

MIC COMMUNICATIONS NEWS

International Affairs Department, Telecommunications Bureau ISSN 1349-7987

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WSIS Tunis Phase Concluded Successfully

— “Tunis Commitment” and “Tunis Agenda for the Information Society” Adopted

The second phase (Tunis Phase) of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was held from November 16 through 18, 2005, in Tunis, Tunisia, with the adoption of the “Tunis Commitment” and the “Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.”



Dr. TAKENAKA Heizo, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, made a statement.



An exhibition (The Japan Pavilion) was presented by 13 Japanese corporations and others.

Background, etc.

At the first phase (Geneva Phase) of WSIS held in 2003, in Geneva, a shared vision on information society was established and the “Geneva Declaration of Principles” and the “Plan of Action” for harmonious development towards the realization of this vision were adopted.

At the second phase (Tunis Phase) of WSIS, deliberations were made upon i) concrete measures and mechanisms for implementation of the “Geneva Declaration of Principles” and the “Plan of Action,” and ii) issues not yet decided at the Geneva Phase, including the Internet Governance. At the closing plenary, the “Tunis Commitment” and the “Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,” were adopted.

Outline

From Japan, Dr. TAKENAKA Heizo, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, attended and delivered a statement at the Plenary of the Summit. MIC held a workshop under the theme of “Toward the realization of a ubiquitous network society – aiming at bridging the digital divide –.” At the “Japan Pavilion,” Japanese ICT-related companies, etc. exhibited the latest ICT technologies and applications.

In the “Tunis Commitment” and the “Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,” the importance of efforts to realize a ubiquitous network society was included based upon Japan’s proposals.

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Outline of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

Schedule

Held from 16 to 18 November, 2005 at Kram PalExpo in Tunis (Tunisia)

Participants

About 20,000 people participated from 174 countries, representing governments, international organizations, private sector, and civil society. 46 of the countries had their heads of state present.

Outline of the summit's final documents

The Tunis Commitment

A document which recorded the declaration of principles and philosophy toward the realization of an information society. The following sentence; "We reaffirm our desire to build ICT networks and develop applications, in partnership with the private sector, based on open or interoperable standards that are affordable and accessible to all, available anywhere and anytime, to anyone and on any device, leading to a ubiquitous network." which was originally proposed by Japan, was included in the text.

The Tunis Agenda

Eleven principles that are key to the information society, such as improving information infrastructure and developing human resources, were listed in the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted in Geneva. The Tunis Agenda recorded measures for their concrete implementation, as well as the issues that were left over from the previous summit such as financial support mechanisms and Internet governance. The document is made up of the following 4 chapters.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of ICT for development

The point of greatest interest was the handling of the Digital Solidarity Fund which had been proposed by Senegal and other countries at the previous summit, and agreement was reached as follows: "We welcome the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) established in Geneva as an innovative financial mechanism of voluntary nature open to interested stakeholders with the objective of transforming the digital divide into digital opportunities for developing world..... The DSF will complement existing mechanisms for funding the Information Society...."

Chapter 3: Internet governance

With current Internet governance functioning efficiently, it was pointed out that there was a need to deal on an international level with various new issues such as spam and cybersecurity. With regard to Internet governance issues, a request was made to the UN Secretary-General to convene a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue-called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and the decision was taken to host the first meeting in Athens (Greece) no later than the second quarter of 2006.

Chapter 4: Implementation and follow-up

- i) The phrase "building ICT networks and developing services that are available anywhere and anytime, to anyone and on any device" was included in the text.
- ii) The necessity, proposed by Japan, of building an information dissemination system for the population, through an early warning system, was also included in the text.
- iii) With regard to concrete methods for implementation of the Geneva Plan of Action, the decision was taken to have international organizations such as ITU, UNESCO and UNDP to act as moderators, on each Action Line as decided by the Annex of the document.

Concerning the MIC Minister's statement

Statements were made by the various countries' heads of state or ministers. From Japan, Dr. TAKE-NAKA Heizo, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, attended and made a statement addressing Japan's approach to bridging the digital divide, and the importance of the realization of a ubiquitous network society as a framework for the coming information society.

Concerning related events

Along with the Plenary of the Summit, a number of parallel events were organized by various groups including governments and civil society. Japan implemented a workshop that considered the realization of a ubiquitous network society from the point of view of bridging the digital divide, as well as an exhibition (The Japan Pavilion) presented by 13 Japanese corporations and others under the theme of "Toward the realization of the ubiquitous network society." More than 10,000 people were expected to have visited this exhibition.

