

Study Group on Current Status and Issues on a Fair Receiving Fee Structure  
Summary of Minutes (Seventh Meeting)

1. Date and Time: Friday, November 9, 2007, 16:00 to 17:15
2. Location: Special Conference Room 1 at MIC, 8th floor, No. 2 Joint Government Building
3. Attendees
  - (1) Members of the study group (honorifics omitted; in the order of the Japanese syllabary)  
Minoru Sugaya, Akio Torii, Kiyoshi Nakamura, Eriko Hida, Hirotaka Yamauchi, Haruko Yamashita (6 members)
  - (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC)  
Kawauchi (Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Yoshida (Director of Broadcasting Policy Division), Takeda (Director of Satellite and International Broadcasting Division), Nagashio (Senior Planning Officer of Broadcasting Policy Division), Osawa (Assistant Director of Broadcasting Policy Division)
4. Agenda
  - (1) Opening
  - (2) Items on the agenda
    - <1> "Draft first report" and "Opinions submitted in response to the solicitation of opinions and study group draft view of them"
    - <2> The future plan
    - <3> Others
  - (3) Closing
5. Outlines of Proceedings
  - (1) On "Draft first report" and "Opinions submitted in response to the solicitation of opinions and study group draft view of them"  
The secretariat explained "Draft first report" and "Opinions submitted in response to the solicitation of opinions and study group draft view of them" with reference to materials.  
The key questions and opinions voiced by the study group members were as follows:
    - The phrase "at present" has been added to page 10 of the revised paper. This addition might change the meaning from "the investigation on the contract ratio and payment ratio

has been conducted” to “the investigation has just started.”

- Why is the period for computation of the additional fee for the satellite contract on page 26 corrected from five years to six years?
  
- The study group should check whether the values currently provided by NHK are really fair, reliable, and transparent. The study group should be given the opportunity to review them later.
  
- The government is planning to review the ways it collects statistics on hotels and the like as a part of its campaign to attract tourists. NHK is requested to provide a wide range of options concerning hotels and inns on page 22.

After the “at present” phrase was deleted from page 10 of “Draft first report,” the members agreed to “Draft first report” and “Opinions submitted in response to the solicitation of opinions and study group draft view of them.” The members also approved leaving the confirmation of details of words and phrases to the chair.

## (2) Future plan

The secretariat explained the future plan with reference to materials, which the members agreed to.

The acting chair suggested that the study group should request NHK to attend the next and subsequent meetings if such does not pose any problem. The members agreed to the suggestion.

## (3) Others

The members expressed their impressions of the first report.

- The Broadcast Law was established more than half a century ago and seems somewhat outdated for the age of Web 2.0. Further discussion would be valuable.
  
- I expect much of the course of action hammered out by NHK. The study group has discussed fairness up to a point, but further discussion about justice would be needed.
  
- I am concerned about how NHK understands the discussion of the study group and the opinions of the general audience. I hope NHK will respond to those voices positively.

- The receiving fee structure seems to represent an age-old problem of the public utility charges. There is no rule for preventing an oligopoly situation, and it has become clear that the pricing of public goods is difficult in technical terms. Discussion should be continued in more detail while attention is paid to changes in techniques.
- The basic concept of the study group is that the current system and rule should be examined thoroughly and improved if necessary. The receiving fee for satellite broadcasting should be discussed further.