

Study Group on Development of Highly Skilled ICT Professionals—8th Meeting Summary of Minutes

1. Date and Time

Friday, May 23, 2008; 15:00–16:00

2. Location

Conference Room 901, MIC

3. Attendees (honorifics omitted)

(1) Study Group Members

Muraoka (chair), Ishijima (vice chair), Onishi (proxy: Kanzaki), Oba, Kakehi, Saito, Shigeki, Dairiki, Nakajima (proxy: Oshima), Harasawa

(2) Observers

Takahashi (Director, IT Office, Cabinet Office), Fujiwara (Director, Technical Education Division, Higher Education Bureau, MEXT) (proxy: Sakaguchi), Yahiro (Director, Information Services Industry Division, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, METI), Ueda (Manager, Information Group, Secretariat, Japan Business Federation)

(3) MIC Representatives

Nakata (Director-General for Policy Planning), Matsui (Deputy Director-General), Suzuki (Director, General Policy Division), Matsukawa (Director, IT Utilization and Human Resources Development Division), Hisatsune (Director, Innovation Strategy Division), Ohara (Deputy Director, IT Utilization and Human Resources Development Division)

4. Meeting Proceedings

(1) Opening

(2) Based on Document 8-1, the Secretariat explained “Report Draft for the Study Group on Development of Highly Skilled ICT Professionals,” and “The Study Group’s Perspective about Main Comments on the Report Draft for the Study Group on Development of Highly Skilled ICT Professionals” based on Document 8-2. The content of the discussion is summarized as follow.

(Regarding Document 8-1)

- Regarding the part at the top of page 11, “mechanism that makes it difficult to generate incentives for educational activities such as hiring criteria focusing on degrees and researches (number of papers), and employment terms,” our concern here was the heavy

focus on what is explained here for hiring people from industry, but the way it is written makes it sound as though it is for general university education.

- Employment terms include hiring, and I read it as research is the focus after being hired as teaching staff and moving up the career ladder.
- I understand about hiring teaching staff, but for employment terms, I wonder that kind of discussion is realistic.
- Basically, there has been a long history of downgrading the employment condition for those not writing papers. I think we should keep this sentence as it is.
- Regarding the graph on page 3, it says IT service market in India and China, but is market the correct word here? China and India, particularly India, are exporting countries, not domestic markets. I wonder if this word, market, refers to both domestic and foreign markets. Furthermore, the areas indicating the domestic markets of South Korea and Japan are shown in the same color as the areas for the overseas markets of India and China. This might cause misunderstanding.
- Page 20 has a line that says, “because some initiatives are already in place, relevant ministries and agencies shall mutually cooperate,” which has a very significant meaning. Please do not forget this line when involved in relevant activities in the future.

(Regarding Document 8-2)

- What will happen to this document?
- It will be made public.

(3) Regarding Document 8-1, “Report Draft for the Study Group on Development of Highly Skilled ICT Professionals,” the Secretariat explained the intent to make minor revisions based on the comments from this meeting to finalize it, and to make it public as a report at the earliest possible timing. The Secretariat also explained that Document 8-2, “The Study Group’s Perspective about Main Comments on the Report Draft for the Study Group on Development of Highly Skilled ICT Professionals,” would be made public without change.

(4) Meeting adjourned.