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TOPICS

Commendations at the 2007 Radio Day and Info-Communications Promotion Month Central Memorial Ceremony

On the occasion of observing the 57th Radio Day (June 1, 2007) and the fiscal 2007 Info-Communications Promotion Month (from May 15 to June 15), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is to commend, at the Central Memorial Ceremony, individuals and organizations that have contributed to the development of telecommunications and excellent examples of ICT services and systems that have provided solutions to problems encountered in a variety of life and business situations.

An overview of this ceremony is provided in the following:

The commendations summarized below are to be bestowed at the 2007 Radio Day and Info-Communications Promotion Month Central Memorial Ceremony that is to be held at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo from 11 a.m., June 1, 2007 (scheduled time).

1. Radio Day Ministerial Commendations
3 individuals
3 organizations
2. Info-Communications Promotion Month Ministerial Commendations
4 individuals
5 organizations

3. "u-Japan Best Practice Award" Ministerial Commendations
1 u-Japan Grand Prize
2 Best Life Solution Award
2 Best Business Solution Award

4. Others

On the same day, along with the award presentations by the MIC Minister, Info-Communications Promotion Month Council President (Mr. KATSUMATA Tsunehisa) is to commend individuals and organizations that have contributed to the development of telecommunications.

Also, other than the "u-Japan Best Practice Award" Ministerial Commendations, u-Japan Screening Committee special prize is to be awarded separately.

(Reference)

* Radio Day

In 1950, the Radio Law, the Broadcast Law, and the Radio Regulatory Commission Establishment Law were enacted, and the use of radio waves that had been monopolized by the Government was opened to the Japanese people. To commemorate this occasion, "Radio Day" was established to popularize and enhance scientific knowledge of radio waves among all segments of the Japanese

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people and to contribute to the development of radio wave use.

*** Info-Communications Promotion Month**

This event was established to popularize and advance telecommunications, and through implementing a variety of events on telecommunications all over Japan during this period, It encourages people's understanding that telecommunications help improve the quality of life and cooperation.

*** u-Japan Best Practice Award**

As a part of its "u-Japan" policy initiative, MIC introduced the u-Japan Best Practice Award in 2006. The award aims to acknowledge ICT applications that effectively employ ubiquitous networking technologies to solve wide-ranging problems in life and business situations. In 2007, from all of the entries, the u-Japan Best Practice Reviewing Committee selected five exceptional applications for the "u-Japan Grand Prize", "Best Life Solution Award", and "Best Business Solution Award".

Radio Day Ministerial Commendations

(Individuals)

- 1) AKASHI Hiroyoshi -President Kyushu Mobile Radio Center
- 2) SAITO Masao - Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo & Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Denki University
- 3) HIRATA Yasuo - Chairman of the Board of Director, KDDI R&D Laboratories

(Organizations)

- 1) Association of Radio Industries & Businesses, Frequency Change Support Headquarters (Director General - INAMOTO Yoshiaki)
- 2) Digital Broadcasting Experts

Group (DiBEG) (Chairman - TAKAHASHI Yasuo)

- 3) Brazilian Society of Television Engineering (SET) (President - Roberto Franco)

Info-Communications Promotion Month Ministerial Commendations

(Individuals)

- 1) INAMINE Keiichi - Former Governor of Okinawa Prefecture
- 2) TOYODA Shoichiro - Honorary Chairman, Nippon Keidanren
- 3) HAYASHI Toshihiko - Professor, The University of the Air
- 4) YOSHIYAMA Kenji - Advisor, NEC Corporation

(Organizations)

- 1) e-Net Caravan Promotion Council (Director General - TAGAWA Yoshihiro)
- 2) Kamikatsu Town (Town Mayor - KASAMATSU Kazuichi)
- 3) Next Generation IP Network Promotion Forum (Chairman - SAITO Tadao)
- 4) Japan Telework Association (Chairman - AOKI Toshiharu)
- 5) Hokkaido Television Broadcasting Co., Ltd. (Representative Director, President - OGIYA Tadao)

"u-Japan Best Practice Award" Ministerial Commendations

(u-Japan Grand Prize)

- 1) Bedside safety control system using RFID tags (Akita University Hospital)

(Best Life Solution Award)

- 1) Community-based data broadcasting ("Nandemo TV") (Reinan Cable Network Co., Ltd.)
- 2) Educational Support project for capacity building of human resource in charge of the future of the region (Fukushima Prefecture's Board of Education and Benesse

Corporation)

(Best Business Solution Award)

- 1) New workstyle system by thin client with free-address and high-security (Hitachi, Ltd.)
- 2) FOMA TV phone alcoholic check system (NTT DoCoMo, Inc.)