Other

There were 160 participants from Japan, coming from government, corporations and civil society, at the Tunis Phase.

Communications Industry Forecasts of Business Conditions —Telecommunications Business Shows Continuous Growth; Commercial Broadcasters Still Sluggish

MIC compiled the results (prompt report) of the survey on “overall results of Japan’s communications industry (telecommunications and broadcasting),” conducted in October 2005, for the third and fourth quarters (Q-III and Q-IV) of FY2005. Fixed figures will be posted at the end of December 2005 at the URL: <http://www.jhotsusintokey.soumu.go.jp/>

- With respect to the sales forecast
With respect to the sales forecast diffusion indices (DIs), the telecommunications business industry has been showing a continuous growth. Those for the commercial broadcasting business industry still remain in a declining tendency. Those for the cable TV system industry show a continuous and sizable upward tendency.
- With respect to the business conditions diffusion indices (DIs), the telecommunications business industry and the cable TV system industry have been showing continuous upward tendencies. Those for the commercial broadcasting business industry continue to show the declining tendency.

Notes:

1. Sales forecast diffusion indices (DIs): the “percentage points of companies saying that the sales amounts are increasing compared to the previous quarter” minus the “percentage points of companies saying that the sales amounts are decreasing compared to the previous quarter”
2. Business conditions diffusion indices (DIs): the “percentage points of companies saying that the business conditions are improving compared to the previous quarter” minus the “percentage points of companies saying that the business conditions are worsening compared to the previous quarter”

Survey Outline

Survey on the overall result of Japan’s Communication industry

To grasp the business trend of communications industry (telecommunications and broadcasting), the survey indicated below has been car-

ried out on sales, etc. since April 1995.

Business surveyed

The number of surveyed businesses for each type of business (telecommunications carriers and broadcasters) is calculated proportionally with the type’s share in revenues for FY2004. To be statistically significant, the sampling number, as calculated from the number of parent populations of communications industry, is set at 133. The businesses surveyed are sampled in descending order from the one with the largest sales down to the 133rd one.

Survey method

Conducted by questionnaires (mailing survey card, entered by businesses via fax or the Internet)

Survey items

Business forecast (conducted only in July, October, January and April and reported in the following month, respectively), etc. and sales (every month)

Companies Surveyed

Type of business	The number of companies	The number of respondents	Response (%)
Communications	133	98	73.7
Telecommunications	63	46	73.0
Broadcasting	70	52	74.3
Private-sector broadcasting	50	38	76.0
Cablecasting	20	14	70.0

Sales forecasts

The sales forecast diffusion indices (DIs) in the third and fourth quarters (Q-III and Q-IV) of FY2005 indicate as follows:

- The telecommunications business industry (telecommunications carriers) continues to indicate the “upward” tendencies of “+15.8” for Q-III and “+26.3” for Q-IV of FY2005, respectively.

- Private broadcasting businesses (commercial broadcasters) maintain consecutive “minus” of “-2.9” for Q-III and “-2.9” for Q-IV of FY2005, showing broadly flat.
- Cablecasting businesses (cable TV operators) continue to remain in the huge “plus” areas of “+41.7” for Q-III and “+33.3” for Q-IV of FY2005, respectively.

