

4th Study Group Meeting on the Comprehensive Law System
for Communication and Broadcasting
Summary of Minutes

1 Date and time: November 21 (Tues), 2006 17:00 to 18:30

2 Location: Special Conference Room No.1, 8F Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

3 Attendees: Horibe (Chairman), Murai (Acting Chairman), Ando, Tagaya, Nakamura, Murakami
Aritomi (Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination), Suzuki (Director-General of the Information and Communications Policy Bureau), Mori (Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau), Terasaki (Director-General for Policy Planning), Nakada (Acting Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Kawauchi (Director-General of the Radio Department), Sakamoto (Director of the General Policy Division), Sato (Director of the Information Policy Division), Tominaga (Director of the Radio Policy Division), Naito (Chief of the Communication and Broadcasting Legislation Planning Office), Fujino (Promoting Officer for the Advanced Road Transportation System)

4 Summary of proceedings

(1) Hearing concerning the amalgamation of and cooperation between communication and broadcasting (technical aspects)

Acting Chairman Murai gave an overview of ICT technology and Member Ando explained about the radio technology followed by questions and answers.

A. Acting Chairman Murai

(a) Outline of explanation

Explanation was made based on "Trend of ICT technology towards 'The first year of complete digitalization'" (Document 2).

(b) Questions and answers

- To the question, "Will the standards for terminals be integrated through digitization?", the Acting Chairman answered, "It depends on policy or business. The digital technologies are straightforward to make once the policy has been definitely determined."
- It is essential that we must fully understand, when the network is converted to IP, the validity of properly separated systems between wired and wireless and communication and broadcasting, as well as what is to be shared by them.
- Constructing a system that can be used more flexibly and more effectively by compressing radio waves will generate incentives for more effective utilization. I think that we should discuss the pros and cons of the idea, as well as how to introduce the system.

- As the communication and broadcasting technologies advance, it will be necessary to summarize, as points of issue, the relationship between the communication/broadcasting administration and the copyright/intellectual property regulations relating to contents.
- It is critical to have firmly-established systems and policies even if digital information and digital technologies are ready for use.

B. Member Ando

(a) Summary of explanation

Explanation was made based on "Radio waves" (Document 3).

(b) Questions and answers

- To the question, "How is the increase in electronic tags (one billion tags, one hundred billion tags) and improvement of sensor networks to be interpreted within the framework for radio waves and frequencies?", Ando answered, "That is a very important point. It is rather hard to hold discussions on technologies in the sense that if one hundred persons speak, then the noise will also be increased by one hundred times while taking demand forecasting into consideration. The Radio Law is being much troubled because even economics must be taken into account. It is indeed very difficult when we reach as many as one billion tags—such as in the case of RFID."

(2) The desired legislation for radio waves

Member Tagaya and the Secretariat explained about "Points of contention on the legislation for radio waves toward the acceleration of wireless innovation – material for summarization" (Document 4), followed by questions and answers. Major opinions of the members in the questions and answers were given below. It was determined that the report will be made at the next meeting on the draft summary based on the discussions made today.

- The test radio station system is a marvelous initiative. Is it possible to apply this system, for example, across Japan without providing any spatial limitation? (The Secretariat answered, "While it depends on the characteristics of the test and investigation, no limitation is provided for areas when discussing the system.")
- It is desirable if laws are made to allow flexible reviewing in case we should see technologies—for which the demand trend and technical interference problems regarding test radio stations cannot be accurately confirmed—from a different point of view as a result of technical confirmation made after introducing them.

(3) Next meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled to be held from 18:00 on December 21 (Thurs). The agenda will be: (1) "Free discussion toward summarization of the points of contention"; and (2) "How to proceed with our discussions hereafter."

End