(Released on May 28, 2003)

Summary of Meeting of the Radio Regulatory Council (No. 872)

1. Date and Time

May 14, 2003 (Wednesday)

16:00 to 17:55

2. Location

Meeting Room of MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

(Meeting Room No. 1001 on the 10th floor)

3. Attendees (Honorifics omitted)

(1) Members of the Radio Regulatory Council

Yasuhiko Yasuda (Chairperson), Takeo Inokuchi (Vice-Chairperson), Junichi Hamada, Kashiko Kodate

(2) Hearing Examiner of the Radio Regulatory Council

Kaoru Suzuki

(3) Secretary

Masao Okamoto (Deputy Director of the General Affairs Division, Telecommunications Bureau)

(4) MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Aritomi (Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau), Fujioka (Deputy Director-General), Kitou (Director-General of the Radio Department), and others

4. Minutes of the Meeting

(1) Request for examination pertaining to a filing by Japan DX Association

(Attached June 12, 2002 agenda No. 1)

Deliberation was continued regarding a request filed by Japan DX Association (Represented by Nobuyasu Itoh) for examination on a decision pertaining to an application for amateur radio station change.

(2) Draft MIC ordinance to amend respective portions of the Regulations for Enforcement for the Broadcast Law and the Essential Standards for Establishing Broadcasting Stations

(Consultation No. 10 of March 19, 2003)

This consultation was on the MIC ordinance draft described in the title. In regard to the act of dominance pertaining to regulations related to the rule to exclude concentration of mass media, the draft defined “terrestrial broadcaster dominance over a BS digital program-supporting broadcaster by voting right execution” to be a terrestrial broadcaster with over 50% of the entire voting rights that can pass a resolution regarding a BS digital program-supporting broadcaster. The council deliberated the case based on the written opinions and written statements submitted by the hearing examiner who presided over the opinion hearing procedure (cf. No. 381: Written Opinion from Hearing on Opinions from the Radio Regulatory Council). The council deemed the case appropriate and submitted a report.

(3) Draft MIC ordinance to amend a portion of Regulations for Radio Equipment and draft to amend part of the Frequency Assignment Plan

(Consultations No. 8 and 9 March 19, 2003)

This consultation was on the MIC ordinance draft, etc. described in the title. The draft pertains to improvement measures for mobile identification systems. This will enable utilization of the frequency hopping method by radio stations in premises. The council deliberated the case based on the written opinions and written statements submitted by the hearing examiner, who presided over the opinion hearing procedure (cf. No. 380: Written Opinion from Hearing on Opinions from the Radio Regulatory Council). The council deemed the case appropriate and submitted a report.

(4) Assessment on degree of effective use of radio waves based on result of FY 2002 Survey on Actual Radio Spectrum Usage

(Consultation No. 19)

This consultation was regarding assessment of effective use of radio waves based on the result of FY 2002 Survey on Actual Radio Spectrum Usage. The MIC gave the below explanation, and a Q&A session took place. The council deliberated the assessment, deemed it appropriate, and submitted a report.

a. Explanation by MIC

Rapid dissemination of portable phones and wireless access has evoked new demand for radio waves. To meet such demands appropriately, discussion is required on measures such as frequency reallocation. To start discussions, the Radio Law was partially amended last year, and a new system to conduct the Survey on Actual Radio Spectrum Usage, etc. was introduced to monitor and assess the actual usage of radio waves in the respective frequency bands.

The Survey on Actual Radio Spectrum Usage was conducted according to Article 26-2 of the Radio Law and the regulatory ordinance concerning Survey on Actual Radio Spectrum Usage, etc. The Survey on Actual Radio Spectrum Usage will be conducted every three years for respective radio bands. The survey pertaining to this consultation is on radio wave bands exceeding 3.4 GHz, which were surveyed in advance in FY 2002. The outline of this survey result was released on April 18. This consultation with the Radio Regulatory Council is regarding assessment on the level of effective use.

The base date of this survey is October 31, 2002, and it was conducted for the 4 GHz band, 5 GHz band and the 6 GHz band. The radio station type included in the survey scope was fixed stations for telecommunication service with 14 licensees.

The survey concluded that there is no characteristic difference between the metropolis area and the regional area. Characteristic differences can be seen in Hokkaido and Okinawa, which are located at the ends of the national network, or in areas where the trunk is backing up the Japan Sea side — network density is high in such areas.

(1) The number of radio stations per frequency band and the overall distribution status of radio stations are such that, from the viewpoint of the numbers of installed transmission equipment, the degree of utilization for the 4 GHz band is relatively low compared to the 5 GHz and 6 GHz bands.

(2) As for utilization status of radio equipment pertaining to radio stations, the applied technology, antenna characteristic, number of years used, etc. of radio equipment can be evaluated as appropriate. At the same time, past initiatives and future plans can also be evaluated as appropriate. However, the survey analysis and assessment of line accommodation rate and traffic amount conclude that the utilization is not necessarily high. Consequently, there are some issues to be solved, including abolishment of some equipment. Moreover, analysis concludes that perhaps radio stations with short transmission distances could utilize frequency bands higher than the 4 GHz, 5 GHz and 6 GHz bands.