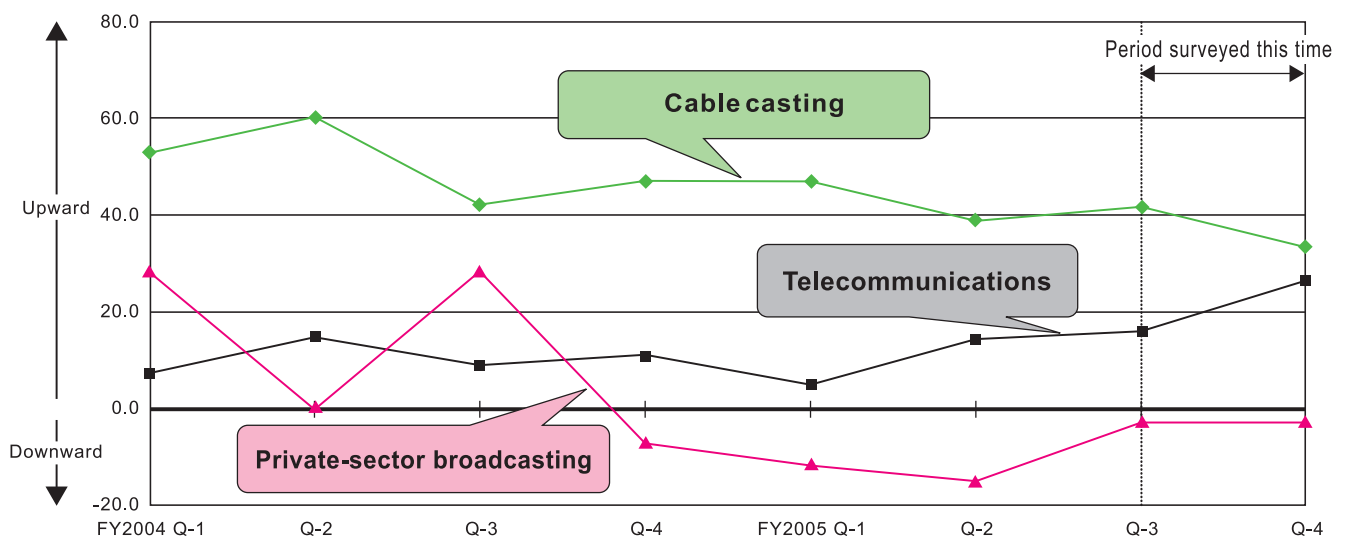
Table 1 Sales forecast diffusion indices (Unit: point)

Type of business	FY2004				FY2005			
	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3	Q-4	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3	Q-4
Telecommunications	7.1	14.9	8.9	10.9	4.9	14.3	15.8	26.3
Broadcasting	35.0	18.2	32.3	8.3	5.0	0.0	8.7	6.5
Private-sector broadcasting	27.9	0.0	27.9	-7.0	-11.6	-14.9	-2.9	-2.9
Cablecasting	52.9	60.0	42.1	47.1	47.1	38.9	41.7	33.3
(Reference)								
All industries	2.6	20.4	9.4	6.1	-0.2	19.5	14.9	15.5

Notes:

1. DI: the "percentage points of companies saying that the sales amounts are increasing compared to the previous quarter" minus the "percentage points of companies saying that the sales amounts are decreasing compared to the previous quarter"
2. Basically, indices are estimated at the end of the previous quarter for each. However, indices for Q-III and Q-IV in FY2005 are estimated at the end of Q-II in FY2005.
3. Figures for "all industries" are those for sales forecasts of large-scale corporations excerpted from the "Business Outlook Survey (July through September 2005)," the Economic and Social Research Institute, Cabinet Office and the Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance.

Fig. 1 Trends in sales forecast diffusion index



Financial positions

The Financial Position Diffusion Indices (DI: The "percentage of companies saying that the financial position are affordable compared with the previous quarter" minus the "percentage of companies saying that the financial position are tight compared with the previous quarter.") for FY2005 Q-III and Q-IV

- show as follows:
- Telecommunications businesses (telecommunications carriers) and private broadcasting businesses (commercial broadcasters) continue to retain their "affordable" tendencies.
 - Cablecasting businesses (cable TV operators) have turned from the "tight" tendency to the "affordable" tendencies of "+8.3" and "+8.3" for

FY2005 Q-III and Q-IV, respectively.

