

**“Study Group for the Development of Digitization and Broadcasting Policy”  
(15th Meeting) Summary of Minutes**

1. Date and Time:  
Friday, November 25, 2005 10:00-12:00
2. Location:  
Meeting Room 1101, MIC (11th floor, Central Joint Government Building No. 2)
3. Attendees:
  - (1) Study Group Members (Honorifics omitted; in the order of the Japanese syllabary)  
Norio Kumabe, Soichiro Kozuka, Hiroshi Shiono, Toshiyuki Shinohara, Kazuhiro Takei, Atsuko Nomura, Yasuo Hasebe, Junichi Hamada, Masayuki Funada, Haruko Yamashita (A total of 10 members)
  - (2) MIC  
Shimizu, Director-General for Policy Planning; Kono, Deputy Director-General; Fukuoka, Director, General Affairs Division, Information and Communications Policy Bureau; Okubo, Director, Broadcasting Technology Division; Ando, Director, Terrestrial Broadcasting Division; Imabayashi, Director, Satellite and International Broadcasting Division; Minami, Director, Broadcasting Policy Division; Nagashio, Senior Planning Officer, Broadcasting Policy Division; Yamamoto, Senior Advisor, Satellite and International Broadcasting Division

4. Proceedings:

(1) Opening

(2) Agenda

- 1) Group Management under the Pure Holding Company System
- 2) The Principle of Excluding Multiple Ownership of the Media
- 3) Other

(3) Closing

5. Proceedings Outline:

(1) Group Management under the Pure Holding Company System

Mr. Takei explained group management under the pure holding company system, focusing on what the holding company system is, the practical perspective in selecting the type of holding company, and the issues in legislative systems related to the holding company system.

- The current holding company system must not have been assumed when the Broadcast Law was established.
- Does any inconvenience occur regarding the restrictions on foreign capital, which apply to broadcasters, when a holding company is established? Are there any examples in fields other than broadcasting that can serve as reference?
- Is there any possibility that a holding company's interference with its subsidiary broadcaster will affect the freedom of program editing?
- Adopting the holding company system may have advantages in financing.
- Whether or not to impose disciplines, such as the principle of excluding multiple ownership of the media, may require some discussions.
- Clarification of the relationship between the holding company system and the current Radio Law from the

legislative perspective must be required.

(2) The Principle of Excluding Multiple Ownership of the Media

- Since not all BS broadcasting is currently providing general broadcasting, the difference between BS and CS may be disappearing compared to the time the current system was established.
- Listening to the opinions of the local broadcasters for BS digital broadcasting must be required.
- Whether we deem that the legislative facts have changed in quality since the current legislative system was established or that they have not is important. If deregulation is conducted while the legislative facts have not been changed, it may lead to a fundamental shift in the broadcasting policy.
- Thinking about securing local characteristics, including the issue of whether restrictions are so-called structural restrictions or restrictions on acts, is required.
- Regarding satellite broadcasting, it is true that the increased transmission capacity has relieved the scarcity of spectra. On the other hand, the number of program suppliers may have not increased much.

(3) Other

The secretariat explained the schedule for the next meeting.