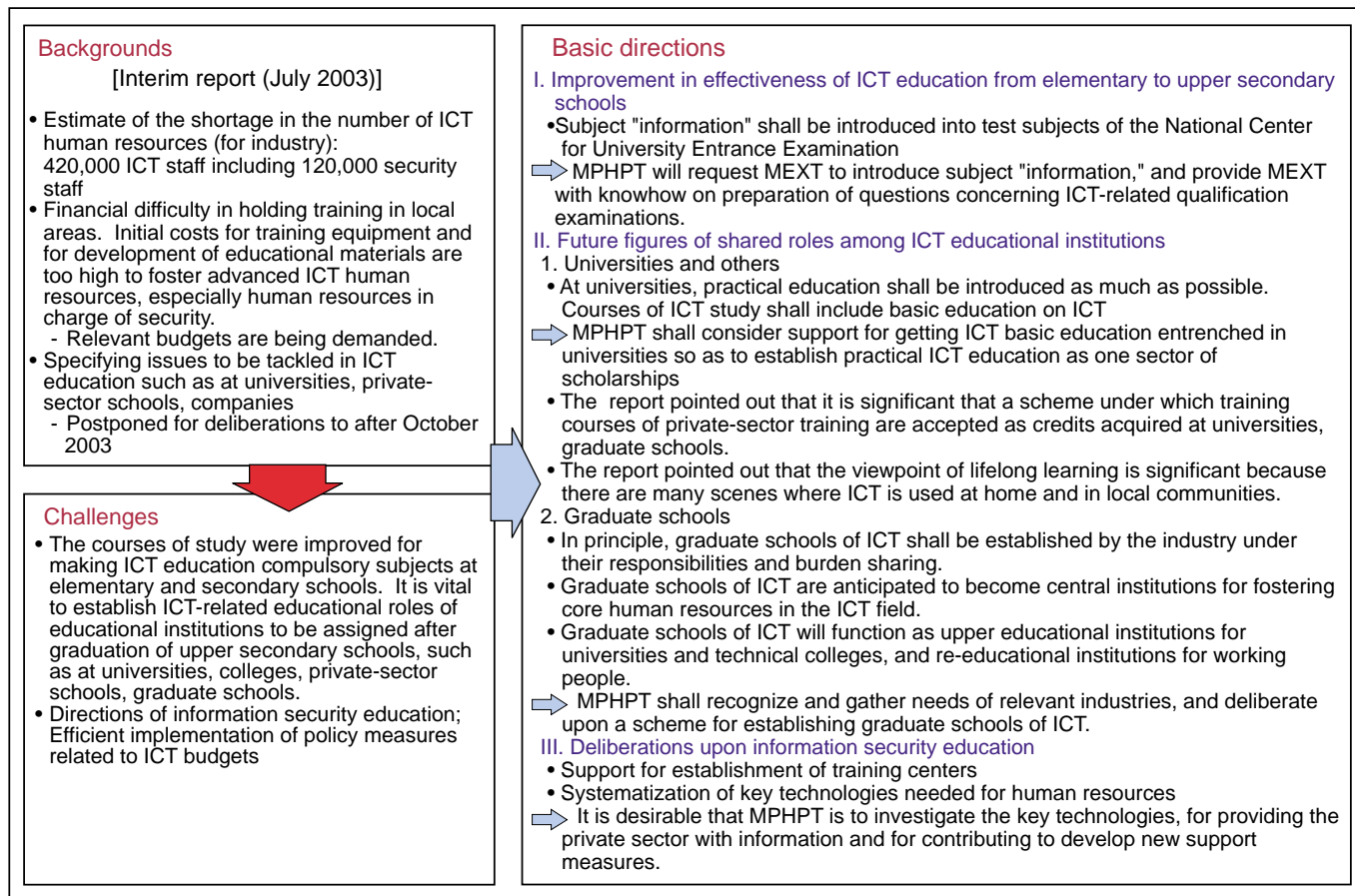
(1) Proposals of new policies for digital content



(2) Strengthening of information security measures



(3) Strengthening of human resource development in the ICT field



Third Report Released from the "Study Group on Policies for Effective Radio Spectrum Use"