Info-Communications Promotion Month Council President Prize

(Shida Rinzaburo Prize)

- 1) KITAYAMA Ken-ichi, Professor, Division of Electrical, Electronics and Information Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University

(Contribution to Info-Communications Prize - Individuals)

- 1) OIE Yuji - Professor, Department of Computer Science and Electronics, Faculty of Computer Science and Systems Engineering, Kyushu Institute of Technology
- 2) FUJIMOTO Yoshinori - Chief Manager, Mobile Wireless Network Division, NEC Corporation

(Contribution to Info-Communications Prize - Organizations)

- 1) Gourmet Navigator Inc. (Chairman - TAKI Hisao)
- 2) mixi, Inc. (President - KASAHARA Kenji)
- 3) Conference on Examining Guidelines for the Law Concerning the Liability of Internet Service Provider (Chairman - NAKAO Tetsuo)

(Reference) u-Japan Screening Committee special prize

Mobile security infrastructure (Hitachi, Ltd., NTT DoCoMo, Inc., KDDI R&D Laboratories, NEC Corporation)

TOPICS

Announcement of Final Report from Panel on ICT International Competitiveness

MIC set up the Panel on ICT International Competitiveness in October 2006 to investigate how Japan's global competitiveness in the field of ICT can be consolidated, and directions for basic strategy to achieve this. The Panel spent about half a year in a series of debates and recently compiled its final results which were announced on April 23 when the report was handed over by chairman SAITO Tadao (professor emeritus) to MIC Minister SUGA Yoshihide.

In the basic strategy that was investigated by the Panel, goals were defined such as "Year of Consolidating ICT International Competitiveness", "Working Towards a Strong industry with a Global perspective" and "The Plan to Double ICT GDP." In addition, proposals for basic ideas for promoting the strategy included consolidating an efficient and lateral approach through cooperation between industry, academia and government, promoting the necessary measures

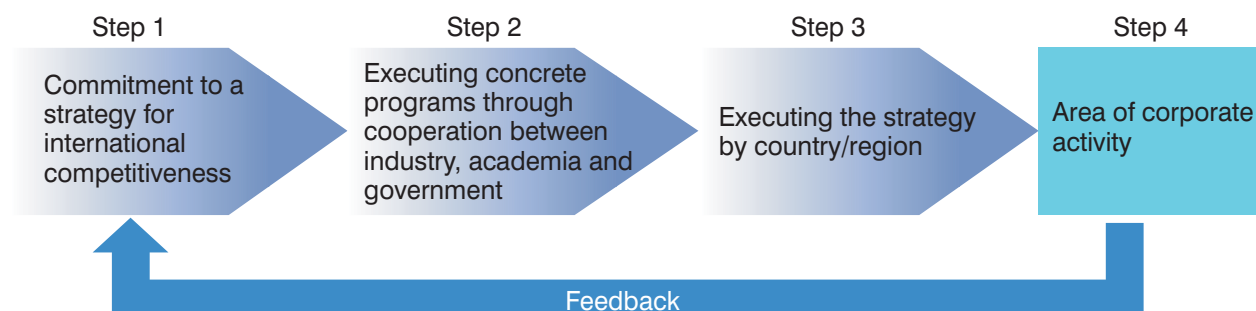
as an integrated package in a general, strategic and organic fashion, and strengthening Japan's "power of global coexistence" so that it can co-exist with the many variations of the global market.

MIC has compiled the contents that were investigated by the Panel into a "Program for Consolidating ICT International Competitiveness" and is making preparations to put in place even more concrete measures.

