

## Summary of Minutes

### 1st Study Group Meeting on the Comprehensive Law System for Communication and Broadcasting

- 1 Date and Time: August 30 (Wed) 2006 18:00~19:40
- 2 Location: Special Conference Room 1, 8F, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
- 3 Attendees: Horibe (Chairman), Murai (Acting Chairman), Ando, Tagaya, Nakamura, Hasebe, Hamada, Funada, Murakami, Takenaka (Minister), Aritomi (Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination), Mori (Director-General of the Telecommunications Bureau), Terasaki (Director-General for Policy Planning), Nakada (Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Sakamoto (Manager of General Policy Division), Sato (Manager of Information Policy Division), Naito (Chief of Communication and Broadcasting Legislation Planning Office)

#### 4 Summary of proceedings

- (1) Minister Takenaka and Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination Aritomi both gave addresses at the opening of the meeting.
- (2) The draft Meeting Guideline (Document 1) proposed by the Secretariat was accepted. It was also accepted that the Study Group, as a general rule, be open to the public and that the documents used and the summary of minutes be posted on the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications website, provided that it shall not be open to the public if such might affect the rights and duties of the party (or parties) or any third party, as well as public interests, if it might hamper frank exchange of views among the members of the Study Group, and in other cases where the chairman admits it necessary.
- (3) Member Horibe was elected Chairman of the Group under the Opening Guideline. Also, the Chairman appointed member Murai Acting Chairman.
- (4) The Secretariat explained “Outline of Communication and Broadcasting” (Document 2) and “How to Develop Future Studies (draft)” (Document 3), followed by a free discussion among members.
- (5) Given below are the major opinions of members at the free discussion: it was determined to encourage discussions on items to be studied based on these opinions.

- Discussions must be made on how the existing law system should change regarding the three aspects of the amalgamation of transmission channels, terminals and business entities, and whether any distinction should be made as to the details of services between universal services and specialized services.
  - Amalgamation and interaction between broadband and content have been rapidly developing in Europe and Korea from the beginning of this year. If this will not take place in Japan, bottlenecked by the system, it is necessary to quickly take some measures as a digitally advanced nation to present a scheme that can provide a global model.
  - We should consider in depth the concept of the basic broadcasting. It will also be necessary to discuss administrative organizations such as the Radio Regulatory Council if we are to review the status of communication and broadcasting. In addition, we should listen to business operators as to what they are troubled with.
  - As for the concept of the basic broadcasting, we must think of the various aspects of the system mechanism based on the premise of maintaining its social function. It can be said that communication and broadcasting will be amalgamated from the technical aspect, but they may be redesigned if viewed from the aspect of a social system.
  - We must consider the sense in which indications such as the “Rigidities in the regulation against communication and broadcasting businesses” stated in the report of the previous meeting apply to our system. For example, we should discuss whether the competitiveness of Japanese communication and broadcasting is hampered by its system, whether basic broadcasters shall be more rigidly regulated while their level of freedom shall be increased, and whether the regulation of broadcasting tends to break up the market.
  - The system change from analog to full-scale digital will increase the level of technical freedom, which in turn will increase the diversity allowing us to think of competition and distribution of high-quality content. This will also change the viewpoint on the part of users that requires us to be ready for further discussion based on the change.
  - The law system shall be studied based on a total view of not only the border area of communication and broadcasting but also the ubiquitous networking and the network environment which is expected to be realized by around 2011. The viewpoint to actively create new services is also required. Review of the law system should be studied while thinking of how to secure reliability for the network world.
  - It is necessary to conduct discussions based on the technical characteristics of the radio spectrum as an infrastructure without placing excessive emphasis on business models.
- (6) The next meeting is scheduled to be held from 18:00 on September 28 (Thurs). The agenda is “Current status of and challenges regarding communication and broadcasting systems (tentative title)”.