
Telecommunications Council 12th General Meeting Summary of Minutes

1 Date and Time

July 28, 2004 (Wednesday), 10:02 to 11:13

2 Location

First Special Conference Room of MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) (8th floor, MIC)

3 Attendees (Honorifics omitted)

(1) Members

Yoshihisa Akiyama, Tadao Saito, Toshiaki Ikoma, Takashi Kawada, Nobuaki Koga, Shigeki Goto, Yoshinori Sakai, Kaori Sasaki, Eiichi Shimizu, Fumio Takahata, Kazuteru Tagaya, Nami Takenaka, Norihisa Doi, Miwako Doi, Mikio Toukai, Akira Negishi, Yoshiaki Nemoto, Hiroshi Harashima, Mariko Fujiwara, Kumiko Miyazaki, Teruyasu Murakami, Masatoshi Murakami, and Yusuke Yasuda

(2) Temporary Member

Jun Murai

(Total of 24 members)

(3) Secretary

Fukuoka (Director of the General Affairs Division, Information and Communications Policy Bureau)

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

Tabata (Senior Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications), Matsumoto (Parliamentary Secretary for Internal Affairs and Communications), Matsui (Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination), Hirai (Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Horie

(Director-General of the Information and Communications Policy Bureau),
Aritomi (Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau), Kito (Director-General for Technology Policy Coordination), Fujioka (Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretary),
Esaki (Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department), Takeda (Director-General of the Radio Department),
Ishida (Director-General of the International Affairs Department),
Yamakawa (Counselor of Minister's Secretariat),
Yasumura (Counselor of Minister's Secretariat), Ando (Director of Broadcasting Policy Division), Takei (Director of Technology Policy Division), and others

4 Agenda

- (1) Regarding the "Appropriate usage of terrestrial digital broadcasting in the future and the role of the administration in its penetration" (Consultation No. 8 of January 28, 2004)

Having deliberated on the draft report, the council decided to accept it as the intermediate council report in its original form prepared by the Information and Communications Policy Committee. Chairperson Akiyama personally delivered the report to Mr. Tabata, the Senior Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications.

[Summary]

What the council was asked to deliberate on are the following: 1) Organizing new functions in digital broadcasting, 2) Identifying needs for digital broadcasting in the public field and measures to meet such needs, and 3) Roles the administration and the like must play to carry out items 1) and 2) to smoothly diffuse terrestrial broadcasting services that were launched last December throughout Japan. Specifically, the development and diffusion of sophisticated services that only terrestrial digital broadcasting can provide are indispensable to accelerate and propel the national penetration of terrestrial digital broadcasting. The government intends to deal with these indispensable tasks based on the private sector's approaches to them with free and flexible ideas. To encourage the private sector to do so, the report proposes that it is

essential to perform verification experiments 1) on the functions and benefits of advanced services when they are deployed in the public field, and 2) on the validation of the feasibility and advantages and disadvantages of various transmission means, including the use of communication infrastructures as a means to provide supplementary services for terrestrial digital broadcasting.

- (2) Regarding "Framework for research and development that looks to a ubiquitous network society" (Consultation No. 9)

Having deliberated on the matter, the council decided to subject it to a deliberation process under the Information and Communications Technology Sub-Council that has garnered specialized knowledge in a broad range of fields.

[Summary]

To keep a competitive technical edge in the information and communications field, which is becoming the social infrastructure in which industry and economy develop, MIC asks the council to deliberate on the framework for research and development that looks to a ubiquitous network society to fortify R & D capabilities in the information and communications filed of Japan by not only clarifying the role but also promoting the efficient operation of each agency involved, and the selection of priority fields, by the year 2010, which is now the target year.

- (3) Regarding the deliberation status of the Information and Communications Technology Sub-Council

The Information and Communications Technology Sub-Council reported to the members information on the Sub-Council such as the status of meetings held since January this year when the previous report was discussed, and the council accepted this.

- (4) Regarding the deliberation status of the Telecommunications Business Division

The Telecommunications Business Division reported to the members information on the Division such as the status of meetings held since January this year when the previous report was discussed, and the council accepted this.