

## **Summary of Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Study Group on Broadcasting for People with Visual and Hearing Disabilities in the Age of Digital Broadcasting**

### 1 Date and time:

October 23 (Mon), 2006 13:00 to 15:00

### 2 Location:

Conference Room No.1, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

### 3 Attendees:

#### (1) Members (Honorifics omitted)

Shigeo Asahara, Kiyomi Arai, Yasushi Iwashita, Masahiko Ohto, Yoshihiro Oto Kimitsugu Kurano, Noriko Kondo, Yoshihiko Sasagawa, Tadashi Sashikawa, Tadashi Takaoka, Hiroshi Takahashi, Satoru Tada, Yasuyoshi Tsutsumi, Tetsuo Tsurubuchi, Akira Terashima, Tsunehiko Hatakeyama, Kazufumi Fujiwara, Ryuko Furukawa, Ichiro Miyamoto

#### (2) Exponents

Hirahara (Director, Television Wakayama Co., Ltd.) Hayashi (Director-General, Japan Satellite Broadcasting Association)

#### (3) Observer

Aoki (Information Support Officer, Community Life Support Office, Policy Planning Division, Department of Health and Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare and War Victims' Relief Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare)

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

Terasaki (Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department), Katsuno (Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Matsukawa (Director of the IT Utilization and Human Resources Development Division), Takada (Assistant Director of the IT Utilization and Human Resources Development Division)

#### 4 Outline of proceedings

##### (1) Opening

(2) Address by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Terasaki, Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department)

##### (3) Introduction of members

##### (4) Meeting guideline

The Secretariat explained about Document 1-1.

(5) Selection of the Chairman and appointment of Deputy Chairman  
Member Takahashi was selected as Chairman. Member Terashima was appointed Deputy Chairman by Chairman Takahashi.

##### (6) Opening of the Study Group to the public (draft)

The Secretariat explained about the opening of the Study Group to the public regarding Document 1-2. The issue was approved by the attendees after the comments were exchanged as detailed below.

#### 【Comments】

• Since this is the Study Group on barrier-free access for persons with disabilities, consideration must be given to smoother access to the Internet for persons with visual disabilities.

##### (7) Agenda

○ Introduction of efforts regarding close-captioned and sign language broadcasts

Hatakeyama made a presentation on Document 1-3, Furukawa on Document 1-4, Fujiwara on Document 1-5, Hirahara (Director of Television Wakayama Co., Ltd.) on Document 1-6 and Hayashi (Director-General, Japan Satellite Broadcasting Association) on Document 1-7, followed by questions and answers.

#### 【Questions and answers】

• It was pointed out that it was difficult to secure human resources for entering program captions. Could you study whether or not summary writers at remote locations could enter captions through teleworking?

• The current problem is the shortage of human resources who enter captions

in live broadcast programs and that they must be located at the transmission during live broadcasting. The speed word processor system for entering captions in live broadcast programs uses a special keyboard which requires special training and thus human resources are short, even in Tokyo. Remote summary writers may be utilized for programs that have enough time for entering captions and may also be used for entering captions at local stations.

- We want a percentage to be given also for sign language programs.

○Requests from the viewpoint of users

Member Miyamoto made a presentation on Document 1- 8 and member Takaoka on Document 1-9, followed by questions and answers.

**【Questions and answers】**

- Documents prepared by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications use “Close-caption and descriptive broadcasts, etc.” to cover close-captions, sign language, and descriptive broadcasts, but it is desirable if “close-captions, sign language, and descriptive broadcasts” is used instead.

(8) How to proceed with meetings in future

The schedule of the 2nd meeting was adjusted to the middle of November.

(9) Closing

End