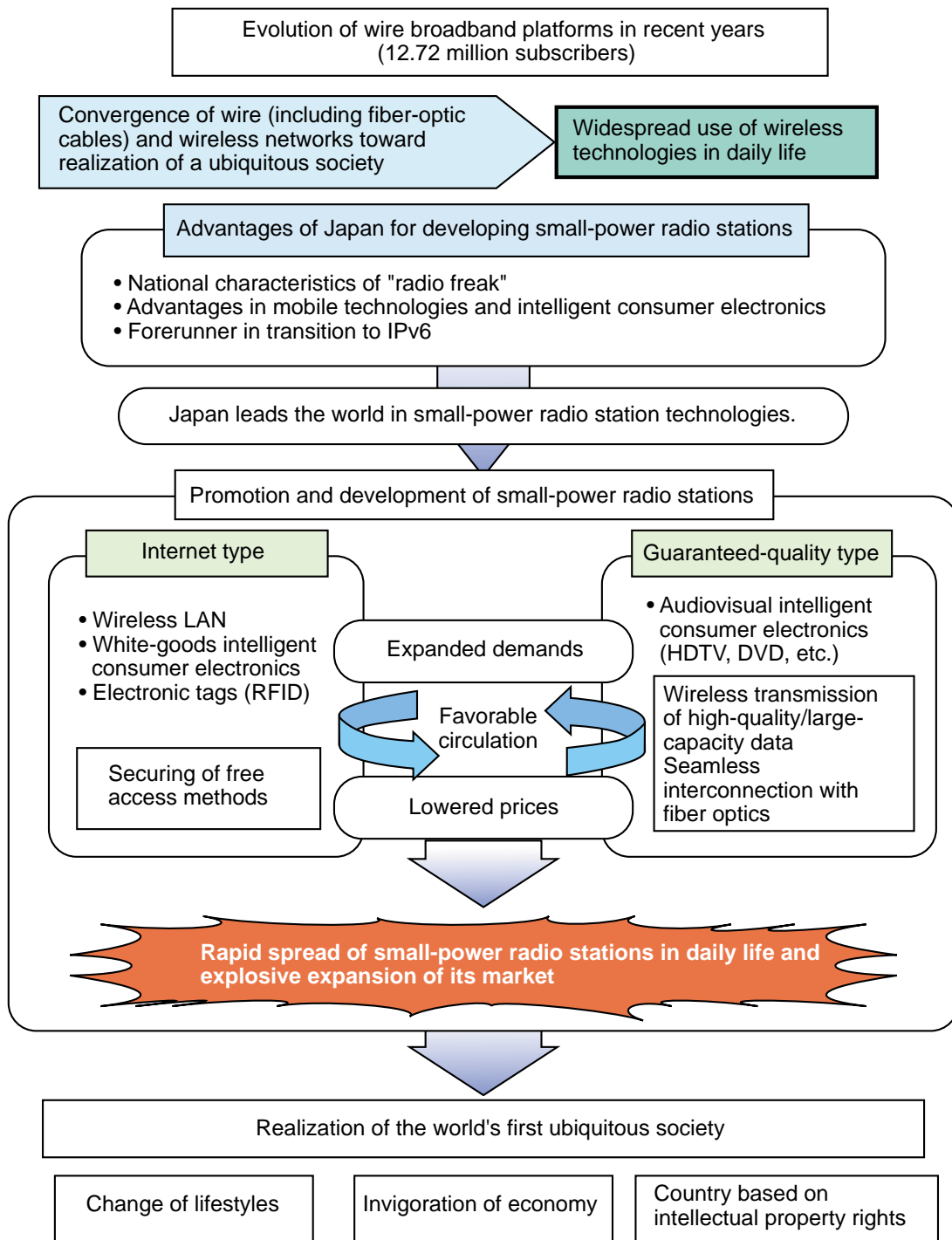
Since February 2003, MPHPT has been holding a sub-group on promotion of radio stations requiring no license, under the

"Study Group on Policies for Effective Radio Spectrum Use" (Chair: Mr. TAGAYA Kazuteru, Vice-President of

Chiba University), with the aim of presenting solutions to share cost burdens in case of radio spectrum reallocation for

small-power radio stations.

The Study Group compiled its findings as the "Third Report of the Study



Group Report on Policies for Effective Radio Spectrum Use -- Trends of Development in Small-Power Radio Stations, and Issues to Be Solved toward Radio Spectrum Re-allocation," in line with the deliberations within the sub-group. In addition to the third report, MPHPT, after due procedures of inviting public comments on the report, releases those comments and replies thereto from the Study Group.

<<Challenges for small-power radio stations>>

1. New frequency bands are needed for realizing the ubiquitous society.

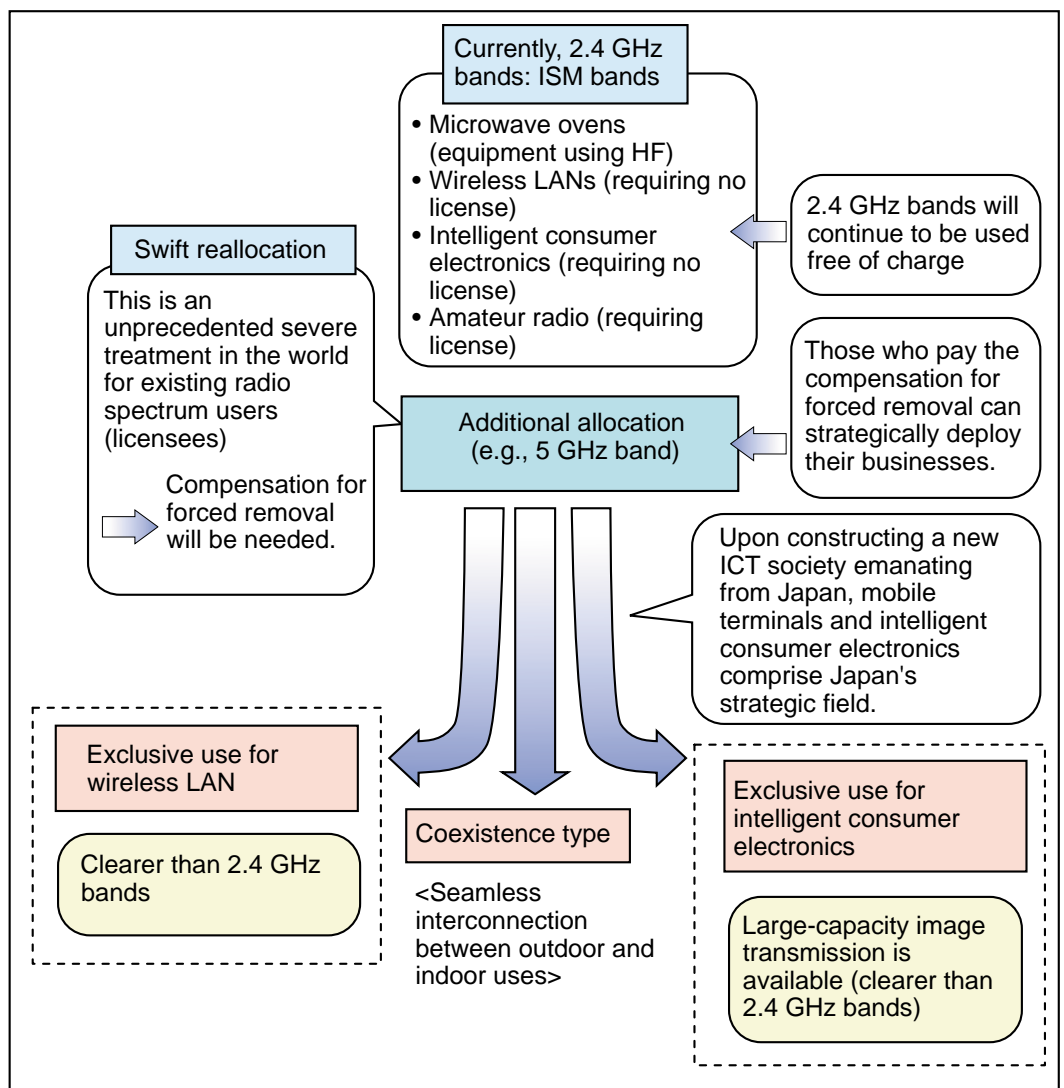
- At present, wireless LANs, intelligent consumer electronics, etc. are using mainly 2.4 GHz bands. In addition to interference with microwave ovens, etc., the 2.4 GHz band frequencies have almost run out because of widespread use of wireless LANs, etc.
- New frequency bands are to be opened for high-quality and large-capacity image transmission.

