

Broadcasting System Committee (1st Meeting) Summary of Minutes Telecommunications Technology Subcouncil, Telecommunications Council

1. Date and time

Thursday, October 19, 2006 14:00 -

2. Location

First Special Conference Room of MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

3. Agenda

- (1) About this consultation
- (2) About the draft administration policy for the Broadcasting System Committee
- (3) About the current environment of terrestrial digital broadcasting
- (4) About the draft administration policy for the Working Group for Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting Relay Stations
- (5) About the draft schedule for future discussions
- (6) Others

4. Attendees (Honorifics omitted, in random order)

Ito (Committee Chairperson, Tokyo University of Science), Aizawa (National Institute of Informatics), Ikegami (Meiji University), Ogawa (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology), Katto (Waseda University), Kobayashi (Association of Radio Industries and Businesses), Tsuzuku (Meijo University), Noda (Japan Cable Laboratories), and Yamada (Post-graduate school of the University of Electro-Communications)
[Secretariat] Okubo, Fuseda, Fukushima, Usui, Endo, and Takemura (Broadcasting Technology Division, MIC)

5. Documents Distributed

- Document 1-1: Consultation No. 43 Report from Telecommunications Technology Subcouncil, Telecommunications Council
- Document 1-2: List of Members of the Broadcasting System Committee
- Document 1-3: Draft administration policy for the Broadcasting System Committee

Document 1-4: The current environment of terrestrial digital broadcasting

Document 1-5: Draft administration policy for the Working Group for Terrestrial
Digital Broadcasting Relay Stations

Document 1-6: Draft schedule for future discussions

6. Summary of the Meeting

Following the opening addresses from Okubo, Director of Broadcasting Technology Division and Ito, Committee Chairperson, the committee members introduced themselves, and the agenda items were discussed as follows after ensuring that every participant had received the documents to be distributed.

(1) About this consultation

The secretariat explained Consultation No. 2023 “Technical Conditions on Broadcasting Systems,” and the committee chairperson reported that “we are requested to aim to complete and submit the finalized report on the technical conditions on terrestrial digital broadcasting relay stations by next January, considering the schedule after the submission of the report. I appreciate your cooperation in view of the current environments surrounding the relay stations.”

(2) About the draft administration policy for the Broadcasting System Committee

The secretariat explained the draft administration policy for the Broadcasting System Committee and the members approved it. The chairperson appointed member Tsuzuku as vice-chairperson.

(3) About the current environment of terrestrial digital broadcasting

The secretariat explained the current environment of terrestrial digital broadcasting and provided a questions-and-answers session as follows.

a. Regarding the relay stations to be considered

○ Member Ogawa: Are the relay stations to be considered adopting the non-regenerative method or the regenerative method?

→ Chairperson Ito: Either method is possible. As many relay stations relay broadcast waves, however, it is logical to assume that many of them will adopt the non-generative method.

○ Member Ogawa: Suppose digital relay stations are installed in layered stages under a key station. Does MIC envisage that, for example, an error rate for

securing the quality of digital broadcasts should be defined for each stage?

→ Secretariat: Whether or not it is appropriate to define such a value for each stage depends on various factors. MIC thinks relevant requirements must be defined for each stage to secure the proper quality of digital broadcasts even for the relay stations in the lowest stage.

→ Member Kobayashi: I would like to propose to include the consideration of classifying digital relay stations as one of the considerations in this agenda item.

- Chairperson Ito: We are inclined not to pay enough attention to securing reception quality while being preoccupied with the subject of not interfering with other radio stations. Based on your remark, I would like to help the committee to proceed with this consideration by regarding the securing of reception quality as one of the major presuppositions.

b. Scope of consideration

- Member Katto: Document 1-4 includes an illustration of an optical network. Will this part be included in the scope of this agenda item?

→ Secretariat: No, it will not be included. The deliberation on this agenda item intends to develop the looser technical conditions suitable for small and medium-sized relay stations and consider whether the stations may be installed anywhere and not interfere with other radio stations as long as they meet the relevant conditions.

c. Providing the results of the deliberation to others

- Member Ogawa: NHK conducted some research by using a broadcasting station connected to a transmitting point through optical fibers, with a reception point on a mountain. Recently, a study on IEC TC103 (radio communication transmitter) has started by also using this configuration. If possible, I would like to provide information from this committee to those involved in studying IEC TC 103. What is the opinion of MIC?

→ Secretariat: We do not know how much the information produced by this committee can help them. However, generally speaking, the results of the committee should be disclosed to the outside. Consequently, MIC is willing to accept the active use of such information.

(4) About the draft administration policy for the Working Group for Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting Relay Stations

The secretariat provided explanations of the draft administration policy for the Working Group for Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting Relay Stations, including an explanation of the appointment of member Kobayashi (Association of Radio Industries and Businesses) as the head of the working group. The following remark was voiced and confirmed by other participants.

- Member Kobayashi: I would like to make some comments in response to the fact that I was appointed as the head of the working group. Since the working group has been given only a very short period of time to consider the agenda items, I would like to help deliberations to be smoothly conducted. To achieve this, I expect that all members will provide and bring in relevant information. The Association of Radio Industries and Businesses is also interested in the technical conditions for the digital relay stations and conducted some deliberations on the matter in the digital broadcasting development task (working group for terrestrial digital broadcasting small-power systems), so I would like to introduce the results of these deliberations to this committee. In addition, to smoothly introduce information, I would like this committee to approve an additional chief for this working group as a job title in the current major job column in “Ota” from TV TOKYO Corporation, in a separate document 1-5. → Accepted.

(5) About the draft schedule for future discussions

The secretariat explained the draft schedule for future discussions and the members approved it.

(6) Others

- Member Ikegami: I would like to ask the secretariat to provide materials concerning the technical standards concerning current digital broadcasting for future deliberations.
→ Secretariat: We will send the relevant information to all members later.

The next meeting is scheduled for 16:00 on Friday, November 17, 2006.

End of Summary