Basic strategy for consolidating ICT International Competitiveness



Basic cycle for consolidating international competitiveness





Photo, from the right, MIC Minister SUGA Yoshihide, SAITO Tadao, Emeritus Professor, Tokyo University, and Chair of the Panel on ICT International Competitiveness, and TANIGUCHI Kazufumi, Parliamentary Secretary for Internal Affairs and Communications



MIC Minister SUGA Yoshihide who attended the Panel stated that "We want to eliminate all the factor that hamper our global competitiveness" (To the right of the photo is TAMURA Norihisa, MIC Vice-Minister)

TOPICS

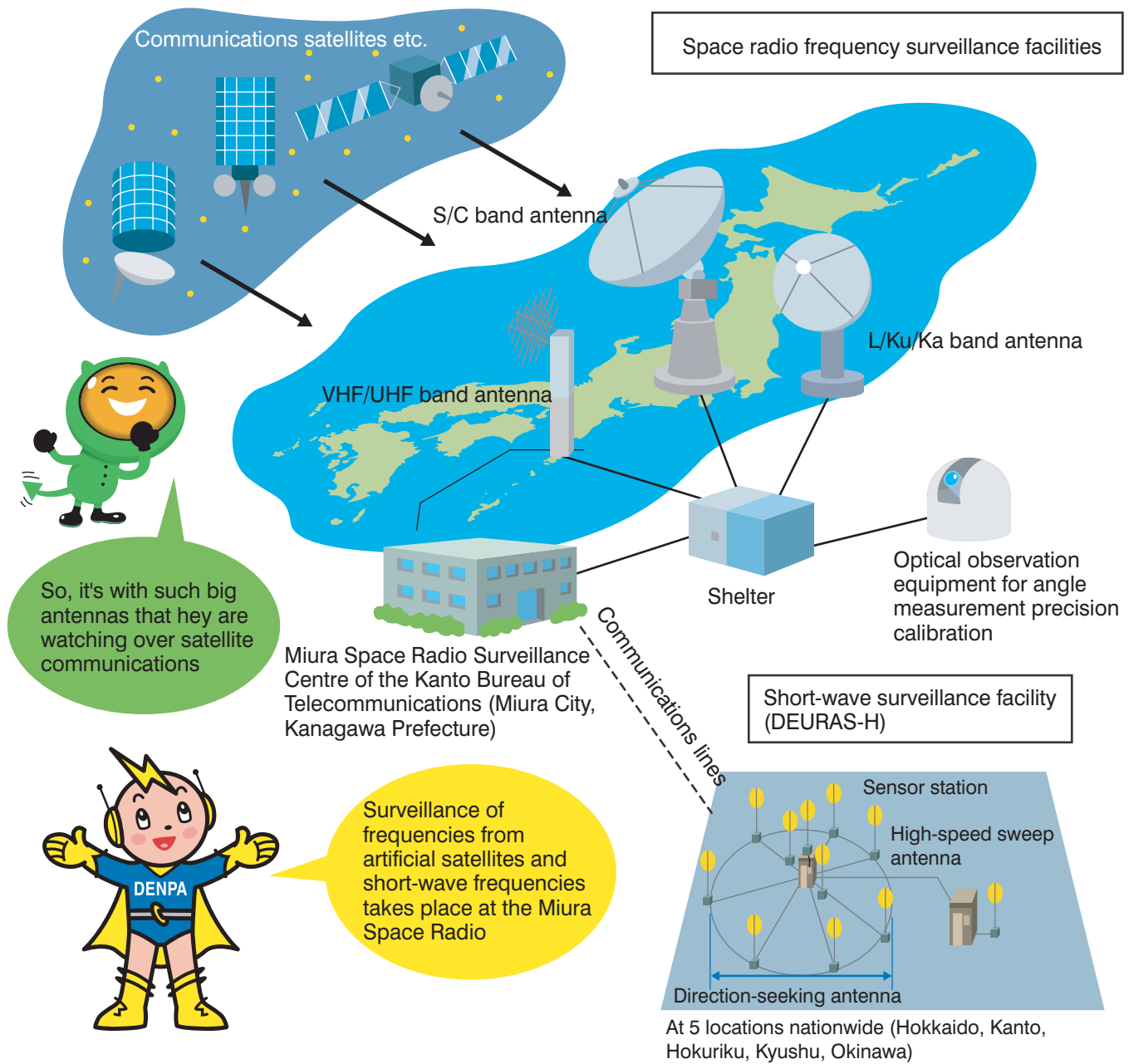
Using the Radio Frequencies that Support our Daily Lives More Safely, Securely and Conveniently

Radio frequencies have become indispensable to our daily lives. In order to make these frequencies safer and more secure to use, MIC checks to see that rules are being kept, and takes a number of other actions.

