Minute Summary of the 1st Meeting of the Study Group on Information Communication Technology for Realizing a Safe and Secure Society

1. Date and time: February 8 (Wed), 2006 15:00 to 17:00

2. Location: Special Conference Room 4, Mita Common Chamber

3. Attendees

(Members, Honorifics omitted) Tadao Saito, Yujiro Ogawa, Fumio Takahata, Ryosuke Shibazaki, Masaki Watanabe, Kazuo Hisa, Harue Maeno, Shingo Omori (proxy for Hiroyo Ogawa), Masuteru Murozaki

(Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) Matsumoto (Director-General for Technology Policy Coordination), Nishimoto (Director of Space Communications Policy Division), Takeuchi (Chief of Research and Development Office), Onaga (Assistant of Research and Development Office), Saito, et al

In addition to the above, about 30 people from manufacturers, business operators and related ministries and agencies participated as observers.

4. Agenda

(1) Explanation on the guideline for meeting and background of the investigation study group
(2) Election of the Chairperson and appointment of the Acting Chairperson
(3) Setting up of working groups
(4) Explanation on the status and issues to be addressed in the area of disaster control and risk management (Professor Ogawa)
(5) Explanation on the status and issues to be addressed in the area of food security and safety (Professor Hisa)
(6) Explanation on the status and issues to be addressed in the area of Support for the daily lives of children, elderly people and vulnerable people (Professor Watanabe)
(7) Questions and answers on the status and issues to be addressed for each of the areas being studied
(8) Others

5. Proceedings

The Secretariat explained the guideline for the meeting and the background of the study group meetings.

An explanation on setting up working groups was also given by the Secretariat, and the establishment of the following three working groups was approved; Working Group on Disaster Control and Risk Management (Leader: Professor Ogawa, Fuji Tokoha University); Working Group on Food Security and Safety (Professor Hisa, Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology); and Working Group on Support for Daily Lives of Children, Elderly People and Vulnerable People (Professor Watanabe, Tokyo Gakugei University).

The leader of each working group explained the status and issues to be addressed in the respective areas of disaster control and risk management; food security and safety; and support for daily lives of children, elderly people and vulnerable people. Questions and answers were then exchanged. The major comments are outlined below:

(Area of Disaster Control and Risk Management)

- Not only measures upon the emergence of disaster but also prevention and protection are important.
- It is essential to properly recognize the use of security control and information communication technology.
- Information communication is constantly advancing, and we should take measures based on the evolution of information communication technologies.
- It is important to understand the actual condition at disaster sites. For example, a 120 people died due to the heavy snow between December and February last winter, among which more than 80 were 65 or older. In many cases, elderly people in their 80's and 90's fell off the roof while shoveling snow. As such, it seems that technology per se is away from the needs of people. For example, while 6,000 to 7,000 people should die once an epicentral earthquake hits Tokyo, the only measure to prevent disaster is said to be a bucket brigade by citizens. It is also essential to examine whether the information communication currently being studied meets the safety need. We should place more emphasis on the recognition of where the needs are in a risky scene. Many needs can be found at various scenes.
- We should also utilize the technology to use low-tech and grass-root information.
- Advanced technologies shall be used in combination with low-tech.
- It is important to extract needs in various forms such as prevention, emergency and recovery.
- It is important to think of countermeasures based on the view of living citizens. The needs of consumers must be found at the site.
- It is difficult to socialize technologies. A social system must be developed that allows established technologies to function properly.

(Area of Food Security and Safety)

- We have to think of the system as a whole when thinking of food security and safety.
  - RFID contributes not only to the security and safety of food but also to the improved efficiency of SCM. It is difficult to realize technologies while we aim at just security and safety. We must think of the entire system of promoting efficiency.
- The number of food poisoning cases in Japan has statistically appeared small, but when using an equation for estimates that is used in the United States the number of fatalities in Japan will skyrocket to almost 1,500 times the figure. (Area of Support for Daily lives of Children, Elderly People and Vulnerable People)
- In addition to children and elderly people, we should also think of support for those who have difficulty in receiving information (people with visual and hearing disabilities).

(General)

- In our study, low-tech is very important, and thus we must discuss about how to use it. We must see high-tech from the viewpoint of how to support low-tech.
- Not only measures to be taken after the occurrence of disaster but also prevention and protection are critical. We must discuss them based on the level classified for each response.
- In the Science and Technology Basic Plan, the feasibility of research and development is also requested. Research and development should be promoted after ensuring feasible conditions for using ICT.
- Based on the above, we, as the Study Group, must compile the content that is useful for each

member and that will also be of help to business operators and manufacturers for their future activities.

End