

Study Group on Communications Terminals in IP Era
Draft Summary of Minutes (8th Meeting)

1. Date:

Tuesday, May 22, 2007, 2 p.m. to 4 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 (Chair); Mutsuya Asano (alt.: Yoshikazu Kobayashi); Ryuichi Inagaki; Hiroshi Ezaki; Masashi Oshima; Takemitsu Kunio (Alt: Naoki Sato); Mikio Goto (alt.: Akira Miwa); Hiroshi Kondo; Yoshiyuki Sukemune (alt.: Hirokazu Shimizu); Nobuko Takahashi; Miwako Doi; Takashi Hanazawa (Alt: Hiroshi Hamada); Toshiki Hayashi; Susumu Hirano (Acting Chair); Hiroshi Fujiwara; Akira Maeda (alt.: Takahiro Fujishiro); Yuichi Matsushima (alt. Tatsuya Yamazaki); Makoto Miwa (alt.: Hirotada Yaginuma); Akira Murakami; Toshio Yamada (alt.: Yoshiaki Kobayashi); Tetsuya Yuge; Fumio Watanabe

(2) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Mori, Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau; Sakurai, Director-General of the Telecommunications Business Department; 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) Presentations

(2) Others

5. Outline of proceedings

○ Main comments of members are as follows.

- Markets created by devices that have become communications terminals will include the market based on lighting. The visible light communications technology will turn illumination light into communications terminals.

- If the conventional terminals market, which will expand from now through 2010, shrinks in 2015, are there any concerns about friction due to the decline in the market, such as a labor issue?
- The total market including the market created by the evolution of conventional terminals and services continues to grow through 2015. The trial calculation has been done based on the change in the definition to the evolution type of terminals in accordance with the evolution of functions, as in the case where terminals that used to have only a connection function have the terminal cooperation function. The market will be shifting instead of declining.
- It is assumed that changes involving changes in quality, whereby, for example, connectivity and convenience are ensured, will occur from 2010 through 2015. Similar to version upgrades, products will be reborn as new ones.
- Some of the conventional terminals as well as the technologies, abilities, human resources, and production facilities used in their service market will become obsolete. Every time an innovation occurs, new ones will replace conventional products. Those with functions that improve connectivity and convenience and ensure safety and security will replace existing terminals.
- In the market created by the evolution of conventional terminals and services, the conventional terminals and services are assumed to have been replaced by those used in new forms that, for example, ensure ID portability and seamless connectivity. It is possible that terminals equipped with some of such functions will have been introduced as of 2010.
- Isn't the test calculation of the market size done based on supply side logic? The market size in 2015 is set at about 65 trillion yen. However, costs borne by individuals, households, and offices will have to be calculated from the demand side perspective.
- The expansion of the market is due to those that have not been included so far being newly defined to be included in the communications market. Therefore, no additional costs will be borne by households and others. The test calculation of the market size includes terminals as well as the services additionally involved. The part of costs for safety and security not provided by communications is not included, such as avoiding danger and bearing responsibility.

- Terminals for entertainment grow more than terminals for business support from 2010 through 2015. This is because games and others have been incorporated as of 2010, while services newly using communications terminals and/or provided using communications terminals are added to terminals for business support. As for broadcasting and communications, growth is slow because many of them have already been replaced as of 2010.

- The study will have to be made with recognition of the aspect that what should be realized by IP are services for important infrastructure as well as the aspect that the IP network functions as social infrastructure.

- To think of the issue of responsibility, it is necessary to understand that the IP network is social infrastructure. Since it is infrastructure, discussions will have to be conducted on a systematic basis concerning the areas where indirect responsibility should be taken and the functions should be ensured, limiting the social functions that are utilized.

- If minimizing the total accident costs and accident prevention costs is the principle of the Law of Torts, nothing will be done, resulting in no economic growth. How are the future income and the expected prosperity, which are considered to create innovation, incorporated into the consideration?

- As an example of minimizing the total accident costs and accident prevention costs, since measures for avoidance by pedestrians are less expensive in some cases, consider which measures are less expensive to avoid a traffic accident. This concept does not impede the expansion of innovation.

- The present issue is that, since rules are specified in detail to avoid certain matters, the challenge for new technology is limited within that scope. It will be necessary to create a place where a new challenge can be explored.

End