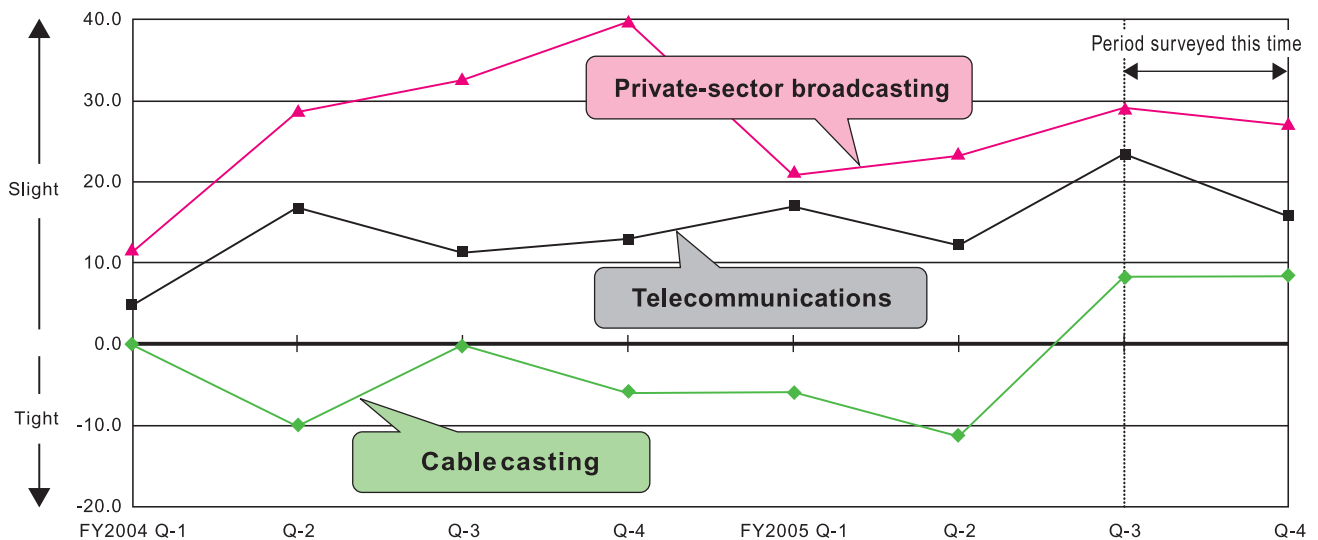
Table 2 Financial Position Diffusion Indices (Unit: percentage point)

Type of business	FY2004				FY2005			
	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3	Q-4	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3	Q-4
Telecommunications	4.8	17.0	11.1	13.0	17.1	12.2	23.7	15.8
Broadcasting	8.3	16.9	22.6	26.7	13.3	13.8	23.9	22.2
Private-sector broadcasting	11.6	28.9	32.6	39.5	20.9	23.4	29.4	27.3
Cablecasting	0.0	-10.0	0.0	-5.9	-5.9	-11.1	8.3	8.3
(Reference)								
All industries	6.6	3.8	2.9	3.8	4.5	4.4	3.1	3.9

Notes:

1. Basically, indices are estimated at the end of the previous quarter for each. However, indices for Q-III and Q-IV in FY2005 are estimated at the end of Q-II in FY2005.
2. Figures for "all industries" are those for sales forecasts of large-scale corporations excerpted from the "Business Outlook Survey (July through September 2005)," the Economic and Social Research Institute, Cabinet Office and the Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance.

Fig. 2 Trends in Financial Position Diffusion Indices



Forecasts on business conditions

The Business Survey Indices (BSI: the "percentage points of companies saying that the business conditions are improving compared to the previous quarter" minus the "percentage points of companies saying that the business conditions are worsening compared to the previous quarter.") for Q-III and Q-IV in FY2005 are shown as follows:

- With respect to telecommunications businesses, the continuous "upward" tendencies are seen, showing "+10.8" and "+16.7" for Q-III and Q-IV of FY2005, respectively.
- With respect to private broadcasters (commercial broadcasters), the indices remain in the "downward" tendencies, with "-5.9" and "-5.9" for Q-III and Q-IV in FY2005, respectively.
- Cablecasting companies (cable TV operators) are still in the constant

"upward" tendencies, with "+16.7" and "+16.7" for Q-III and Q-IV in FY2005, respectively.

