

**Study Group on Establishing Usage Environments for
Next-Generation Broadband Technology
Summary of Minutes (3rd Meeting)**

1. Date Friday, February 23, 2007 10 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.

2. Location Special Conference Room 1, 8th floor, Ministry of Internal Affairs and
 Communications

3. Attendees
 - (1) Committee members (honorifics omitted)
Takashi Ushikubo, Hiroyo Ogawa, Satoshi Kurokawa, Takashi Koike (substituting for Kazuhiko Wakamori), Takeyoshi Sasou, Makoto Tsubokawa, Masao Nakagawa (Vice-chair), Mitsutoshi Hatori (Chair), Tatsuaki Hamai, Ryuuei Fujiwara, Nobuhiro Horisaki, Tomokuni Matsumura, Mitsuji Matsumoto, Kenji Muraio (substitute for Takayuki Mabuchi), Hiroyuki Yashima, Yasuhiro Yamato, Tetsuya Yuge

 - (2) MIC representatives
Mori (Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau), Emura (Director, Advanced Network Division), Katagiri (Senior Promotion Officer, Advanced Network Division), Usuda (Deputy Director, Advanced Network Division), Sugiura (Director, Electromagnetic Environment Division)

4. Outline of proceedings
 - (1) Issues and their solutions regarding the next-generation broadband technology
Presentations were made on Reference 3-1 by Member Matsumoto, Reference 3-2 by Member Fujiwara, Reference 3-3 by Member Koike (substituting for Wakamori), and Reference 3-4 by Member Yamato. Then questions and answers were made mainly on the following.
 - In response to a question about the longitudinal range of IrDA, it was explained that 1 m is a goal as the use on PAN (Personal Area Network) is assumed but the limit is 30 cm in an experiment at the speed of 100 Mbps.

 - In response to a question about the mesh network in Reference 3-2 which is currently a hot topic in the US, it was explained that it could be roughly categorized into two main systems: one that combines the relay system and the access system and the other that separates both the systems.

The latter is used for increasing the speed.

- In response to a question about the mechanism of the backup line for optical radio in Reference 3-3, it was answered that not the narrower-band lines but wider-band lines are usually used but they will be switched in emergency. To a question asking if easy control can also be expected even in a configuration where the backup line is usually used, it was explained that it is easy so long as the network is being connected but it will be difficult to guarantee the operations of all applications (when the backup line with narrower band is used).

- In response to a question as to what is expected of PLC in Reference 3-4, it was explained that they expected PLC to be used outside as an approach line. To a question about the maintenance cost after the construction of the public network, it was explained that prefectures and municipalities are funding for maintenance but normal maintenance and upgrading of obsolete equipment installed may be not a big burden since their cost has been lowered. As for operation, it was explained that there are some concern only during typhoons.

(2) Usage environment toward the introduction of the broadband technology

- There was a request that demonstration experiments be implemented for examination of excellent promising technologies while taking cost into consideration.

(3) Others

- An advice was asked about the restricted installation of steel towers for cellular phones under the National Parks Law, and it was advised that negotiations with related sections/departments after consultation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications might be essential, since there are cases where resending antennas are installed on the top of mountains in National Parks.

[References distributed]

Reference 3-1	Development of the broadband technology in Waseda University
Reference 3-2	Initiative of NEC for the broadband technology
Reference 3-3	Practicality and issues of optical wireless
Reference 3-4	Status of the broadband in Ohita Prefecture
Reference 3-5	Establishment of usage environments toward the introduction of the broadband technology