⇒ New bands (e.g., 5 GHz bands) are to be allocated.

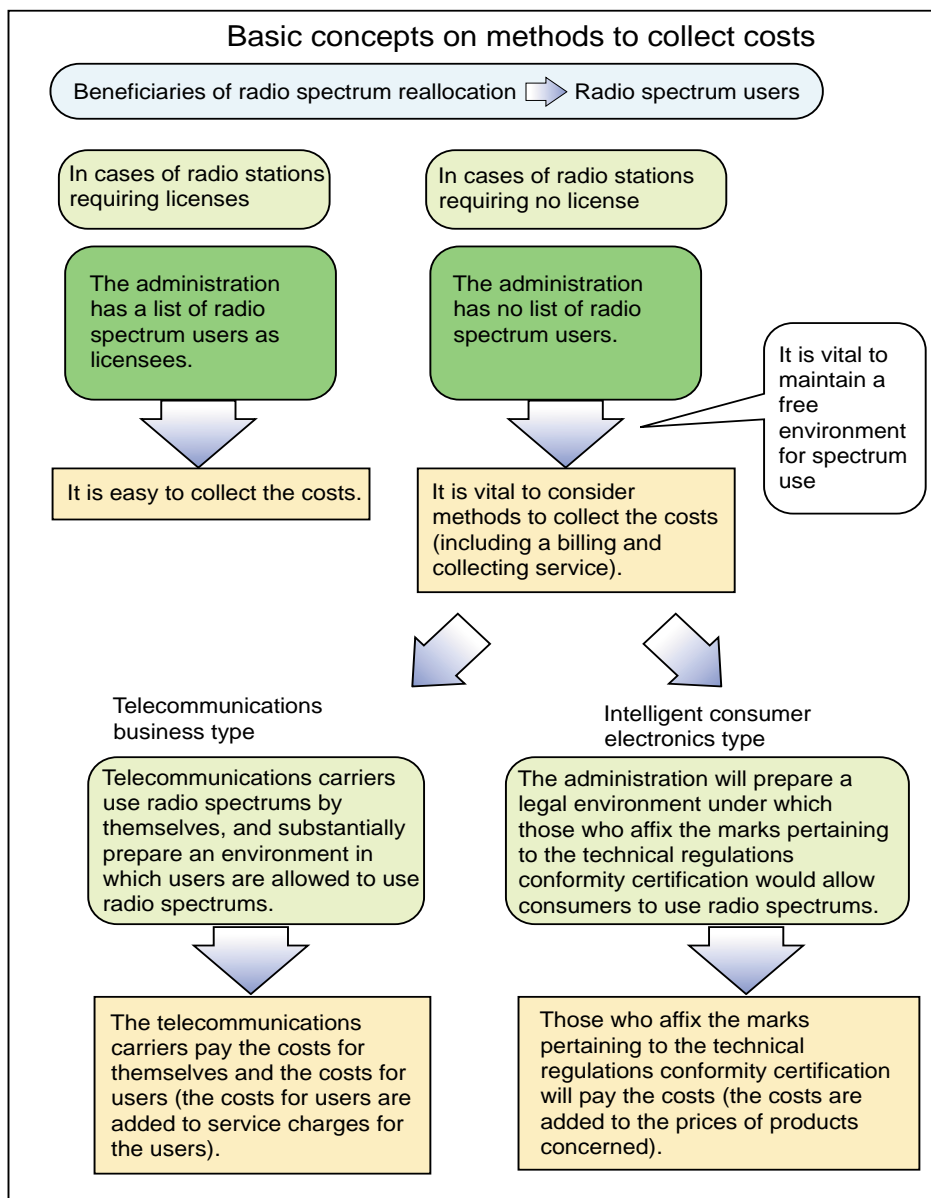
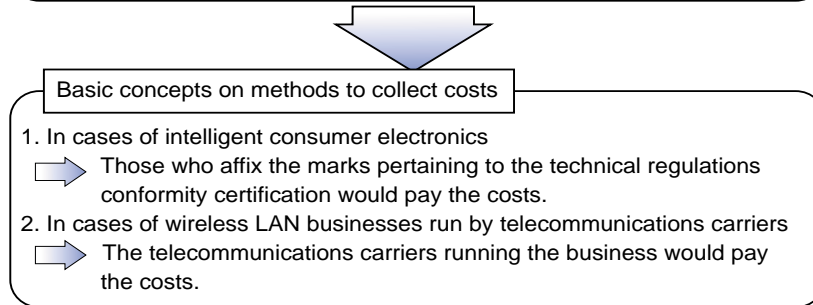
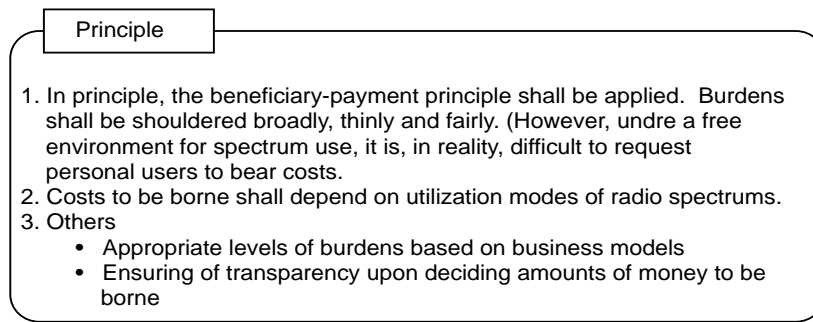
2. Methods to collect costs upon implementation of radio spectrum reallocation

