

## Minute Summary of the 1st Meeting of the Study Group on Cable Television in the 2010's

### 1. Date and time:

February 22 (Wed), 2006 10:00 to 11:30

### 2. Location:

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

### 3. Attendees (Honorifics omitted)

#### (1) Members

Tsunetoshi Ishibashi, Takashi Otsuka, Yoshihiro Oto, Shigeki Goto, Toshihiko Shimizu, Kazuteru Tagaya, Tetsuro Takeoka, Kazutoshi Terasaka, Masataka Nakamura, Masafumi Mochizuki, Tadahisa Mori, Kei Morita, Hirotsugu Yamaguchi, Haruko Yamashita

#### (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

Shimizu (Director-General for Policy Planning), Kawano (Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Minami (Director of Broadcasting Policy Division), Ouchi (Senior Technology Planning Officer of Broadcasting Technology Division), Ando (Director of Terrestrial Broadcasting Division), Imabayashi (Director of Satellite and International Broadcasting Division), Okazaki (Director of Regional Broadcasting Division), Hatano (Senior Planning Officer of Regional Broadcasting Division), Honma (Senior Technology Planning Officer of Regional Broadcasting Division), Umemura (Assistant Director of Regional Broadcasting Division)

### 4. Proceedings

#### (1) Opening address

#### (2) Introduction of members and other attendees.

#### (3) Determination of the Meeting Guideline

#### (4) Election of the Chairman (Tagaya, a member, was elected Chairman.)

#### (5) Appointment of the Acting Chairman (Goto, a member, was appointed Acting Chairman)

#### (6) Publication of the Study Group

#### (7) Current status of cable television

#### (8) Issues to be studied

#### (9) Future plans

#### (10) Closing

### 5. Major discussions

After the Secretariat gave explanations on (7) to (9) above based on the documents, the following discussions were conducted:

○As for the items to be discussed, the draft prepared by the Secretariat appears to be acceptable. With the change in environment going on, we understand that cable television operators should keep pace with the change. They have a sense of danger that they must

evolve on the surge of changes.

○Cable television operators vary in scale. How we should think of this point in our study is important.

○To have a perspective for the 2010's, we must have a long-term foresight in regard to technical development.

○As for technical development, now that the Internet has developed to cover everything, things are not so simple. Recently, the controversial IP multicast still has technical problems.

○To proceed with the study, we wish to confirm whether we should take the viewpoint of placing the cable television industry under the Cable Television Service Law at the center, with the issues of broadband and copyright around it, or we should take the viewpoint of having a wider view of the entire cable television industry, including what cable television operators are not handling, without being unduly restricted by the Cable Television Service Law.

(With regard to this, the Chairman and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications answered that they would like to carry out the study based on a wider view of cable television services.)

○Some operators will provide cable television services using IP multicast under the Law Concerning Broadcasts on Communications Services and the Telecommunications Business Law in addition to the Cable Television Service Law. Cable television services in a wider sense may include both, but we should discuss this not by excluding either one, but by including both, since we cannot tell at present how both will take their territories in the future.

○We think that a big problem in considering the digitization of terrestrial broadcasting will be how to handle about eight million households that are watching television through shared receivers. It seems that we must discuss this point.

○Discussions are currently ongoing, including the standardization of home information appliances, and it is also necessary to discuss this from the viewpoint of how it should be related to the cable television systems.

○To cope with the digitization of terrestrial broadcasting, we also find questions as to whether cable television services will be placed as a supplement to the digital terrestrial broadcasting or whether they will be a tool for transmitting regional information.

(End)