An environment has been put in place for the safe usage of radio frequencies

Radio frequencies that come across borders are also being watched

Radio frequencies are transmitted across international borders. That is why there are international usage rules in place. We take part in international cooperation on surveillance of radio frequencies that are used in the navigation of ships or international broadcasts, and radio frequencies from artificial satellites.



We are taking proper measures with regard to the safety of radio frequencies

The relationship between people and radio frequencies

Research is ongoing to enable the safe use of radio frequencies



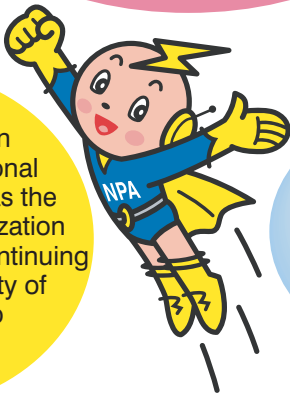
All kinds of equipment ranging from mobile phones to wireless LAN, RFID tags and the like, are appearing in our daily lives but are they safe in terms of effects on the human body?

The use of radio frequencies in mobile phones and the like is exploding

Concerns about their effects on health is growing

Strengthening actions to ensure that radio frequencies are used in an ever safer and more secure environment

MIC is participating in projects by international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as continuing research on the safety of radio frequencies, so everything is fine.



Formulation and institutionalization of Guidelines for Protection from Radio Frequencies

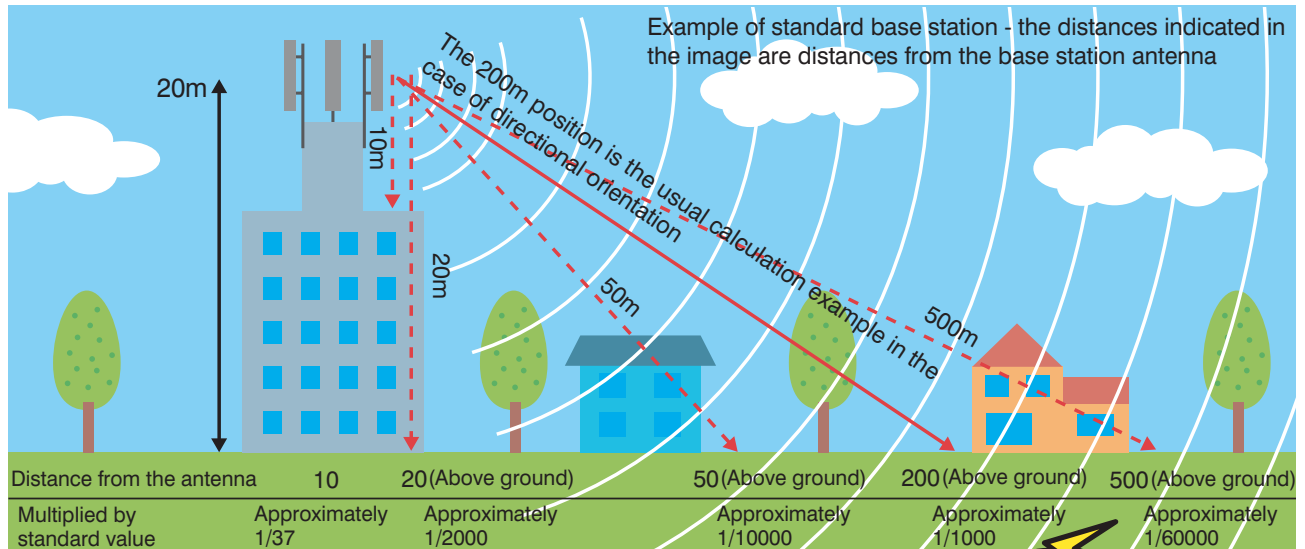
Promotion of research on the effects of radio frequencies on the human body

International cooperation centering on organizations such as the WHO

(Reference) Announcement of report by the Committee to Promote Research on the Possible Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields, announced on April 27
http://www.soumu.go.jp/s-news/20070/070427_12.html (in Japanese)

The Protection Policy for the Human Body from Effects of Radio Waves Use is being formulated as standards for safety

The relationship between strength and distance in radio frequencies (an example of a mobile phone base station)



The Protection Policy for the Human Body from Effects of Radio Waves Use has been compiled as safety standards for radio frequencies on the human body, based on research on the effects on the human body, and is being included in the license standards for radio stations.



