

**“Study Group for the Development of Digitization and Broadcasting Policy”
(16th Meeting) Summary of Minutes**

1. Date and Time:

Friday, December 2, 2005 10:00-12:00

2. Location:

First Special Conference Room, MIC (8th 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, Ikufumi Niimi, Atsuko Nomura, Yasuo Hasebe, Junichi Hamada, Masayuki Funada, Jun Murai, Haruko Yamashita (A total of 12 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; Okazaki, Director, Regional 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) Report on Overseas Research
 - 2) The Principle of Excluding Multiple Ownership of the Media
 - 3) Other
- (3) Closing

5. Proceedings Outline:

Regarding the results of the overseas research conducted in November, Mr. Hasebe reported the current situation of the principle of excluding multiple ownership of the media in Europe, and Mr. Kozuka reported the current situation of the principle of excluding multiple ownership of the media in the United States.

Subsequently, discussion was carried out on the principle of excluding multiple ownership of the media. The outline of the discussion is as follows:

- Since it is better to unify the thinking of competition, we should add the concept of competition as a new agenda.
- France has decided to abolish the concept of “broadcasting” and impose discipline according to the characteristics of each media. What do you think about such manner of imposing restrictions? What do you think about the grounds for competition?
- When we study the issue of competition, we may need to consider a scheme to realize competition as well.
- Since it is impossible to allow unlimited entry to broadcasting, it may be preferable to have a competition-neutral system that encompasses potential competitors as much as possible.
- From the perspective of competition, the characteristics of Japan are that there are five companies, centralization has been in progress, and each of them have affiliates. We may need to discuss the issue of affiliates.
- The details of the business differ between broadcasters. On

which grounds should we advance our discussion?

- As for competition, it may be better to have discussions on divided issues, e.g., advertisers/broadcasters, program production/distribution, and viewer acquisition. We may also need to discuss how competition is beneficial to the public interest, since competition itself is not the goal.

6.

The secretariat explained the schedule for the next meeting.