Minute Summary of the 6th Meeting of the Study Group on Information Communication Technology for Realizing a Safe and Secure Society

1. Date and time

Monday, March 19, 2007, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

2. Location

Special Conference Room 1, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

3. Attendees

(Members, Honorifics omitted)

Tadao Saito (University of Tokyo), Yoshihisa Onishi (Japan Food Industry Center), Yujiro Ogawa (Fuji Tokoha University), Yasushi Horikawa (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), Fumio Takahata (Waseda University), Kazuo Hisa (Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology), Harue Maeno (Japan Association of Consumer Affairs Specialists), Yuichi Matsushima (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology), Yoshiteru Murosaki (National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster), Hiroyuki Morikawa (University of Tokyo)

(Observers)

Yu Kojima (Crisis Management and Security, Cabinet Secretariat), Nobuharu Isago (Cabinet Secretariat), Yutaka Tanaka (Fire and Disaster Management Agency), Yoshifumi Mizumoto (National Police Agency), Takehiro Tsubata (Ministry of Defense), Mina Kojima (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare), Mitsuo Hosoi (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport), Kenji Moribe (Japan Coast Guard), Toshio Yamada (Tokyo Electric Power Company), Hiroaki Kobayashi (Tokyo Gas), Kazuo Hagimoto (NTT Network Innovation Laboratory), Shinichi Nomoto (KDDI), Yutaka Nagai (JSAT), Masayuki Hirose (Space Communications Corporation), Kenkichi Tanioka (NHK Science and Technical Research Laboratories), Tadao Kurosaki (Nippon Television Network Corporation), Fumio Nunokawa (NEC Corporation), Toshitaka Tsuda (Fujitsu Laboratories), Yujiro Iizuka (Hitachi Ltd.), Yoshihiro Akita (Toshiba Corporation), Makoto Miwa (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd.), Katsutoshi Nakada (NEC TOSHIBA Space Systems), Yoshitomo Sakato (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation), Kazutoshi Sugimoto (IBM Japan), Hajime Toyoshima (Oki Electric Industry), Makoto Nagaoka (Japan Radio Co. Ltd.) (A total of 26 people)

(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Taniguchi (Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications), Matsumoto (Director-General for Technology Policy Coordination), Takeuchi (Director of Space

Communications Policy Division), Tahara (Director of Research and Development Office), Saito (Assistant, Space Communications Policy Division), Nakazato (Assistant, Research and Development Office), et al.

4. Agenda

(1) Responses to the invitation to submit opinions and how they will be incorporated (draft) / revised points of the Draft Report

(2) Compilation of the Final Report

(3) Others

5. Proceedings

(1) The Secretariat explained the responses to the invitation to submit opinions and how they will be incorporated (draft), the revised points of the Draft Report and the "short stories." The following comments were then made by members and others.

○ Whether or not information is available is a critical matter in the event of disaster. Communication of information to 90% of people is not adequate. As pointed out in an opinion submitted in response to the invitation, we must recognize that the system and the development of technology are required to ensure information can be communicated without fail to all people affected, including people with visual or hearing impairments, and we must promote this.

○ As for food, the issues of security and safety are intertwined and the management technology is undeveloped. Consequently, the future direction is to review education first and then establish the system.

○ The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is promoting the development of the fundamental technology; however, it takes time to put it into practical use. We want the private sector to advance the development of the fundamental technology for practical use. The research and development by the government is focused on high risk technology, which cannot be conducted by the private sector. Above all, the research and development of 50 meter class antennas is very risky but will become the world's leading technology when successfully completed. So we want the private sector to focus their resources and energy on that.

○ The NICT is extensively engaged in technology relating to security and safety. We want to further enhance our activities on the basis of this report. It is important to integrate the wisdom of industry, academia and government and strengthen their cooperation. So, we will cooperate in the establishment of a promotional body, the Industry-Academia-Government Forum.

○ The development of ICT has realized security and safety in ways that had not been done before. However, the system has not been established to the extent that such technology can

really be used for either providing or receiving disaster-related information. Therefore, it is important that the Industry-Academia-Government Forum conduct a study in the future.

○ The future vision for security and safety, the grand design of information and communication technology, and the correlation between them are comprehensibly summarized. We, the National Research Institute of Fire and Disaster, think it particularly important to establish a comprehensive framework, where research institutions have a mutual understanding of what they are doing first, and then cooperatively develop a system.

A system that can make good use of information on the field side is also strongly desired and studies have been conducted on how to provide and receive information to and from residents. However, since mutual cooperation beyond the respective scopes of the organizations is still insufficient in the field, the point about the importance of the broadband mobile communications system is a timely one.

○ Since public institutions, including, notably, the police force, have established a system with the minimum requirements needed for their respective administrative purposes, cooperation and sharing information are difficult because of each organization's existing system. The broadband mobile communications system is described in the report, and I hear that the committee studying the new use of VHF/UHF bands under Telecommunications Council is conducting a study on how to realize the system. We are very interested in these moves and will pay close attention to them.

○ The Japan Coast Guard is concerned about the fact that most of coastal fishery operations are conducted by a single elderly person on a small one-man boat and there are scores of accidents every year. Only large ships have a distress alert system and it is triggered only if the ship sinks. In this context, the "KIKU No.8" has good potential as a sure means of transmission using a simple and compact system and we would like to conduct a trial.

○ As for satellite mobile communications that can provide secure communications anytime and anywhere, it is important for mobile and other devices used in daily life to be backed up by such a reliable systems in case of emergency situations. As a satellite communications carrier, we are conducting thorough research into the establishment of such a system, with 2011 to 2012 as the target for the provision of practical services. It is important to allocate roles between the government and the private sector and to verify the marketability, including that of obtaining anchor customers.

○ It is important to enhance the functions of the disaster network. As a manufacturer, our policy is to proactively promote it and we are willing to provide substantial support to the establishment of the forum.

○ The direction of the research and development has been clarified though this study group. Based on this, as a developer and manufacturer of satellites, we will promote the research and

development of satellite technology. We will proactively engage in particular, for example, in the development of a satellite mounted with a 50 meter class antenna—a project which is accompanied by a high level of risk—as a member of the private sector backed by the government.

○ We are almost at the stage where we can begin specific discussions about satellite development. As a satellite developer and manufacturer, we will engage in the development of a new technology. We will particularly focus on a satellite mounted with a 50 meter class antenna for industrial use. We are also eager to participate in the forum.

○ With the development of ICT, what was previously impossible is becoming possible; however, the development of a stable and safe society is our most urgent task. Industrial development is also expected to have a significant effect. We will make our utmost efforts in the future.

(2) Following the above comments, the drafts of the “Incorporation of Opinions Submitted” and “Final Report” were approved and it was decided that they be compiled and released to the public after the meeting.

(3) Mr. Taniguchi, Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and Mr. Saito, the Chair, gave a closing speech, in which they expressed appreciation for the vigorous discussions held by the study group and outlined their expectations for specific future activities.

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