

MPHPT

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## COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

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

# "APT Regional Forum for ICT Experts in South-East Asia" Held

## -- Meeting the Challenges on Digital Gaps Approaching e-Government) --

The Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and the Indonesian government (State Ministry for Communications and Information, Directorate General Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications) held the "APT Regional Forum for ICT Experts in South-East Asia" with the financial support from Japan (Extra Budgetary Contribution from Japan to APT) in Jakarta on February 4 and 5, 2004.

This Seminar was convened to i) review the current status of ICT development in the South-East Asian region and socioeconomic impacts thereon, ii) exchange opinions on development of various applications such as e-governments, etc. development of information infrastructure, etc. in rural areas in the region, and iii) discuss on ICT development in the future and measures for dissolving the digital divide. At this Seminar, some 80 participants, including government officials from Japan and ASEAN members and researchers, gave speeches and exchanged opinions.

At the opening, Minister Mu'arif of State Ministry for Communications and Information, and Mr. OKU, Director of International Cooperation Division, MPHPT, gave keynote speeches. Other participants from Japan included Prof. SAGA (fellow Researcher) and Mr. IGARASHI, the Communications Research Laboratory; representatives of NTT Data and Hitachi Singapore.

### [Outline of sessions]

#### Sessions 1 -- 3:

Government officials\* and opinion leaders from the private sector explained ICT policies and measures concerning concrete applications such as e-governments, etc. and exchanged opinions. \*(Brunei Darussalam, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia)

#### Sessions 4: Special lectures

Efforts of CRL in Asia, efforts of NTT and Hitachi to address e-governments were introduced. Indonesian PT Telekom and the National Information Industry Laboratory introduced initiatives for widespread use of ICT.

#### Session 5: Summary

Based upon all discussions, Prof. SAGA of CRL summarized efforts to dissolve the digital divide, and promote ICT policies for rural areas, etc.

### [Results of the seminar]

Participants reached common recognition that toward widespread deployment

of ICT infrastructures and widespread use of applications in the Asian region, relevant countries/economies and organizations should strengthen "partnership" and it is vital to prepare a "sustainable" development environment.

## CONTENTS

- "APT Regional Forum for ICT Experts in South-East Asia" Held ----- 1
- Policy Dialogues with ASEAN Countries in the ICT field ----- 1
- "Symposium on Evaluation of the State of Competition in Telecommunications Field" to Be Held ----- 2
- "Study Group on Networking of Digital Information Consumer Electronics" Held --- 4
- 2005 Japan Multimedia Festival to Be Held in Kagawa Prefecture ----- 4
- Notice "Asia Broadband Symposium" to Be 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 via:  
[http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho\\_tsusin/eng/contact.html](http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_tsusin/eng/contact.html)  
Fax: +81-3-5253-5924  
Tel.: +81-3-5253-5920

- MPHPT information is available at:  
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## Policy Dialogues with ASEAN Countries in the ICT field

-- Policy Dialogues with Indonesia and Thailand in the ICT field --

MPHPT launched Policy Dialogues on cooperation in the ICT field with ASEAN Countries for realizing the

"Asia Broadband Program." As the first step, MPHPT held Policy Dialogues with ICT ministries of Indonesia and

Thailand in February 2004.

The parties reached the following agreements for realizing cooperation projects:

**[Policy Dialogue with Indonesia]**

**1. Policy Dialogue with State Ministry for Communication and Information (KOMINFO) (February 6, 2004)**

The MPHPT delegation visited KOMINFO and exchanged opinions on ICT policies, terrestrial digital broadcasting and the future cooperation in the ICT field.

The two parties agreed upon that i) Japan will accept ICT trainees from Indonesia, ii) Japan will cooperate in the area of e-learning, etc., iii) Japan will support joint research for bridging the digital divide, and iv) holding international seminars, etc. continuously. Both sides exchanged opinions on main fac-

tors of successful deployment of broadband in Japan.

**2. Policy Dialogue with Directorate General of Posts and Telecommunications (DGPT) (February 6, 2004)**

The MPHPT delegation visited DGPT and exchanged opinions on telecommunications liberalization policies, the future cooperation in the ICT field.

The two parties exchanged opinions on i) introduction of competition into the telecommunications field, ii) universal services, iii) main factors of successful deployment of broadband, and iv) development of rural communications networks with wireless local loops (WLL).

**[Policy Dialogue with Thailand]**

**3. Policy Dialogue with Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MICT)**

The MPHPT delegation visited MICT

and exchanged opinions on ICT policies, telecommunications liberalization policies and the future cooperation in the ICT field.

The two parties agreed upon that i) Enhancement of testbeds (networks) between Japan and Thailand, ii) further consideration on cooperation between Japan and Thailand on the ICT development in the Great Mekong Subregion.

Both sides held a Q&A session on the implementation status, etc. of the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to be established (seven commissioners will be appointed within four months; foreign investment limit will be relaxed from the current 25% to 49%).

**[Others]**

MPHPT will hold Policy Dialogues with Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines in March 2004.

