This is a provisional translation of the draft version as of April, 2005. The final version shall be available from the MIC's website (http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_tsusin/eng/).

<Provisional Translation>

Charter on Ubiquitous Network Society (Draft)

Aiming for a comfortable society in which ICT can be used
"anytime, anywhere, by anything and anyone" in a safe and reliable way

Preamble

Since the 1990's, information communications technology (hereafter "ICT") has been rapidly growing and is becoming the motivating force for creating the future society that we all dream of. The influence of ICT on society, economy, lifestyle and culture is clear for all to see, and is the spur for economic growth in a wide variety of countries. This is encouraging efficiency of social systems and causing ability in talented individuals and corporations to blossom.

As we have moved into the 21st Century, we have seen the potential for ICT grow and we have seen an increase in value and application from a variety of digital networks such as the Internet, mobile networks and digital broadcasting, to various digital devices such as information appliances and electronic tags. The flow of the information revolution, by placing the focus on the users and making progress, has made it possible to realize the "ubiquitous network society" which is the next-generation ICT society by 2010.

The ubiquitous network society will enable simple connection "anytime, anywhere, anything, anyone" to the information communications network (hereafter "network"), and through the use of devices and services without complicated operation, and transmission and use of various kinds of data, a society it is possible to simply share all the knowledge and information collected thus far by mankind and give birth of new systems of value, in other words a society in which everyone can live in a convenient and happy way, will be possible. In the midst of the wide range of issues that face us in the 21st Century, such as the aging society and environmental problems, through the realization of the ubiquitous society, it will be possible to bring about a lively society with rich lifestyles in the spiritual and physical sense, and peaceful activities based on peace in society and the environment. This will also contribute to individual respect and empowerment.

In the ubiquitous society in which all people are connected to the network, in contrast to the society we have seen until now, it will be possible to exchange information freely going beyond the boundaries of time and distance, making a society in with smooth communication. As a result, it is necessary to secure safe distribution of information under a highly reliable

environment, with emphasis on the distribution of various types of information based on free opinions. Harmony of both sides is essential to the sound development of a new society. For this purpose, at the same time as all people fairly receiving the rights and benefits of the ubiquitous network society, it is necessary to form a social structure where these roles and responsibilities are fully understood and recognized.

This charter based on the above concept, is aimed at all people and aims to draw up the basic rules and shared understanding on how to use the latent powers of ICT as a valid stage for realizing the ubiquitous network society. We are sure that the execution of the policies and actions corresponding to this charter, through the construction of a shared system for regional society and international society and an effective link between related parties, holds the key to the sound development of the global ubiquitous network society.

Chapter 1　Free distribution of a variety of information

Article 1　Rights concerning the sending and receiving of information

（network access）

1．The ability of all people to freely and easily access the network anytime, anywhere and obtain and share information and knowledge is the key element of the ubiquitous network society.

（Access to public information）

2．The sharing of generally publicized information and knowledge is essential for the development of the ubiquitous network society, and it should be possible for all people accessing the network to use this information and knowledge.

（Transmission of information via the network）

3．Provided it is not against the public interest, we should ensure that all people can freely and easily connect to the network to transmit and express themselves via information.

（Eliminating the geographical digital divide）

4．In order for all people to be able to access the network regardless of geographical requirements, it is necessary to strive to eliminate the geographical digital divide.

Article 2　Diversity of Information Content

（Ensuring diversity of content）

1．Social and cultural diversity is an asset common to mankind, and it is to necessary to positively encourage the protection of unique culture, tradition and language in the content distributed on the network (information content).

（Secure mutual operability of access methods）

2．By ensuring the most mutually interoperable access method as possible, Independent of media, format or device etc. consider all people including those users in the old-fashioned or low speed connection environments when promoting creative activities in wide-ranging

content.

（**Enriched freely usable content**）

3．We should store high-quality software such as highly convenient open source software and other freely usable software that is abundant in both quality and quantity, and promote its an environment in which it can be used.

（**Promote publication of information by public institutions**）

4．Government and regional administrative institutions, in regard to the information it owns, should take the lead in publicizing and raising transparency of such information.

Article 3　Information in the Economic Society

（**Promoting the use of ICT**）

1．It is vital to bring out, as much as possible, the possibilities of ICT, and through the promotion of its use in a wide range of areas, and plan for increased efficiency of existing systems and create new companies and services.

（**Sound development of e-Commerce**）

2．We should promote wide range of information in economic and social activities in harmony with the establishment and use of ICT foundations. In addition, we should establish a sound, ordered environment in which it will be possible to conduct e-commerce trades with as much freedom as actual trades.

（**Promoting information in the public fields**）

3．It is important to promote information in public fields, such as administrative services, education, medicine and law etc, and complementing this by using information by private enterprise as a tow.

（**Establishing foundations to raise convenience of users**）

4．As a foundation for realizing the ubiquitous network society, we should place attention on the convenience of the users and through interconnection with different networks and devices, establish an easy-to-use environment.

Article 4　Ability to Use Information （literacy）

（**Equality in receiving benefits of ICT**）

1．In order for all people to be able to receive the benefits brought about by ICT, it is necessary to secure opportunities to improve ability for using ICT, so that the required technical skill, knowledge and manners can be learned.

（**Nurturing experts**）

2．It is necessary to strive to nurture experts in the fields related to the ICT fields and improve and promote the knowledge, skill and quality to develop the ubiquitous network society.

（**Securing the universal design**）

3．In order to encourage everyone, including the elderly and the handicapped, to participate in society in a lively way, we should strive to secure a universal design for developing and

providing devices and services, and receive the required support for responding to all individual needs. Furthermore, we should strive to improve safe and ideal operability in order that devices and services can be used easily without requiring advanced knowledge and operation in regard to ICT.

