Minute Summary of the 5th Meeting of the Study Group on the Future Vision of Satellite Broadcasting

1. Date and time:
   January 25 (Wed) 2006　10:00 to 12:00
2. Location:
   Special Conference Room 1 (8F), Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications
3. Attendees

   (1) Members (Honorifics omitted)
   Toru Arakawa, Tsunetoshi Ishibashi, Susumu Ito, Banjiro Uemura, Yoshihiro Oto, Junichi Kishigami, Fumio Takahata, Kazuo Takenaka, Akio Torii, Miki Nagata, Masayuki Funada, Tadaaki Maeda, Tadahisa Mori

   (2) Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications
   Shimizu (Director-General for Policy Planning), Kawano (Deputy Director-General of Minister's Secretariat), Okubo (Director of Broadcasting Technology Division), Okazaki (Director of Regional Broadcasting Division), Imabayashi (Director of Satellite and International Broadcasting Division), Yamamoto (Research Officer of Satellite and International Broadcasting Division), Osajima (Assistant Director of Satellite and International Broadcasting Division)

4. Proceedings

(1) Opening

(2) Comments on the future vision of services and technologies regarding satellite broadcasting
・ACCESS Co., Ltd.

(3) Points of contention regarding the future vision of satellite broadcasting

(4) Closing

5. Major discussions

The Secretariat explained the documents distributed on the table and the 4th meeting of the Study Group on the Future Vision of Satellite Broadcasting.

Comments were provided by ACCESS Co., Ltd. on the future vision of the services and technologies relating to satellite broadcasting:

- In the environment in which the ways of viewing television is being diversified, including large-volume recording media and one-segment services, and in which two or more infrastructures such as broadband are being improved, it seems that the time has come for Japan to propose new broadcasting service models to the world.
- Conventional broadcastings have spread as general media since technical constraints forced their infrastructures to develop, to a certain extent, under a vertically segmented administration. Now things are becoming more and more complicated, including installation of equipment, and thus we had better improve the convenience of users and at the same time select the way that will make most of the characteristics of each infrastructure.
- Compared with broadband services, satellite services can broadcast more efficiently to a wider area. It is also quite strong against disaster. Satellite broadcasting appears to keep on maintaining its significant role hereafter in the transmission of information via one single wave across the country, the penetration of multi-channel TV and pay-TV, the expansion of the content industry, the information gap between regions and higher picture quality.

- Users need a framework that allows them to enjoy all programs through operations that are as simple as possible. In addition, in the context that security is highly demanded on the Internet, broadcasters will be expected to also distribute their programs on the Internet to ensure that the public natures of their programs are systematically secured.

Major discussions on the points of contention regarding the future vision of satellite broadcasting are presented below:

- Since the current BS has defects in some elements such as controlling antennas, and since it may not always be operated in perfect condition when you borrow the Trapon owned by Japan Broadcasting Corporation, it seems necessary to launch the new BS ahead of the schedule in order to realize further stable operation.
- Some current receivers support only 16TS or less. If new channels will be put into use in the future, it is assumed that supporting more and more TS will be required and thus the receivers in question must be addressed somehow by the manufacturers concerned.
- Considering the leading role of satellite broadcasting, it seems that one of the future visions of satellite broadcasting is to promote the penetration of HDTV, which has the highest picture quality and transmits a large volume of information.
- As for the attitude on the supply side to demand that all viewers accept new services, it seems necessary to understand viewer needs concerning what they really expect from broadcasting.
- As for the East-Longitude 110 degrees CS broadcasting, some consider applying the Law Concerning Broadcast on Telecommunications Services as a system aiming at an early realization of HD following terrestrial and BS broadcasting. However, when considering the promotion of new broadcaster entry and the improvement of viewer convenience, it also seems necessary to consider adopting a new broadcasting system.
- When disciplining platform operators focused on multi-channel

services to ensure fairness and neutrality, it seems necessary to discuss such from the viewpoint that the discipline shall also be fairly applied to operators using cable television and IP as well as satellites.

(End)