Additionally, the maintenance of radio stations has been assessed as appropriate, overall. To judge the possibility of introducing alternative systems for respective frequency bands, economical efficiency and reliability must be taken into consideration, along with physical and geographical factors such as mountains and seas. Nevertheless, there are cases where the introduction of optical fiber is possible, and transition to another frequency band can be considered for some frequencies.

Totally, the subjects that need to be considered are as follows. Appropriate measures to satisfy the expanding demand for radio waves that will be evoked by materialization of the 4G mobile telecommunication system, etc. and the expected rapid expansion of the wireless access system in the metropolitan area; and introduction of optical fiber or transition to another frequency band.

The above items were evaluated for each frequency band and a totalized assessment was made. The utilization of fixed wireless system radio stations for telecommunications service in the respective frequency bands was summarily deemed appropriate, although there are some problems in the operation form, etc.

As for the 4 GHz band, assessment judged it appropriate to investigate use based on the idea that the introduction of optical fiber or transition to other frequency bands is highly probable. This is to respond to future demand for radio waves used by mobile telecommunications services, including the 4G mobile telecommunication system.

As for the 5 GHz band, assessment judged it appropriate to investigate use at an early stage, based on the idea that the introduction of optical fiber or transition to other frequency bands is highly probable. This is to meet the increasing demand for

radio waves that will be evoked by realization of the 4G mobile telecommunication system, etc. and the expected rapid expansion of use by the wireless access system in the metropolitan area.

As for the 6 GHz band, assessment deemed it appropriate to promote effective utilization of frequencies by introducing optical fiber or transition to other frequency bands for possible frequencies. This is because the systems using the 4 GHz band or 5 GHz band are planned to shift to the 6 GHz band.

b. Main content of the Q&A session

- The council asked if this survey was conducted by sending a survey request to all licensees, having it answered in a written document, and aggregated. The MIC explained that efforts were placed on selecting less burdensome survey methods based on opinions — some items were checked by using the licensee data, and survey requests were sent for inquiry items that cannot be known without questioning.
- The council asked about the possibility of incorrect survey results when inaccurate data is submitted from licensees. The MIC answered that they are making efforts to achieve accuracy while conducting the survey by checking all data on analysis, and reaffirm its correctness whenever odd data is found.
- The council asked about the details of the survey method. The MIC explained that after each licensee data is checked, survey requests are sent for inquiry items that cannot be known without questioning. After answers are written by the licensees, the data is collected and analyzed. Surveys that require a few months are being carried out and summarized by support from licensees.
- The council asked if a more efficient survey method is being considered for the future. The MIC replied, with ingenuity, that since the survey in advance has built up experience, improvements should be made as necessary and on an annual basis.

(5) Blanket license for specified radio stations belonging to Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation

(Consultation No. 20)

This consultation was on a blanket license for specified radio stations belonging to Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation. The MIC gave the below

explanation, and a Q&A session took place. The council deliberated the issue, deemed it appropriate, and submitted a report.

a. Explanation by MIC

This consultation is regarding blanket license application for subscriber stations of a Fixed Wireless Access system of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation.

This is the first blanket license application concerning a Fixed Wireless Access system following system establishment. As the system uses the high frequency band of 26 GHz, there was difficulty in downsizing and lowering the cost for the radio equipment. Technological advancements, etc. have enabled introduction of equipment that can respond to the rapidly increasing demand for high-speed Internet service for general households. This background evoked the situation where the blanket license system, which enables relatively free establishment of radio stations in large numbers, has merit.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone East Corporation is planning to develop a high-speed Internet connection service for cities, towns and villages within the Tohoku Bureau of Telecommunications, where the broadband environment is relatively immature.

This application was examined based on laws related to radio waves. Frequency assignment was concluded to be possible, since the application asks for frequencies in Blocks D1, D´1, D2 and D´2 in ANNEX 7-1 of the Frequency Assignment Plan (Table of Frequency Blocks for Radio Stations of the Fixed Wireless Access system using 22 GHz, 26 GHz or 38 GHz Bands), and the maximum number of operations was judged to not hinder telecommunication by congestion, etc. Moreover, the content of the application was deemed in conformity with all conditions stipulated by the essential standards for establishing specified radio stations.

The application for the blanket license shall therefore be allowed, in compliance with Article 27-5 of the Radio Law.

b. Main content of the Q&A session

- The council questioned whether both base stations and subscriber stations are included in the scope for blanket licenses. The MIC explained that the blanket

license system applies only to subscriber stations, and that only one license is allowed for one base station.
- The council asked about the maximum number of stations that can be covered by one blanket license – the question was if there is a standard. The MIC answered that although there is no specific standard, the maximum number of stations that can be operated will be examined by considering the maximum number of radio stations that can be accommodated to judge frequency assignment. Blanket licenses are only granted to cases that meet this examination standard.

(The Radio Regulatory Council Secretariat is responsible for the wording of this document)