

**“Study Group for the Development of Digitization and Broadcasting Policy”  
(21st Meeting) Summary of Minutes**

1. Date and Time:  
Wednesday, March 8, 2006 18:00-19:30
2. Location:  
Meeting Room 801, MIC (8th floor, Central Joint Government Building No. 2)
3. Attendees:
  - (1) Study Group Members (Honorifics omitted; in the order of the Japanese syllabary)  
Susumu Ito, Norio Kumabe, Hiroshi Shiono, Toshiyuki Shinohara, Kazuhiro Takei, Ikufumi Niimi, Atsuko Nomura, Mitsutoshi Hatori, Masayuki Funada (A total of 9 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
4. Proceedings:
  - (1) Opening
  - (2) Agenda
    - 1) The Principle of Excluding Multiple Ownership of the Media

2) Other

(3) Closing

5. Proceedings Outline:

(1) The Principle of Excluding Multiple Ownership of the Media  
Opinions were exchanged on the principle of excluding multiple ownership of the media. Key opinions were as follows:

- As an assumption of the study on the holding company system for broadcasting, what is the possible system that can actually be implemented?
- It may be required to consider not only terrestrial broadcasting, but also different media such as BS and CS.
- Since the actual situations have been rapidly changing, both in Japan and abroad, now may be a difficult time to review the system.
- Should the system require broadcasters to adopt the holding company system or allow them to decide whether they will adopt it? In the latter case, we may need to consider an equal footing for stations that become subsidiaries of holding companies and stations that do not.
- What do you think about the restrictions on major shareholders of broadcasting holding companies? What do you think about the restrictions on major shareholders of broadcasters?
- What do you think about the influence a broadcasting holding company holds over its affiliate broadcasters in relation to the freedom of program editing?
- What do you think about the number and the scope of broadcasters that a broadcasting holding company can have as subsidiaries? What do you think about the restrictions in other countries?
- There should be a systemic scheme to check the status concerning major shareholders.

- What do you think about establishing an organization to deliberate broadcasting programs or an obligation to retain programs in the case where a broadcasting holding company is established?

(2) Other

The secretariat explained the future direction.