

Draft Summary of Minutes for Study Group on Communications Terminals
in the IP Era (1st Meeting)

1. Date:

Thursday, December 7, 2006, 10 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

2. Location

Special Conference Room 1, 8th floor, Central Common Government Offices No.2

3. Attendees (Last names in Japanese alphabetical order; honorifics omitted)

(1) Members

Hitoshi Aida, Mutsuya Asano (alt: Yoshikazu Kobayashi), Ryuichi Inagaki, Masashi Oshima, Takemitsu Kunio, Mikio Goto, Hiroshi Kondo, Yoshiyuki Sukemune (alt: Hirokazu Shimizu), Nobuko Takahashi, Yoshiyuki Takeda, Miwako Doi (alt: Yasuhiro Katsube), Takashi Hanazawa, Toshiki Hayashi, Susumu Hirano, Hiroshi Fujiwara, Akira Maeda, Yuichi Matsushima, Makoto Miwa, Akira Murakami, Suguru Yamaguchi, Toshio Yamada, Tetsuya Yuge, Makoto Yokozawa, Fumio Watanabe (alt: Masayoshi Ohashi)

(2) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Mori, Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau; Sakurai, Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department; Taniwaki, Director of the Tariff Division; Naito, Deputy Director of the Telecommunications Consumer Policy Division; Watanabe, Director of the Telecommunication Systems Division; Nakamura, Deputy Director of the Telecommunication Systems Division

4. Agenda

- (1) How to proceed with the Study Group
- (2) Presentations
- (3) Others

5. Outline of proceedings

[Meeting guidelines]

- An explanation was given on the draft Meeting Guidelines for the Study Group on Communications Terminals in the IP Era (Document 1-1), which was proposed by the Secretariat, and the draft was approved as submitted.

[Opening of the study group to the public]

- An explanation was given on the draft Opening of the Study Group to the Public (Document 1-2), which was proposed by the Secretariat, and the draft was approved as submitted.

[Election of the Chair and appointment of the Acting Chair]

- Mr. Aida, a member, was elected Chair by mutual vote. Mr. Aida appointed Mr. Hirano, a member, as Acting Chair.

[How to proceed with the Study Group]

- The Secretariat explained Study on Communications Terminals in Response to the Development of IP (Document 1-3).

[Presentations]

- Presentations by members
 - Hanazawa (member): NTT Approach for the Next Generation Network (NGN)
 - Kunio (member): Required Functions for and Technical Issues of Terminals as a Foundation of Innovations
 - Maeda (member): Communications Terminals in the IP Era
- Main comments of members in the question and answer session are as follows.
 - It will be important for terminals in the future to be able to connect to both the NGN service network and the Internet.
 - In demonstration tests that are now starting in forums and others, discussions are not yet deep enough to study responsibilities, and what can be provided as services is being discussed with the carriers concerned. In the future, the allocation of responsibilities in unexpected situations will have to be specified in accordance with the respective roles provided.

[Comments of members]

Members commented on their awareness of the issues and the items to be discussed in this study group. The main comments of members are as follows.

<Perspective of the study>

- It will be important to identify what kind of services should be developed and made available for users.
- More sophisticated functions will be achievable with the development of IP. However, since the sophistication will result in more complicated operations that are likely to cause

inconvenience, uneasiness, and dissatisfaction, discussions on overcoming such problems are also necessary.

- For terminals in the IP era, cooperation and competition with concerned parties in diverse fields will become important. The relationship to the network and the allocation of functions should be clarified from such aspects as reliability and safety, and cooperation should be achieved in fields such as platforms, interfaces, certification systems, and laws. An environment should thereby be developed where new services and business models can emerge in competition.
- It is important to hold discussions from the perspective of users as well as industrial theories to realize the provision of services users should want.
- We want to discuss what the essence of technical innovations is in order to bring about technical innovations and international competitiveness that can create a new international market and obtain a high share of the terminal market. We want to study what the technologies originating from Japan ought to be and how the market ought to be established from the perspective of how to enhance the international competitiveness of Japan and spread technologies to the world.

<Issues to be studied>

- Since technical innovations can easily be reflected in the field of terminals, discussions should be conducted with future technical innovations in mind. In this process, we want to discuss what the technology ought to be to make the most of the merits of IP while paying attention to the speed of IP technology development.
- When home networks are configured in the future, studies on technical regulations inside the UNI will also become important.
- After clarifying the allocation of functions between networks and terminals, it is necessary to think of what the functions of IP terminals should be in order to ensure openness.
- Items studied in this study group relate to various issues such as domestic industrial policies and consumer protection. Therefore, responsibilities to society are significant and studies on legal aspects are important. For example, if responsibilities on the network side are taken on the terminal side, it will become important to conduct discussions that are not only limited to specifying responsibilities but also involving specific methods to ensure social responsibilities, such as methods to indemnify for damages and others, are met. For example, making a framework to deal with complaints and disputes will be required.
- Considering safety, reliability, and consumer protection, it will become necessary to deal with social issues, such as personal information protection and privacy issues. Since technologies for safety and reliability are still in the development stage, a dynamic framework where active

thoughts and verification can be performed will be ideal instead of a static framework.

- With the diversification of terminals, studies will be necessary on what the institution ought to be to deal with various lifecycles.

<Method for studies>

- It will be a useful method to classify communications terminals, break down their functions first, and then study the issues based on the classification into the respective purposes of use, together with common issues. On the other hand, how to deal with threats incurred by an unexpected manner of use will also become an issue.
- Since terminals directly contact users, it will be important to disclose discussions and conclusions to users in a comprehensible manner. Priority is likely to be placed on the perspectives of service providers and terminal manufacturers in discussions, but we also want to place emphasis on users' intentions and purposes.

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