（**Use of easy-to-understand words and expressions**）

4．We should strive to avoid using difficult to understand specialist vocabulary and foreign words, and use easy-to-understand words and expressions.

Chapter 2　Safe and Reliable Information Distribution

Article 5　Privacy

（**Independence from the network**）

1．The avoidance of all people of connecting to the network for connections not designed for the network and avoidance of spreading unwanted information and knowledge is an important element in the ubiquitous network society.

（**Protection of personal information**）

2．In order to all people to connect to the network in a reliable way, it is necessary for individual information to be protected to a greater extent, such as in preventing leaking of information related to personal attributes and usage history, and illegal usage.

（**Securing privacy**）

3．In order to harmonize between secrecy of communications and freedom of expression, it is necessary to avoid the transmission of information that invades the rights of portrait and privacy to a large number of people and be able to deal with these cases in a swift manner.

（**Securing appropriate photographing**）

4．In relation to the placement and use of photography equipment, we should consider its usage and strive for appropriate and careful operation so that the facts of the photographing are clear to anyone.

Article 6　Information Security

（**Securing safety on the network**）

1．In the ubiquitous network society, in which all things mutually connect and there are strong wave effects, we must strive to build and maintain a safe and robust network against cyber-terrorism and large-scale emergencies etc.

（**Avoidance of inappropriate use**）

2．All people using the network should be aware of the impact on society of inappropriate use of the network, such as computer viruses and spam e-mail, and we must strive to avoid this use and prevent expansion of this damage.

（**Developing security technology**）

3. It is necessary to promote the development of digital authentication, digital signatures, encryption and other security technology, and establish a structure where safety can be simply maintained without advanced security knowledge.

Article 7　Intellectual Property

（**Protection rights of the author**）

1. With the development of digitalization and the network becoming more and more simple to use, the drastic reduction in the costs of reproduction and distributing information, mean that anyone can obtain content easily. On the other hand, however, the potential for violating the rights of the owner are greatly increased. In order to encourage the sound development of the ubiquitous society, it is necessary both plan for the convenience of the user and establish a framework for respecting ownership rights.

（**Protecting rights through technology**）

2. Through the technical management of content reproduction and distribution as rights of the owner are respected, it is necessary to promote the development and spread of technology for both securing convenience of the user and stoking the enthusiasm of the creator, and at the same time carefully consider the treatment of technology that induces ownership rights to be invaded.

Article 8　Information Morality

（**Establishing information morality**）

1. All people should strive to take appropriate preventative measures against the misuse of ICT linked to discrimination, crime, violence and child abuse etc. and work to establish information morality that will contribute to the strengthening of public welfare and social unity.

（**Avoidance of illegal and harmful content etc.**）

2. We must strive, in addition to refraining from inappropriate use of the network, such as the transmission of illegal and harmful content likely to cause defamation of character etc, to avoid interception of illegal and harmful content transmitted by a third party and aiding spread of inappropriate use of the network.

（**Science and technology morality**）

3. Technicians in ICT fields should be conscious that the technology in which they deal have great potential for influencing the safety of people and society, and should follow their consciences when conducting research and development, working to secure safety and reliability of technology. If, while conducting research and development, issues that impact social safety arise, in principle they should make public the facts related to this straight away.

（**Morality of content creators**）

４. Content creators must also be aware of the great impact that the content they distribute on the network has on society, and follow their conscience when creating content, to secure the safety and reliability of content.

Chapter 3　Constructing New Social Foundations

Article 9　Harmony between Actual Society and Cyber-Society

（**Establishment of Flexible System to Adapt to Cyber-Society**）

１. In order to avoid hindering the construction of a legal system for social information, it is necessary to strive to establish a flexible system that places emphasis on everyone being able to use in a safe and secure way. Based on the awareness that despite the ubiquitous network society being different from both the actual society and the cyber-society it has strong ties with both, it is necessary to create harmony between the actual society and cyber society, in order to establish an environment in which the maximum benefits from the cyber society can be received.

（**Establishment of a new social code**）

２. With the emergence of new technologies and services, strive for the smooth realization of a new code based on social conformance with manners and rules related to the use of ICT as required, which was not possible to adapt to under the previous framework.

（**Consideration of a Circular Society**）

３. Through the use of ICT, by embedding mechanisms to alleviate social burden within the social system and encouraging recycling and energy conservation, keep to a minimum any negative impact on the environment and human body and strive to realize a continual, circular society.

（**Realization of appropriate policies at appropriate times**）

４. Clarify policy objectives and period in which to realize them, in addition to overall optimization from a general viewpoint, we should review policy flexibility through objective feedback.

Article 10　Regional and International Harmonious and Cooperative Systems

（**Participation of various bodies in policy proposals**）

１. Through the use of ICT, a diverse range of bodies across industry, government and academia, such as government, local government, industry, universities, civilian society and NPOs etc. can contribute to the policy proposal process, and through the building of cooperative structures from a wide range of angles, we should place emphasis on tackling issues.

（**Harmonious and Cooperative Structures for Regional Society**）

２. Through the process of accomplishing processes, it is important for ICT to be used to fully grasp the diverse conditions and needs of regional society, form harmonious and

cooperative structures with related parties and encourage nationwide participation.

（**Harmonious and Cooperative Structures in International Society**）

3．The ubiquitous network society has an essentially global nature which requires effective cooperation from the international society. It is desirable for all of the people throughout the world to be able to access the network, and by receiving the benefits of realizing the ubiquitous network society, work to increase mutual understanding within their own country and adopt a linked approach throughout the world based on this charter.