# "Symposium on Evaluation of the State of Competition in Telecommunications Field" to Be Held

With the Telecommunications Carriers Association and the Telecommunications Services Association, MPHPT will jointly hold a "Symposium on Evaluation of the State of Competition in Telecommunications Field" on March 1, 2004.

**1. Purposes, etc.**

At the "Kyoto Conference on Competitive Evaluation in Telecommunications Field: Discussions on Quantitative Analysis Model for Defining Markets," discussions were made on market definitions focusing on quantitative analysis models from the academic viewpoint. With respect to Internet connectivity services via broadband circuits, some views were presented that services of FTTH, ADSL and cable Internet could be regarded as different and independent markets. Based upon discussions at the Kyoto Conference,

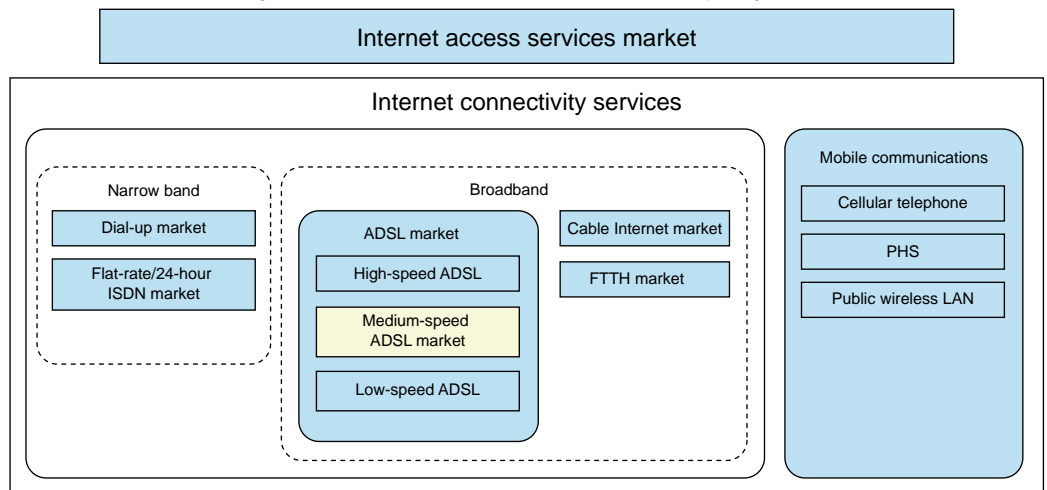
MPHPT plans to define the end-user market for Internet connectivity segment (see Figure).

The "market" to be defined in the process of market definition will become a basic unit for evaluation of competition and will have a significant influence on results of evaluation of competition. Thus, it is appropriate to provide tele-

communications carriers with opportunities to express their opinions on the market definition.

To this end, MPHPT has decided to hold a symposium under a theme of basic structures of evaluation of competition including the market definition for explaining the current status of MPHPT analysis on evaluation of competition, in

Fig. End-user market for Internet connectivity segment



Notes: 1. Services for corporate users such as leased circuit services are not included in this Figure.  
 2. The medium-speed ADSL market is part of the ADSL market.  
 3. The segment of mobile communications is not mainly targeted for evaluation during FY2003.

addition to inviting telecommunications carriers to express their opinions on the market definition. Telecommunications carriers who intend to express their opinions may apply for participation into the symposium.

**2. Date and venue: 10:30 - 15:30, March 1, 2004; Main Hall, MPHPT Headquarters, 1-2, Kasumigaseki 2-Chome, Chiyoda-City, Tokyo**  
(<http://www.soumu.go.jp/soumu/map-1.html>)

**3. Host, etc.**

Host: MPHPT

Sponsors: Telecommunications Carri-

ers Association, the Telecommunications Services Association

#### 4. Agenda

<Morning: 10:30 - 12:30>

(1) Opening address: Mr. ARITOMI Kan'ichiro, Director-General of Telecommunications Bureau, MPHPT

(2) Explanation from MPHPT

Theme: Current status of analysis on evaluation of competition (tentative theme)

Speaker: Mr. OHASHI Hideyuki, Director of the Office of Fair Competition, Telecommunications Bureau, MPHPT

<Afternoon: 13:30 - 15:30>

(3) Presentation and discussion (plan)

Theme: Market definition

participants: Telecommunications carriers

(4) Closing address

Mr. EZAKI Masakuni, Director General of Telecommunications Business Department, Telecommunications Bureau, MPHPT

#### 5. Participants

Telecommunications carriers, those who want to participate

## Schedule for evaluation of competition

### [2003]

**October 7:** Publication of the Basic Guideline (draft) and the Details for Implementation (draft)

"Basic Guideline Concerning Evaluation of Competitive Situation in the Telecommunications Field (draft)" and "FY2003 Details for Implementation Concerning Evaluation of Competitive Situation in the Telecommunications Field (draft)"

**October 22:** Holding of an international conference

By inviting stakeholders including government officials from the U.K. and the E.U., an international conference was held for deliberating upon the entire process of implementing competitive evaluation between governments as well as among telecommunications carriers.