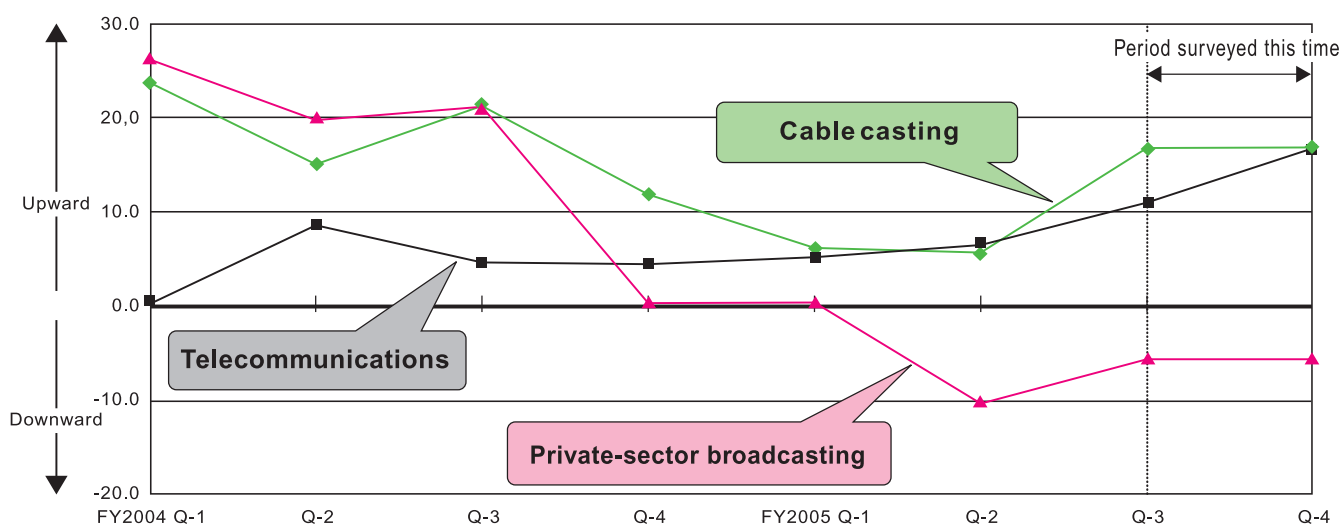
Table 3. Index for forecasts on business conditions (Unit: percentage point)

Type of business	FY2004				FY2005			
	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3	Q-4	Q-1	Q-2	Q-3	Q-4
Telecommunications	0.0	8.5	4.4	4.3	4.9	6.3	10.8	16.7
Broadcasting	25.4	18.2	21.0	3.3	1.7	-6.2	0.0	0.0
Private-sector broadcasting	26.2	19.6	20.9	0.0	0.0	-10.6	-5.9	-5.9
Cablecasting	23.5	15.0	21.1	11.8	5.9	5.6	16.7	16.7
(Reference)								
All industries	7.2	9.6	2.1	0.6	0.9	9.7	10.7	9.7

Notes:

1. Basically, indices are estimated at the end of the previous quarter for each one. However, indices for Q-III and Q-IV in FY2005 are estimated at the end of Q-II in FY2005.
2. Figures for "all industries" are those for sales forecasts of large-scale corporations excerpted from the "Business Outlook Survey (July through September 2005)," the Economic and Social Research Institute, Cabinet Office and the Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance. Institute, Cabinet Office and the Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance.

Fig. 3 Trends in indices for forecasts on business conditions



Technical Regulations, Etc. for 1.7 GHz Band IMT-2000 (FDD system) and 2 GHz Band IMT-2000 (TDD system) to Be Drawn Up

—Report from the Radio Regulatory Council and Result of Public Comments on Draft MIC Ordinances for Amending Part of the “Rules for Regulating Radio Equipment,” Etc.

On November 9, 2005, with respect to the inquiry on draft MIC Ordinances for Amending Part of the “Rules for Regulating Radio Equipment (Radio Regulatory Commission Rules No. 18 of November 31, 1950),” etc. MIC received a report from the Radio Regulatory Council (Chair: Prof. YASUDA Yasuhiko, the School of Science and Engineering, Waseda University), stating that it is appropriate to amend the Rules as inquired.