- In order to implement radio spectrum reallocation, it is vital to consider cost sharing concerning radio spectrum reallocation.
- MPHPT, however, does not know who opened small-power radio stations at what locations.

⇒ The problem is how to collect costs pertaining to radio spectrum reallocation.



<<Basic concepts on cost sharing of reallocation for radio stations requiring no license>>



<<Concrete methods for radio stations requiring no license to collect the costs>>

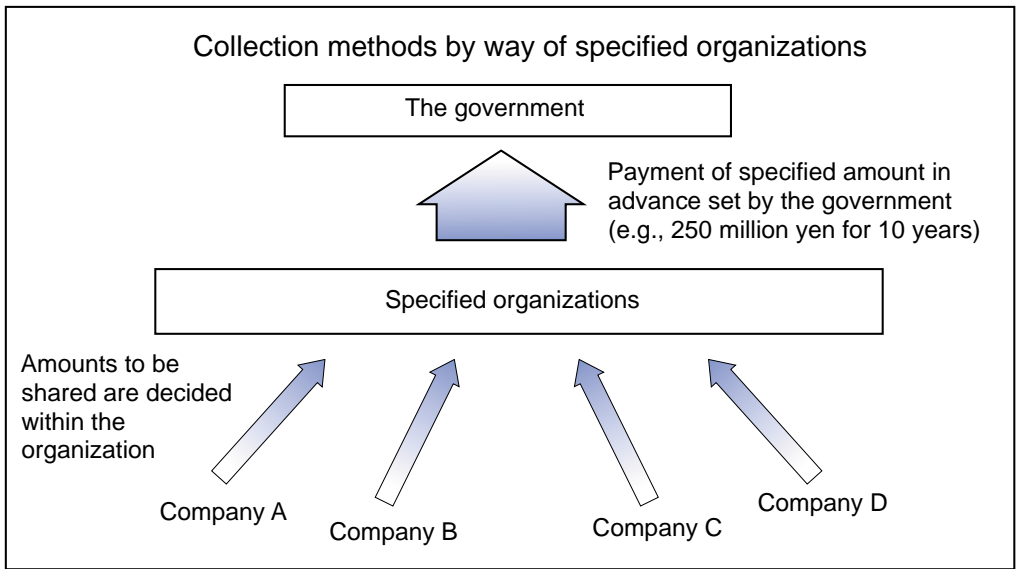
1. Intelligent consumer electronics type

Principle

Those who affix the marks pertaining to the technical regulations conformity certification will, when affixing the marks, pay the costs of reallocation according to the number of the affixed marks.

Exceptions

Where two or more parties who affix the marks pay in advance by way of a specified organization the scheduled amount of money to the government, it is appropriate to exempt the collection of the costs from the individual radio stations is exempted.



2. Telecommunications business type

Principle

Telecommunications carriers providing wireless LAN services, etc. shall submit notifications of the number of radio stations installed by them every year to the Minister for Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications. Then, said carriers shall, every year, pay calculated amounts of money according to the number of radio stations notified to the Minister. In this case, the number of terminal equipment shall be ignored for preventing occurrence of additional costs for managing the number thereof.

<<Issues to be deliberated upon from now on>>

1. Public awareness campaigns
 In principle, radio spectrum users shall shoulder the costs of radio spectrum reallocation for radio stations requiring no license. However, considering the fact that it is difficult to directly collect the costs from individual users, these collection methods directly request those who affix the marks and telecommunications

carriers to shoulder the costs.
 Thus, radio spectrum users shall be sufficiently informed of the intention of the new system.
2. Ensuring of fairness between Japanese products and foreign products
 In principle, with respect to intelligent consumer electronics, those who affix the marks shall shoulder the costs according to the number of the marks.
 On the other hand, mark affixing based

on Mutual Recognition Agreements pertaining to the technical regulations conformity certification concluded with foreign governments shall be implemented under jurisdiction of the foreign governments concerned. Accordingly, in order to ensure fairness in cost sharing, it is vital to deliberate upon effective methods to collect the costs in such cases.