The relationship between radio frequencies and various types of equipment

Research is being carried out on the effects of radio frequencies on medical equipment and the like.

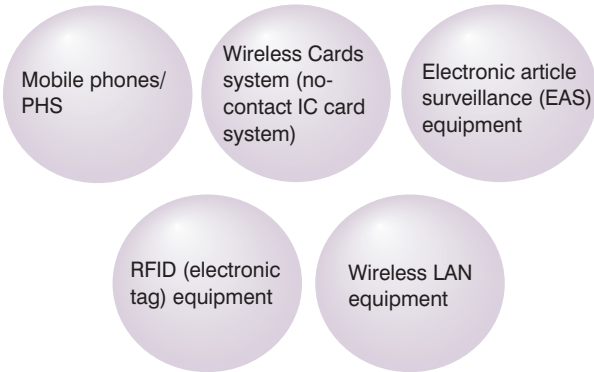


Medical equipment such as heart pacemakers can be affected by wireless equipment, can't it? What should we do about that?

Research is being carried together with manufacturers of medical equipment so that people who are fitted with implantable medical devices such as heart pacemakers can safely use mobile phones and the like, and there are guidelines for preventing the effects of electromagnetic waves from various types of equipment on implantable medical equipment. It is important to make use of these guidelines is using radio frequencies.



Equipment concerned by the guidelines to prevent any effects from various types of equipment that use radio frequencies on implantable medical equipment



Mobile phones should be used at a distance greater than 22 cm from the location of implantable medical equipment. (Among fixed RFID tag reader/writers, the distance should be 100 cm in the case of high output passive tag systems at 950 MHz)

It is desirable to have the consideration to switch off the power in mobile phones and the like in crowded trains.

(Reference) Concerning the results of a study on the effects of radio frequencies on medical equipment, announced on April 24
http://www.soumu.go.jp/s-news/2007/070425_5.html
 (in Japanese)

International standards are being put together so as to avoid interference from radio frequencies emitted by electrical and electronic equipment on wireless communications



It is possible to use wireless communications even in an environment where electrical or electronic equipment is in use

Along with the expanded use of radio frequencies and the diffusion of new electrical and electronic equipment, the possibility that wireless use could be subject to electromagnetic interference has increased.

At the international levels, the International Special Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR) was set up as a special committee of the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission). This committee is formulating unified international regulations concerning admissible levels and measurement methods relating to wireless interference emitted from various types of equipment and facilities.

MIC is working towards compliance with these unified international regulations and, at the same time, working to maintain a good radio environment by formulating domestic regulations.



Making Radio Frequencies More Convenient! Amendments in the Radio Law and the Telecommunications Business Law



Technologies for the use of radio frequencies have seen rapid progress recently, and new services such as third generation mobile phones and terrestrial digital broadcasting are appearing one after the other. On the other hand, with the greater use of radio frequencies in various applications, the number of radio stations has also increased and the radio frequencies that make up the infrastructure of these services have become extremely crowded.

