

(Released on October 7, 2003)

Summary of Meeting of the Radio Regulatory Council (No. 876)

1. Date and Time

September 17, 2003 (Wednesday)

16:40 to 17:00

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

Taku Kiyasu

(3) Secretary

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

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

Takahara (Director-General of the Information and Communications Policy Bureau),

Fujioka (Deputy Director-General of the Minister's Secretariat), and others

4. Minutes of the Meeting

Regarding the designation of a designated frequency change support agency

(Consultation No. 36)

MIC explained the designation of a designated frequency change support agency and provided a Q&A session as follows. The Council deliberated this matter and replied indicating that the Council regarded it as acceptable.

(1) Explanation by MIC

Concerning the analog frequency change measures in the wake of the change of the Plan for the Available Frequencies Allocated for Broadcasting, on which this Council deliberated and reported on September 10, this deals with an application from the Association of Radio Industries and Businesses pertaining to the designation of a designated frequency change support agency based on the provision in Article 71-3 (2) of the Radio Law.

The type of service that the Association plans to provide is a specific frequency change support service related to the change in the Plan for the Available Frequencies Allocated for Broadcasting or an analog frequency change support service, and the Association intends to start the service on the day the Association is appointed as a designated frequency change support agency.

As a result of examining the application, MIC recognizes that it is appropriate to designate the Association as a designated frequency change support agency because it conforms to the provisions in the feasibility, financial basis, ensured fairness, and disqualification of the specific frequency change support service.

(2) Main contents of the Q&A session

- The following question was asked: “What does MIC mean by the terms ‘specific’ and ‘designated’ in the specific frequency change support service and designated frequency change support service?”

MIC answered as follows: “The term ‘specific’ means a ‘special and definite’ frequency change measure intended for an object for which an assistance measure is directed to help existing radio stations to change their frequencies in the wake of the efficient use of radio spectrum, and the laws and regulations define it as such. The ‘designated’ means that the government chooses an agency to have it perform a certain support service.”

- The following question was asked: “What is the current situation of specific frequency change support services?”

MIC answered as follows: “As terrestrial digital broadcasting services will be launched in December in the three major wide areas, the analog frequency change support services are now being carried out intensively there and are generally going well.”

- The following question was asked: “The meeting of this Council held in August, 2001 replied indicating that it was appropriate that the Association of Radio Industries and Businesses would be designated as a designated frequency change support agency. Why, then, does MIC ask the Council to deliberate on the same matter again?”

MIC answered as follows: “As the member just mentioned, MIC received a reply on this matter from the Council in August 2001. Back then, the change support agency was targeted at all of Japan. After that, the frequency change support services per se were canceled for areas other than the three major wide areas. For this reason, MIC asked the Council to deliberate on the matter again on September 10 and received a reply from the Council. As the current provision in the Radio Law requires that a designated frequency change support agency be appointed every time the Plan for the Available Frequencies, etc. related to the specific frequency change support service is changed, MIC had to ask the opinions of the Council again. However, this time MIC attempts to separately appoint a service, which is different from what the Law is originally intended for, and the content of the service in this case is exactly the same as the one that was already recognized. In this sense, it can be said that the Council does not deliberate on much in reality.”

- The following question was asked: “Will the Council deliberate on the same matter for Sanin and Kitakyushu, which are left out this time?”

MIC answered as follows: “If consideration is going on schedule, MIC will ask the Council to deliberate on the proposed change to the Plan for the Available Frequencies in December of this year. After receiving the reply on the matter, MIC must similarly ask the opinion of the Council on the designation of a frequency change support agency again.”

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