Report Released from the "Study Group Report Concerning Facilitation of Procedures for System of Radio Propagation Blockage Prevention"

Since May 2003, MPHPT has been holding the "Study Group Report Concerning Facilitation of Procedures for System of Radio Propagation Blockage Prevention" (Chair: Mr. TAGAYA Kazuteru, Vice-President for Education, Chiba University) with the aim of deliberating upon the facilitation of procedures for a system of radio propagation blockage prevention including a scheme for consultation between licensees of radio stations handling important radio communications and building owners. The Study Group compiled its findings as a report.

MPHPT, after the due procedures for inviting public comments on the report, releases those comments and replies thereto produced by the Study Group.

1. Measures taken to date

i) With respect to important radio communications for use in operations of telecommunications services, broadcasting services, services for the purpose of protecting lives or properties or in maintaining public peace and order, electric power supply activities for the electricity business, etc., the coordination between the ensuring of the important radio communications and construction of tall buildings, etc. is being made under the radio propagation blockage prevention system in accordance with the Radio Law. The radio propagation blockage prevention system includes procedures for designation of radio propagation blockage prevented areas, consultation for preventing hindrances to the important radio communications, and transfer, remodeling, repair or alteration of radio stations.

ii) Considering the foreseeable increase

in the number of countermeasures against radio propagation blockage to be caused by increasing tall buildings and structures, in the "Three-Year Program for Promoting Regulatory Reform (Re-revised)" (Cabinet Decision of March 28, 2003), it is stipulated that the government shall, within FY2003, reach a conclusion on the facilitation of procedures for the system of radio propagation blockage prevention.

iii) To this end, since May 2003, this Study Group, consisting of opinion leaders, relevant administrative organizations, licensees, building owners, etc., has been deliberating upon the system. This Study Group, in the course of seven meetings held in to-

tal, held deliberations in order to harmonize, through the facilitation of procedures for the system of radio propagation blockage prevention, the promotion efforts of public welfare with the advancement of urban functions. Thereupon, this Study Group compiled the report.

iv) In addition, upon compilation of the report, this Study Group invited public comments on a draft report from November 19 through December 10, 2003.

2. Schedule

MPHPT will take necessary measures for implementing the proposals offered by this report.

Outline of the radio propagation blockage prevention system

Purpose

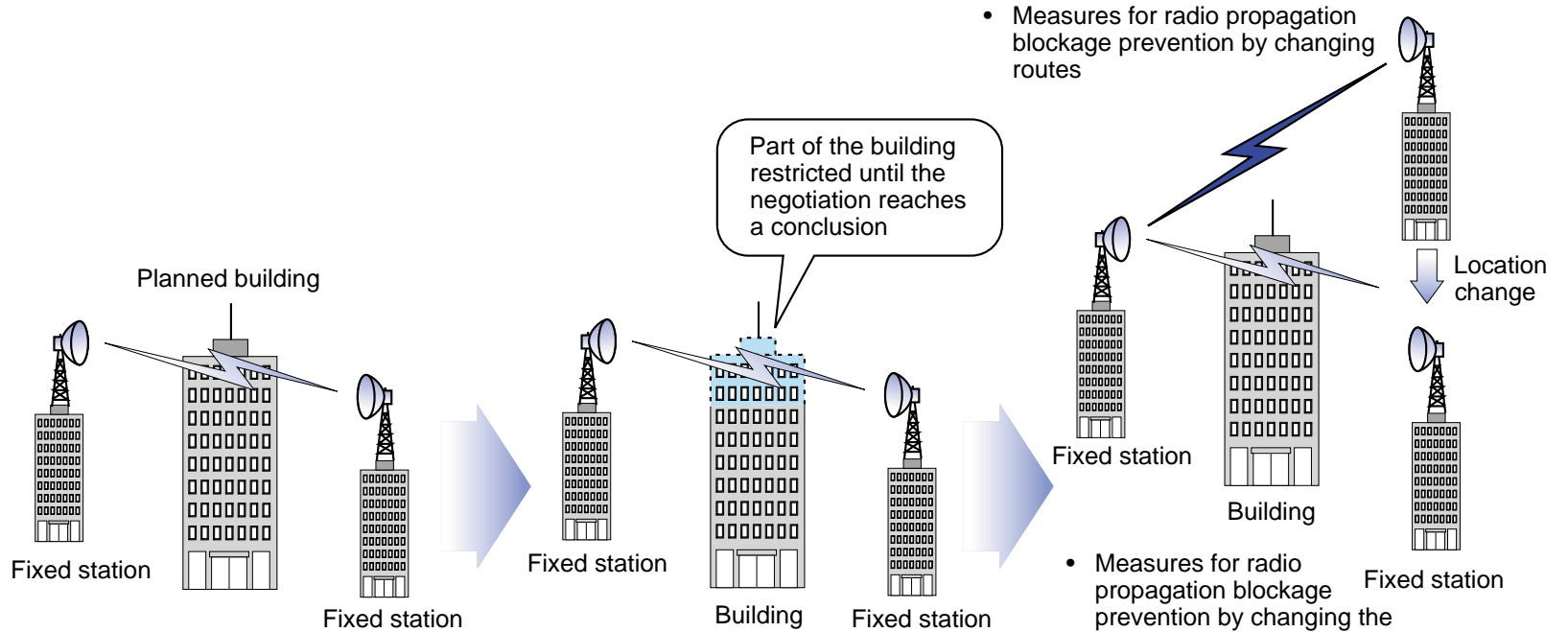
The purpose of the radio propagation blockage prevention system is to prevent sudden interruption of important radio communications by tall buildings, through harmonization between ensuring of important radio communications and exercise of property rights (land use).