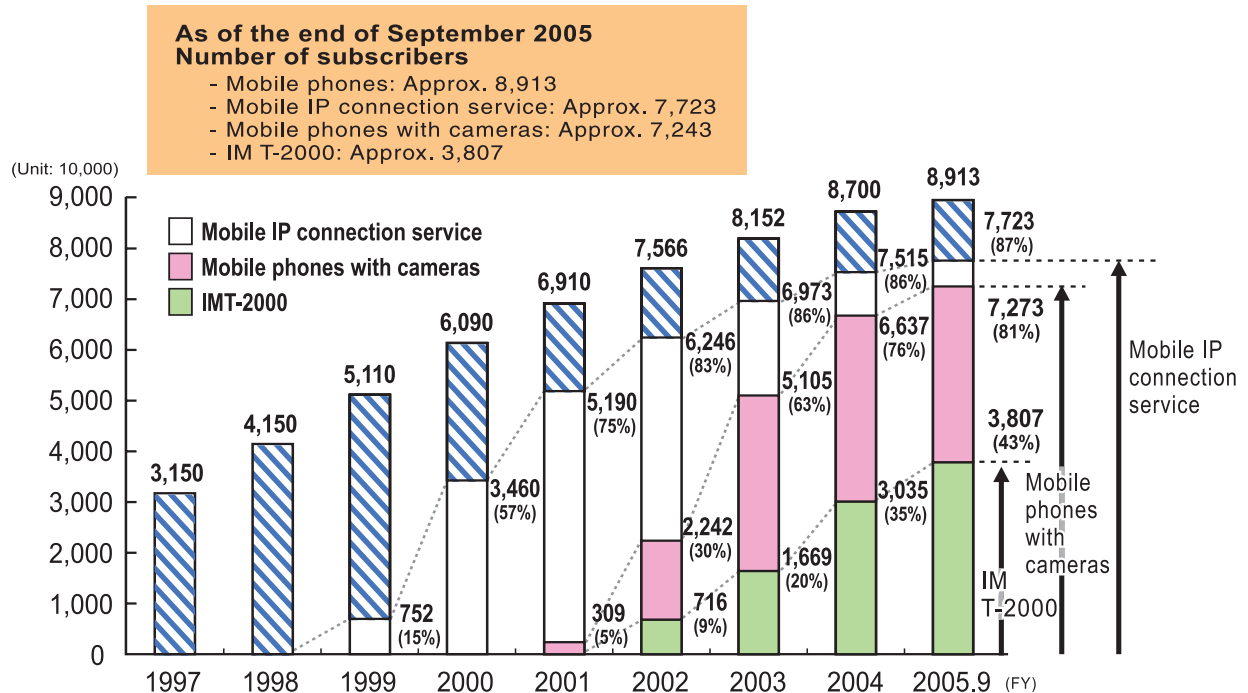
Prior to the report, during September 22 through October 21, 2005, MIC invited public comments on the draft MIC Ordinances, etc. and received five comments thereon.

MIC will, paying due respect to the report and the public comments, enforce the draft MIC Ordinance, etc. on December 1, 2005. Through this enforcement, the 1.7 GHz Band IMT-2000 (FDD system) and the 2 GHz Band IMT-2000 (TDD system) are to be introduced for meeting user demands for diversifying and advancing mobile services.

Background to this enforcement

As for the third-generation mobile communications systems (3G; or IMT-2000), the W-CDMA system was introduced in October 2001, and CDMA 2000 system was introduced in April 2002, respectively. The number of subscribers to those 3G systems has reached 38.07 million (as of the end of September 2005), showing a steady and ongoing shift from 2G to 3G.

In response to increasing demands for mobile communications, MIC developed and released the “Guidelines for Radio Spectrum Reallocation,” stating that radio frequencies of bandwidths of 330-340 MHz targeting 1.7 GHz band, etc. should be ensured for mobile communications within five years. In line with



the Guidelines, MIC in August 2005 ruled on the "Establishment Guideline for the Specified Base Stations using 1.7 GHz or 2 GHz band spectrum".

Considering such circumstances, in accordance with the partial report of May 30, 2005, from the Information and Communications Council on the "technical conditions for IMT-2000 (FDD system) in 1.7 GHz band" and the "technical conditions for IMT-2000 (TDD system) in 2 GHz band," MIC this time ruled on the relevant provisions necessary for the technical regulations, etc.

MIC Ordinances, etc. to be amended

MIC Ordinances

- Regulations for Enforcement of the Radio Law (Radio Regulatory

Commission Rules No. 14 of November 30, 1950)

- Rules for Regulating Radio Equipment (Radio Regulatory Commission Rules No. 18 as of November 31, 1950)
- Ordinance Concerning Technical Regulations Conformity Certification, Etc. of Specified Radio Equipment (MPT Ordinance No. 37 as of November 21, 1981)

Other Related Ordinances

- Ordinance Concerning the Mark, Etc. Pursuant to the Law for Implementation of the Mutual Recognition between Japan and the European Community and the Republic of Singapore in Relation to Conformity Assessment of Specified Equipment (Ministerial

Ordinance of MPHPT No. 146 of 2001)

Other Notices, Instructions, Etc.

Omitted

Schedule

Paying due respect to the report from the Radio Regulatory Council and the public comments, MIC will make the draft MIC Ordinances, etc. effective as from December 1, 2005.