**November 18:** Finalization of the Basic Guideline and the Details for Implementation

Based upon public comments accepted and opinions expressed at the international conference, MPHPT finalized the "Basic Guideline Concerning Evaluation of Competitive Situation in the Telecommunications Field" and the "FY2003 Details for Implementation Concerning Evaluation of Competitive Situation in the Telecommunications Field."

### [2004]

**January 28:** Holding of the Kyoto Conference

At the Kyoto Conference held by MPHPT jointly with the Graduate School of Economics of Kyoto University, discussions mainly from the academic viewpoint were made focusing on quantitative analysis models concerning market definitions upon evaluation of competition.

**March 1:** Holding of Symposium I

Taking into consideration the discussions on basic structures of evaluation of competition at the international conference and the discussions on the market definition at the Kyoto Conference, MPHPT will explain the current status of evaluation of competition <sup>(1)</sup>. Telecommunications carriers will express their opinions on the market definition <sup>(2)</sup>.

**Note (1):** Based on the Basic Guideline and the Details for Implementation, MPHPT will, with respect to MPHPT's analysis work on evaluation of competition, explain the current status of i) information gathering from the supply side (telecommunications carriers) and the demand side (users); and ii) the market definition utilizing quantitative analysis models.

**Note (2):** Telecommunications carriers will express their opinions on the market definition (plan).

**End of March:** Holding of Symposium II

With regard to future directions of analysis/evaluation on competitive situations in each market, to be defined in line with the discussions at the Symposium I, stakeholders and opinion leaders will deliberate at the Symposium II. Like the Symposium I, telecommunications carriers will be given an opportunity to express their opinions.

**April:** Release of the draft of results on the FY2003 Evaluation (plan)

MPHPT will release the results of the FY2003 Evaluation of Competition (draft) and invite public comments.

**May:** Final Conference (plan)

At this Final Conference, the evaluation of competition in FY2003 will be deliberated upon as a whole, based upon the FY2003 Evaluation of Competition (draft).

**June:** Compilation of the results of FY2003 Evaluation of Competition (plan)

MPHPT will compile and release the results of "FY2003 Evaluation of Competition."

# "Study Group on Networking of Digital Information Consumer Electronics" Held

With regard to interconnectivity and interoperability, etc. between information consumer electronics (CE) indispensable for realizing a ubiquitous network society, MPHPT held the first meeting of the "Study Group on Networking of Digital Information Consumer Electronics" for deliberating upon i) desirable networking of CEs and ii) promotion measures therefor. The first

meeting was held on February 13, 2004, with the participation of opinion leaders, experts from CE manufacturers, telecommunications carriers, software houses, user groups, broadcasters, standardization organizations, etc.

The themes to be deliberated upon at this Study Group are as follows:

- For digital information CEs; Trends in promotion and needs for digital

information CEs

- Trends in R&D/standardization on networking of digital information CEs
- Challenges for realizing networking of digital information CEs
- Desirable networking of digital information CEs and promotion measures therefor

This Study Group will compile its findings as a report by around July 2004.

## 2005 Japan Multimedia Festival to Be Held in Kagawa Prefecture

MPHPT has decided that Kagawa Prefecture will be the prefecture to host the 2005 (18th) Japan Multimedia Festival in October 2005. The Japan Multimedia Festival has been held since FY1988 by MPHPT and local governments for promoting ICT deployment in local communities on a nationwide basis. Kagawa Prefectural Government will clearly convey its own multimedia strat-

egy including new ICT applications toward the rest of Japan through the hosting of the Multimedia Festival.

Note: Japan Multimedia Festival: Around Japan, many local communities have been introducing ICT utilizing various information and communications media. The purposes of promoting local ICT are to i) narrow the digital divide between local communities, and ii)

construct affluent local communities. In this context, the important task is to extend leading fruits attained in some advanced areas to other areas, through tailoring such results suitable for each local community, thus resulting in an interlinked ICT networks on a nationwide basis.

### Notice

#### "Asia Broadband Symposium" to Be Held

MPHPT will hold the "Asia Broadband Symposium" on March 12, 2004 (free of charge).

- Time and date: 12:30 - 17:00, March 12, 2004
- Venue: Chiyoda Hoso Kaikan, 1-1, Kioi-Cho, Chiyoda-City, Tokyo, 102-0094
- Theme: Please refer to <http://www.asia-bb.net/>
- Agenda: Lectures by opinion leaders; Panel discussions by government officials from Asian countries; Presentations/demonstrations on various initiatives under the "Asia Broadband Program"\*

Note: The "Asia Broadband Program" is one of important pillars for implementing the "e-Japan Strategy II," an IT policy being promoted by the Japanese Government. The Program aims at transforming the entire Asia to the world's information hub, through Japan's active contribution to the construction of a broadband environment in Asia. (Please refer to a press release of March 28, 2003.)

#### ["Asia Broadband Program" Site Now Available]

A website on the "Asia Broadband Program" has opened on February 26, 2004 (<http://www.asia-bb.net/>). This site provides you with the outline of the Program, concrete measures, future perspectives, etc. Please visit this site and imagine the prosperous future of Asia.