Outline

Under the "radio propagation blockage prevention system" stipulated in the Radio Law, when a building owner intends to construct a building of 31 meters high or taller within a radio propagation blockage prevention area designated by the Minister for Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications to the extent necessary for important radio communications, the building owner shall submit a

prior notification of construction to MPHPT. When it is deemed that interference will occur by the upper part of the building pertaining to said notification, said construction (part of the building causing the interference) shall be restricted for a specified period. During the specified period, the building owner and the radio station licensee concerned shall negotiate for taking necessary measures.

Note: The term "important radio communications" refers to operations of telecommunications services, broadcasting services, services for the purpose of protecting lives or properties or in maintaining public peace and order, meteorological services, electric power supply activities for the power utilities and operations of trains for the railway business.

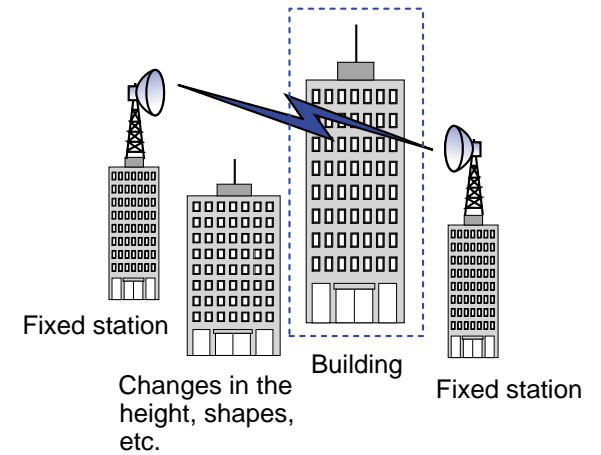


Important radio communications would be interrupted if a building is constructed on the radio propagation

The construction work of the part causing interference will be restricted for a specified period (two years; in special cases of telecommunications services, three years), so as to prevent sudden interruption of important radio

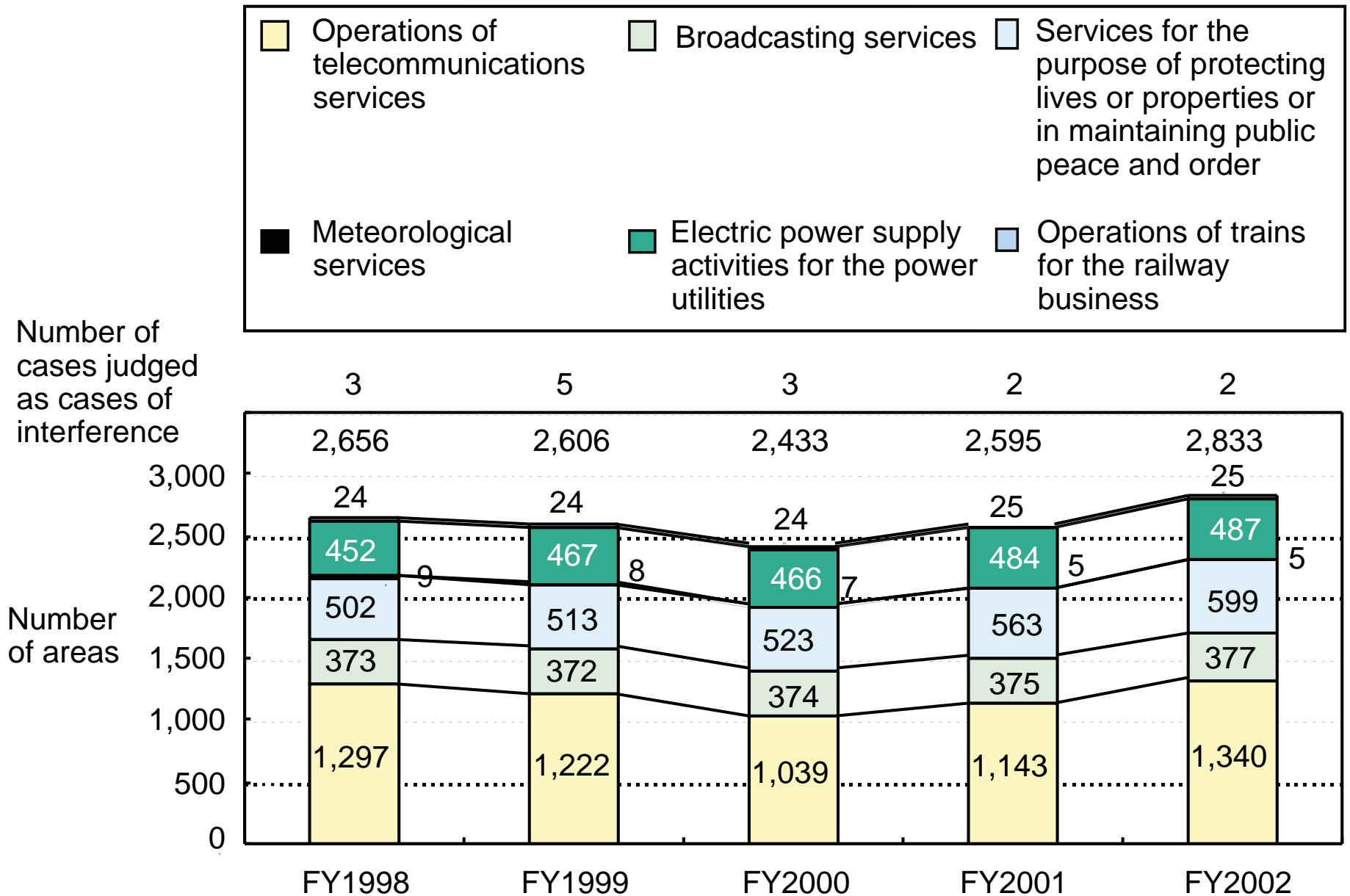
- Measures for radio propagation blockage prevention by changing routes