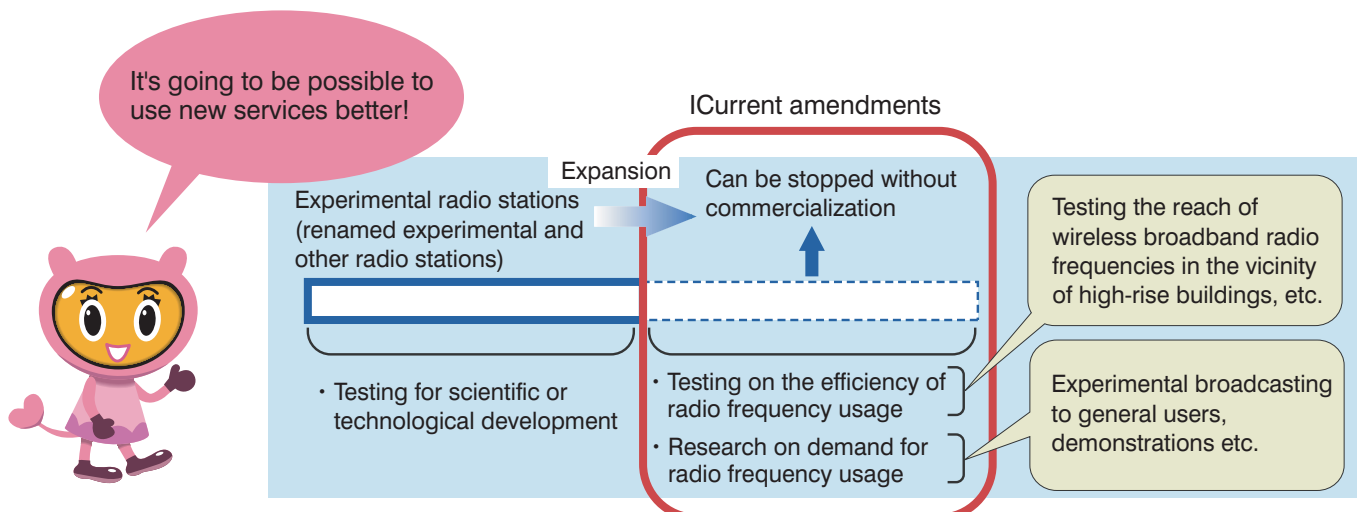
This is where MIC, in the midst of this congestion of radio frequencies, is proposing a new system so as to make use of radio frequencies more convenient, and to enable the provision of new services (submission of proposals for amendments to the Radio Law and the Telecommunications Business law to the National Diet) that are in line with market demands and the results of technological advances.

The following introduces the main points of these amendments.

Testing and studies ahead of new services will become easier to conduct
- Expansion of experimental radio station system -

Under the present system, experimental radio stations can be set up and testing conducted only in cases where the aim is to advance science or technological development.

Under the new system, in addition to these, it will become possible to set up in order to conduct tests using technologies already in existence or conduct needs testing for new services, and these will be called "Experimental and other radio stations." This will bring about greater possibilities for using new services that are in line with the demands of the market and the results of technological advances.



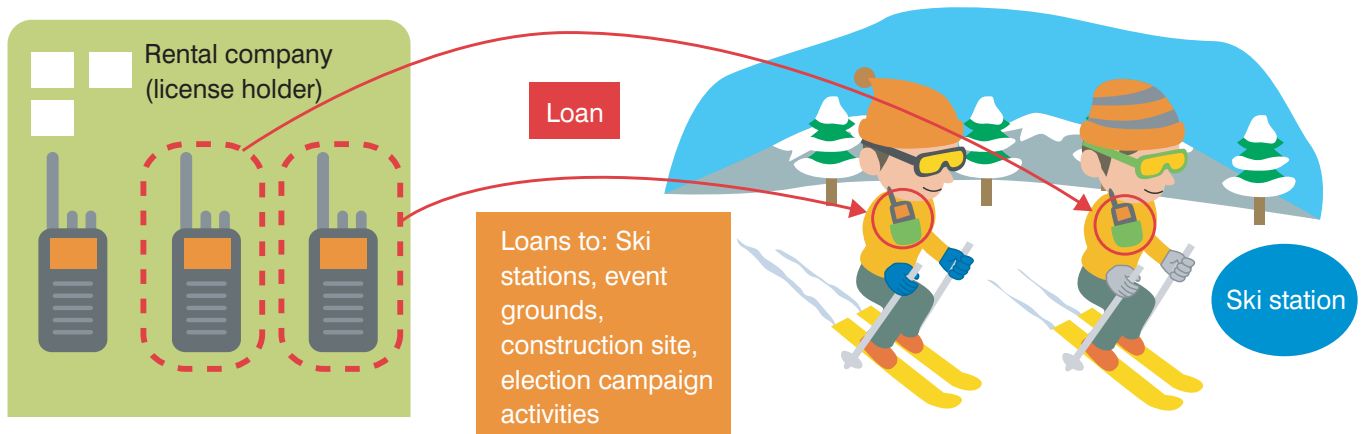
It will be possible to lend out wireless radio stations for events or during disasters
- Introduction of system to change operator for wireless radio stations -

Under the present, if you do have a license and are not registered, you cannot operate a wireless radio station, but in response to demands for lending out wireless radio stations for event or during disasters, a system is being introduced so that wireless radio stations that cause minimal interference can be operated with minimal procedures. This system will make it possible to use radio frequencies more easily.



