

Study Group on Approaches to Cable television in the 2010s
Summary of Minutes (12th Meeting)

1. Date:

Thursday, April 26, 2007, 1:00 to 1:50 p.m.

2. Location:

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

3. Attendees

(1) Committee members (honorifics omitted)

Tsunetoshi Ishibashi, Yoshihiro Oto, Fujio Koike, Shigeki Goto, Toshihiko Shimizu, Kazuteru Tagaya, Kazutoshi Terasaka, Masataka Nakamura, Tomohiro Fujisaki, Naoki Hayashi (substitute), Yuuji Fujimoto, Tadahisa Mori, Hirotsugu Yamaguchi, Ryuji Yamamoto

(2) MIC representatives

Suzuki (Director-General, Information and Communications Policy Bureau), Nakata (Deputy Director-General, Minister's Secretariat), Yoshida (Director of Broadcasting Policy Division), Okubo (Director of Broadcasting Technology Division), Takeda (Director, Satellite and International Broadcasting Division), Fujishima (Director, Regional Broadcasting Division), Honma (Senior Technology Planning Officer, Regional Broadcasting Division), Inoue (Deputy Director, Regional Broadcasting Division)

4. Outline of proceedings

(1) Call to order

(2) Discussions on the draft report from the Study Group on Approaches to Cable Television in the 2010s

(3) Closing

5. Major Discussions

The secretariat explained the draft report (document 12-1) from the Study Group on Approaches to Cable Television in the 2010s, after which the following question-and-answer session was conducted:

- The forecast of the market scale is described on page 62, but it is difficult to understand why scenarios I and IV have different numbers of subscriber households but lead to the same market scale.
 - It is assumed that the market scale is only influenced by multichannel broadcasting and does not affect the number of non-multichannel broadcasting subscriber households. In multichannel broadcasting, scenarios I and IV remain unchanged in the number of subscriber households, thus have the same market scale. Based on the indicated suggestion, however, we would like to adopt easy-to-understand expressions or chart quotations.
- As to the second and third items in Section 2, Chapter 3, it seems that the former indicates regional services and the latter shows literacy issues. These expressions are not sufficient, however, and specific efforts should be clarified.
- In Section 1 of Chapter 3, public nature is described. In addition, I would like to mention this matter in Section 2 as well
- I think that cable television business scales vary greatly from MOS to small companies, and the small business management mentioned in 3) on page 106 will become a great issue. On this matter, do you guide the businesses to the specified administrator system according to the Study Group's report?
 - This indicates an option.
- In chapter 5 (conclusions [policy recommendation]), the “research and development on the items required by cable television providers” mentioned on pages 110 and 111 is an issue to be examined and studied by the government. It is necessary to use the vitality of the private sector or to consider the matter to be an issue to be addressed by private businesses. Therefore, I would like you to add another description reflecting that the government backs up private-sector technological development.
 - We will consider the matter.
- I would like you to confirm that the viewpoint of public nature is fully reflected in the policy recommendation, and to describe small businesses not only from the viewpoint of management rationality, but also from the viewpoint of public nature called infrastructure for local residents.
- In an area with unfavorable conditions, the role of public cable television will increase more and more. As mentioned in the draft report, it is necessary to cooperate with neighboring communities in order to address terrestrial digital broadcasting and/or eliminate broadband-free regions.