- Measures for radio propagation blockage prevention by changing the construction plan



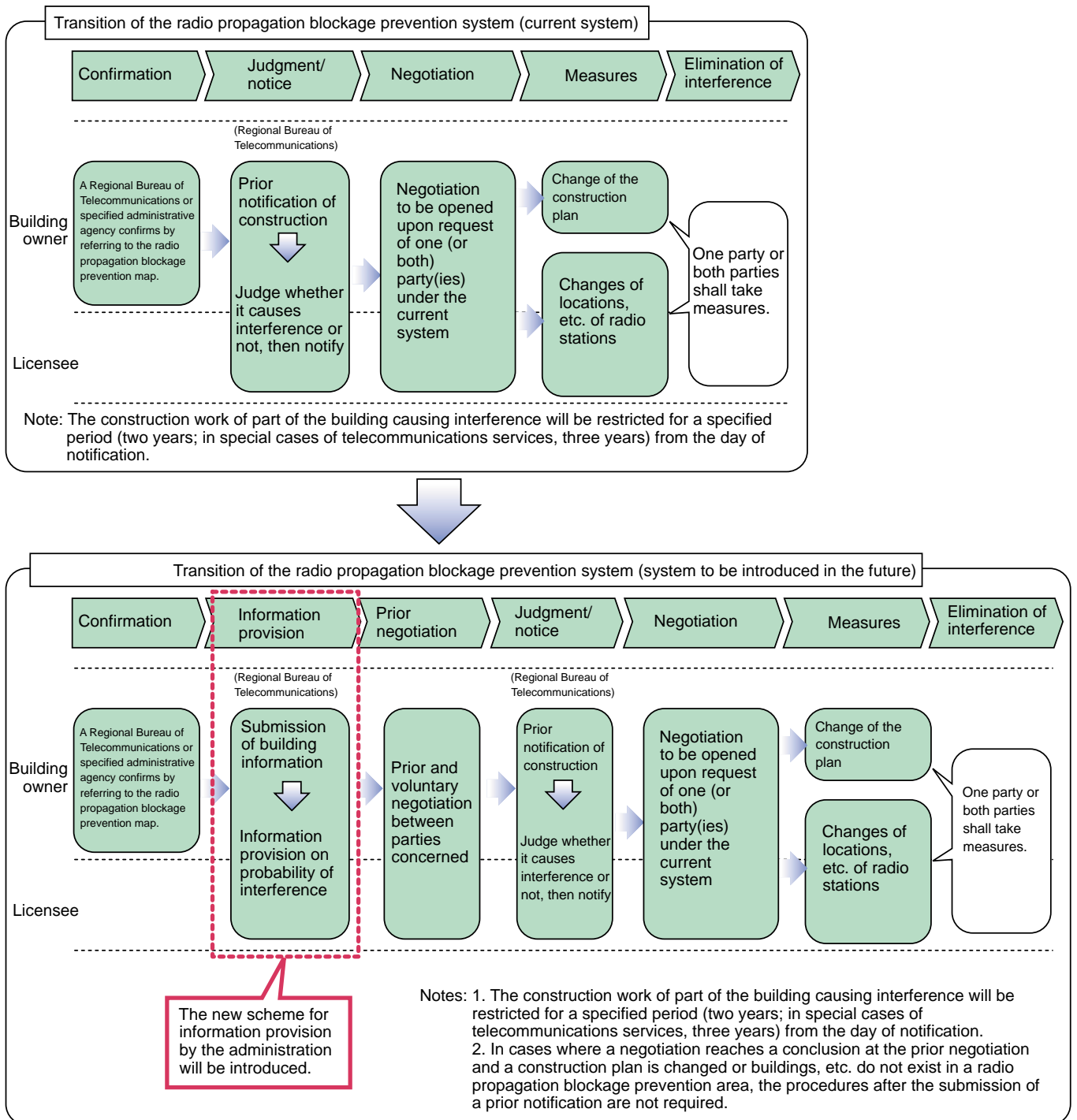
The building owner and the radio station licensee concerned shall negotiate for taking necessary measures.