(1) In the case of registered wireless radio stations

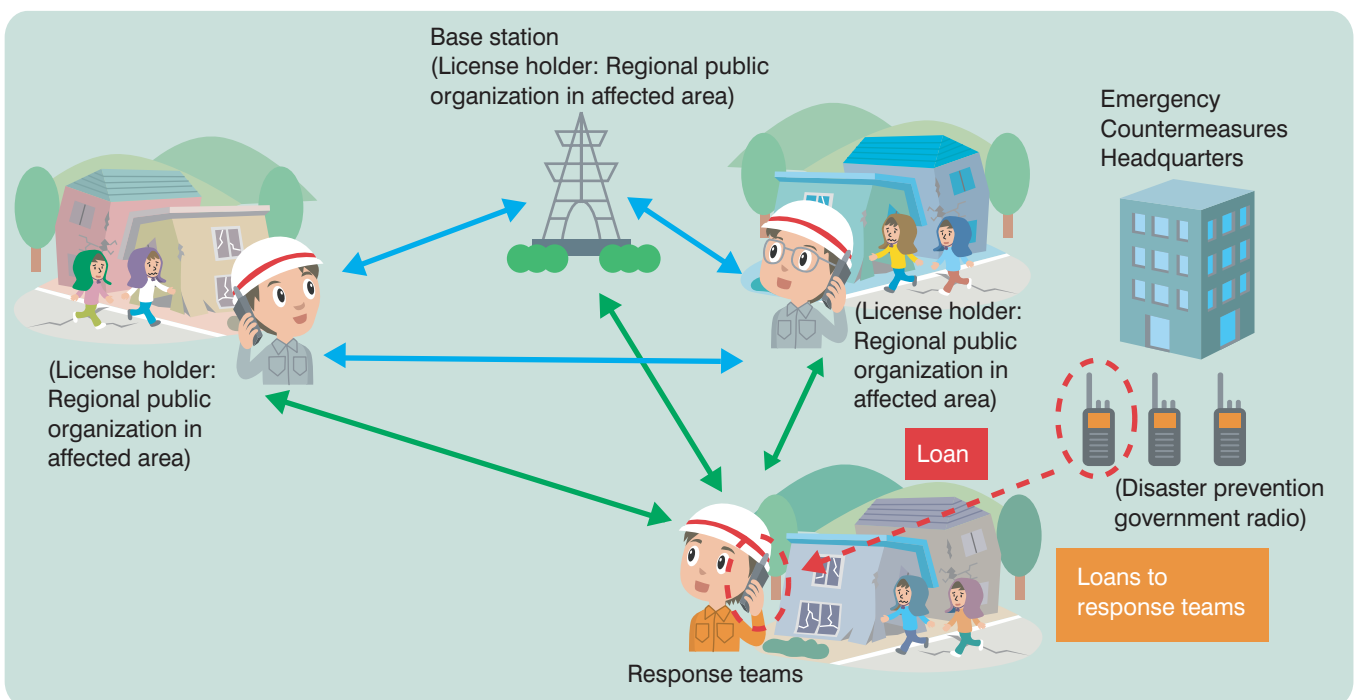
Theoretical case example: [simple wireless (portable type)]



(2) In the case of emergency communications*

* A situation that arises at times of earthquakes, typhoons, floods, tsunamis, snow damage, civil disturbances and the like, or in cases where there is the fear of an occurrence, communications that are used in order to come to the aid of people, for emergency rescue, to secure traffic communications or maintain order.

Theoretical case example: [Regional public organization's terrestrial mobile station]



Amendment of the law for Implementation of Mutual recognition (MRA Law) in response to the age of globalization



It used to be necessary, in order to use telecommunications equipment overseas, to have it submitted for inspection in each country



Mutual recognition

- o A system by which the certification that is required when selling or using a product in another country can be performed by a certification organization in one's own country, with mutual agreement that the other country will accept those results
- o Until now, mutual recognition agreements for telecommunications equipment had been signed between Japan and Europe (effective in January 2002) and between Japan and Singapore (effective in November 2002).
- o A proposal has been submitted to the current session of the Diet for a mutual recognition assessment concerning telecommunications equipment with the United States, and for the amended Mutual Recognition Assessment Law for its implementation. It is currently under deliberation.

