Minute Summary of the 3rd Meeting of the Study Group on Cable Television in the 2010's

1. Date and time:
   April 21 (Fri), 2006 16:00 to 18:00

2. Location:
   Special Conference Room 1, 8F, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

3. Attendees
   (1) Members (Honorifics omitted)
   Tsunetoshi Ishibashi, Takashi Otsuka, Yoshihiro Oto, Shigeki Goto, Toshihiko Shimizu, Kazuteru Tagaya, Kazutoshi Terasaka, Masataka Nakamura, Tadahisa Mori, Kei Morita, Hirotsugu Yamaguchi, Haruko Yamashita, Ryuji Yamamoto, Naoki Hayashi (by proxy), Fujio Koike (by proxy)

   (2) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
   Shimizu (Director-General for Policy Planning), Kawano (Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Fukuoka (Director of General Affairs Division), Ando (Director of Terrestrial Broadcasting Division), Okubo (Director of Broadcasting Technology Division), Imabayashi (Director of Satellite and International Broadcasting Division), Yamane (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)
   (3) Exponents
   Noda (Director of Japan Cable Laboratory Division, Japan Cable and Telecommunications Association), Kozai (Chief of the CATV SBU S Business Unit, Video & Display Device Business Group, Panasonic AVC Networks Company, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), Kuzushima (Vice Senior Consultant, Information and Communication Consulting Department, Nomura Research Institute Ltd.)

4. Proceedings
   (1) Opening
   (2) Hearing from cable television operators
   Japan Cable Laboratory and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.
   (3) Situation of cable television services in overseas countries
   (4) Closing

5. Major discussions

After Japan Cable Laboratory explained the recent technical trend in Japan and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. explained the recent technical trend in the United States, questions and answers were exchanged as follows:

(1) Japan Cable Laboratory

○As for making cells smaller, how big should one cell be? Please tell us the current status and perspective for the future.

←We have been discussing making cells of 250 households or so and of 30 to 50 households in the future.

○You explained that connections will be made to the facilities of cellular phones. What sort of things are you planning specifically?

←We are considering transmitting the cellular phone signals directly through cable television facilities.

←(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) For example, in areas where no base stations for cellular phones are provided but where cable television facilities are available, we consider that it will be possible to use cable television facilities as the transmission channel for cellular phones.

○You explained that electric power lines will be used for communication. Do you have any specific plans for that?

←We have no specific plans now, but we expect it to be standardized in a system with little interference.

○For municipalities which are going to improve the cable television facilities in the future, which do you think is better, HFC or FTTH?

←The explanation we have just made is on the premises that they have existing facilities for coaxial cables. When newly establishing facilities in areas with dense receiving persons, we think FTTH is better.

(2) Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.

○CAS in Japan includes three types of systems. In this regard, is it also possible to share the hardware and download CAS in Japan just like in the United States?

←Yes.

○We hear that OCAP has been developed by various vendors. Will an STB with OCAP installed have compatibility?

←As for basic parts, it will have compatibility. However, that is not enough to make differentiation, thus how extendibility is developed is important.

○Is it possible to use STB with OCAP installed, of two or more vendors, under a cable television network?

←Yes.

○Will OCAP also be used for IP-system operators?

←An operator in the United States appears to use OCAP developed for cable television to perform IP broadcasting.

○You explained that the satellite broadcasting has been taking the share of cable televisions. Can we understand it as a matter of timing that the already digitized satellite broadcasting has taken the share in the portion where the digitization of cable television is delayed?

←I think that is a proper understanding. It appears that subscribers of cable television operators who are late in digitization have been moving to satellite broadcasting, which is providing diversified services after digitization.

○In that regard, is there any difference between single-family homes and multi-family homes? Is there also any difference between one cable television operator and another? 2

←I think some difference is occurring between two different cable television operators. Some operators may be more digitized while some may be late in becoming digitized. We have no information on your former question.

○Do you think the reason for the fact that cable television operators who were not active for CAS in the time of analog broadcasting have become active for CAS in the time of digital broadcasting is for content protection?

←In fact content holders will not offer their content unless the security for such is high. Accordingly, encryption, namely CAS, of content has become a matter of major importance.

Next, after the trend of overseas cable television markets was explained by the Secretariat (Nomura Research Institute Ltd.), questions & answers were exchanged as follows:

○We find no data given regarding the digitization in Korea. Are they providing digital services in Korea?

←Yes, digital services are being provided.

○As for the document on IPTV, is the IPTV mentioned here based on IP multi-cast or IP uni-cast?

←In the document, no difference is made in that regard.

←(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) We have not checked everything, but the document includes some services based on IP multi-cast.

○Has cable television existed as a measure against difficulty in receiving the terrestrial broadcasting in the UK and France?

←In the UK, yes. In France, we haven’t investigated yet.

○China may not be regarded as one single nation.

←China has some laws and regulations that cover all the country, while there are some that exist that differ largely by province. Also, for municipalities, the systems in China are quire different from those in Japan. They appear like companies when viewed from one aspect, which makes it hard for us to really understand them.

○Do you have any data on the dissemination status of cable television services by urban and rural areas in each country?

←We don't have data but cable television services are generally disseminated in urban areas in China and the regional disparity is now emerging as a problem.

○You told us that ADSL has spread widely in Europe. In the case of ADSL in Japan, the transmission rate slows down as the distance from the telephone station becomes greater. Is there any reason for ADSL being disseminated in other countries?

←The transmission rate of ADSL services in Europe is lower than that in Japan and services at a few Mbps are common. I think the users are patient in using the services at that rate.

End