Fig. 2 Number of designated radio propagation blockage prevention areas by service

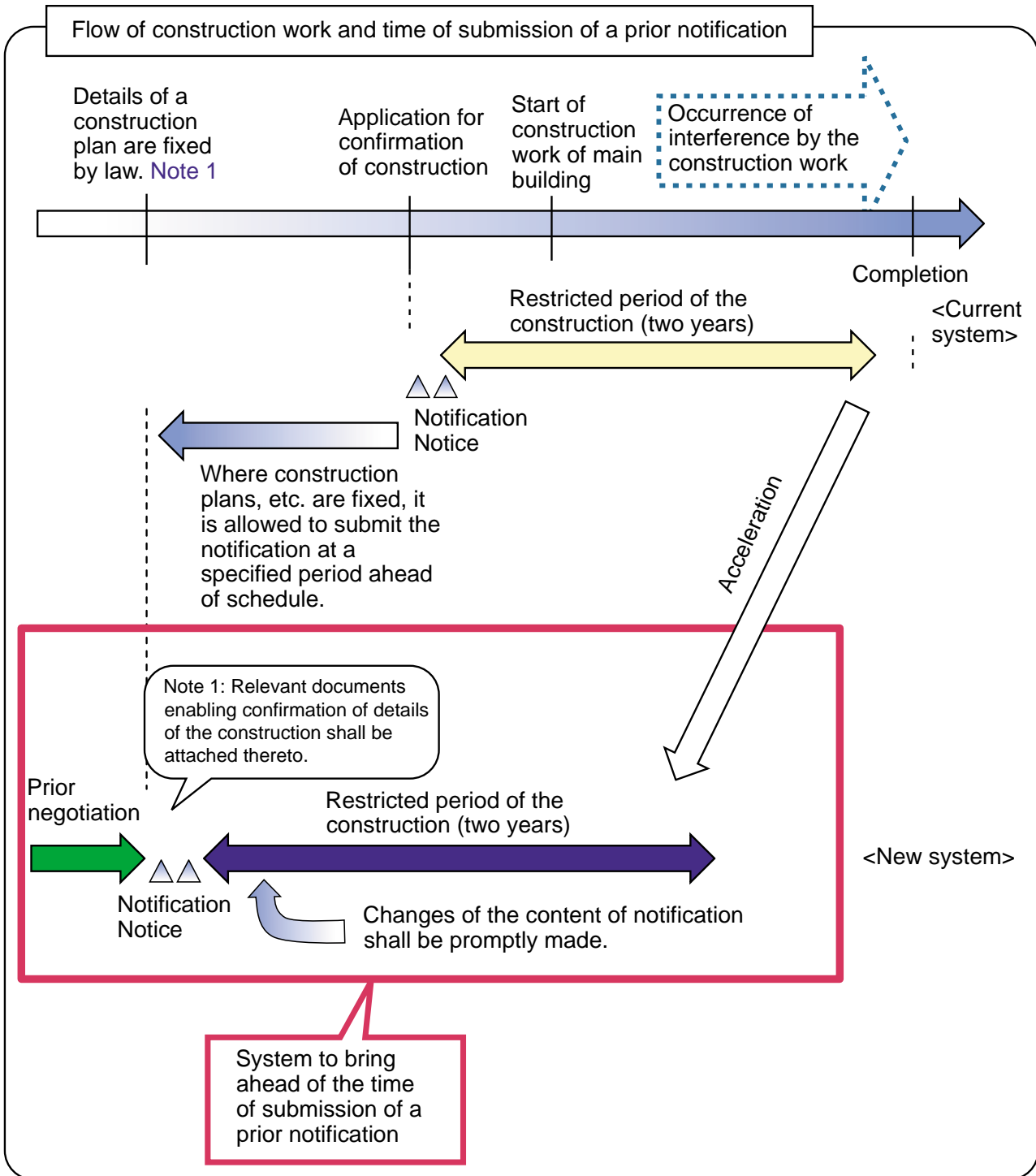


1. Ruling of information provision by the administration

Fig. 3 Major proposals of the Study Group



2. System to bring ahead of the time of submission of a prior notification of tall buildings, etc.



Number of Subscribers to DSL Services Surpasses 10 Million Mark

The number of subscribers to DSL services surpassed the 10 million mark, reaching 10.27 million, as of the end of December 2003.

The number of DSL subscribers at the end of December 2002 was 5.64 million. The rate of increase during 2003 was 82%. The increase in the number

of DSL subscribers was a result of preparation of an environment favorable for users, such as lowered charges, and supported by users' needs for broadband networks in Japan.

For the time being, DSL services will be widely subscribed as a driving force behind the spread of broadband net-

works for effective use of the Internet.

This information is, in principle, renewed monthly and posted on the website of MPHPT at:

http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_tsusin/eng/Statistics/dsl/index.html

Information about the Spread of DSL services (Prompt report current as of the end of December 2003)

	NTT West areas	NTT East areas
Lines provided by NTT East and NTT West	1,676,592 lines	2,097,531 lines
Lines provided by other carriers	2,893,401 lines	3,604,528 lines
Subtotal	4,569,993 lines	5,702,059 lines
Total	10,272,052 lines	

All lines in the above chart are provided via NTT East and NTT West terminal circuits.

Personnel Changes (limited to telecommunications-related assignments)

The following personnel changes were announced on January 6, 2004:

- Mr. TAKAHARA Kozo, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination (former Director-General of the Information and Communications Policy Bureau)
- Mr. TAKECHI Kenji, Director-General of the Information and Commu-

nications Policy Bureau (former Deputy Director-General of the Minister's Secretariat (in charge of the Information and Communications Policy Bureau), and concurrently Director-General, Secretariat of the Telecommunications Business Dispute Settlement Commission)

- Mr. SUZUKI Yasuo, Director-General for Policy Planning (in charge of information and communications) (former Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department, Telecommunications Bureau)