

Section 3

● Advancement of Information and Communications Network

1 Development and promotion of network infrastructures

(1) Efforts for the diffusion of IPv6

Based on “the e-Japan Strategy” that states the transition to the IPv6, MIC has been making efforts for three years from fiscal 2003 to solve the issues associated with network construction and operations in order to facilitate smooth transition to the IPv6 and to ensure interoperability of various equipment and services. At the same time, it has conducted empirical tests to inspect the IPv6 application that is attractive to local governments, communities and homes.

“The IT New Reform Strategy” adopted in January 2006 by the IT Strategy Headquarters stipulates that efforts shall be made to transfer the systems to IPv6 in principle by fiscal 2008 in line with the renewal of information and communications equipment by each government agency toward the realization of the world’s most convenient and effective e-Government. It is expected that this will contribute to the international dissemination of the IPv6.

(2) Study Group on Telecommunications Numbers in the IP Era

MIC had held “the Study Group on Telecommunications Numbers in the IP Era” since December 2004 to discuss measures for available telecommunications numbers that may be used up due to the changes in the business environment surrounding fixed phone services and required role of telecommunications numbers. The Study Group issued the first report in August 2005.

The Study Group is continuing deliberations on the following issues: availability of numbers for new services such as FMC (Fixed-Mobile Convergence) which converges fixed communications and mobile communications; the use of three-digit 1XY telecommunications numbers for administrative inquiries such as call centers; issues related to competition policies on the use of three-digit 1XY (116) numbers for the application for new services including broadband services; and forwarding calls to the Internet phones. The Study Group will compile the second report regarding these issues.

(3) Promotion of development of the world’s most advanced broadband networks

Based on the u-Japan Policy in which the major objective is to lead the world as the most advanced ICT nation in 2010, the Final Report of “the Study Group on

the Development of Nationwide-balanced Broadband Infrastructures” (released in July 2005) mentions an elimination of the digital divide and the development of the world’s most advanced broadband networks as the purposes of developing the next generation broadband environment. It also advocates “the Next Generation Broadband Strategy 2010” which includes necessary measures toward 2010.

Also in “the FY 2006 ICT Policy Principles,” the objective is set “to offer more than 90% household coverage rate for the Ultra-high-speed Interactive Broadband Networks (UIBN) with transfer rates for 30Mbps or higher, with a view to strengthening international competitiveness. The government then has been promoting the installation of optic fibers to eliminate zero-broadband regions by 2010 based on “the IT New Reform Strategy” (decision by the IT Strategy Headquarters, January 2006).

Based on these facts, MIC has extended the valid date of the Provisional Measures Law for Telecommunications Infrastructure Improvement (May 31, 2006) by five years to May 31, 2011, in order to continue to implement measures to promote the development of information and communications infrastructures.

(4) Management of IP address and domain names

The IP address system in Japan is such that end users use the ones which are allocated to the Internet service providers by the Japan Network Information Center (JPNIC).

The domain name “.jp” is managed by the Japan Registry Services and can be acquired through registered operators such as the Internet service providers 811,000 “.jp” domain names were registered as of April 1, 2006. Of these, “.co.jp” for general companies were registered 288,000 names, “.jp” which allows to use optional alphanumeric codes were registered 341,000 names, and “.jp” which allows to be registered in Japanese characters (e.g. 総務省.jp) were registered 119,000.

(5) Efforts toward the transition to IP-based networks

MIC consulted the Information and Communications Council on the technical requirements for telecommunications equipment in line with IP networks in October 2005. The Council is scheduled to compile a report in October 2006 through the deliberations.

Under the recognition of the importance of a flagship to promote industry-academia-government collaboration, “the Next Generation IP Network Promotion Forum”

was established in December 2005, comprising 211 members including universities, telecommunications carriers, manufacturers, and application production companies, which was led by the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology.

(6) Mobile communications systems

With the aim of realizing the practical application of the so-called fourth generation mobile telecommunications systems around 2010, following the third generation mobile telecommunications system (IMT-2000: International Mobile Telecommunications-2000), MIC actively promotes efforts for R&D and international standardization with industry-academia-government cooperation.

(7) Ultra Wide Band (UWB) radio systems

The Information and Communications Council conducted deliberations on the technical requirements for the UWB radio systems, while taking account of usage environment, impact analysis to other radiocommunication services needs of users, and international trends. As a result, the report was compiled partially in March 2006 on the technical requirements for the UWB radio systems using microwave bands for the purpose of communications. Based on the report, MIC revised the related ordinances in August 2006.

(8) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

The Information and Communications Council conducted deliberations continuously on technical requirements for frequency sharing technologies (carrier sense, transmission time control) which enables an effective use of frequencies and for a low-power passive tag system using 950MHz band (952-955MHz) which is used in relatively small areas and can be widely used by general users without requiring licenses. Then the Council compiled the report partially on October 12, 2005, followed by promulgation and enforcement of the revised related ordinances on January 25, 2006. A high-power passive tag system using 950MHz band has been equipped with frequency sharing technologies, which now satisfies the requirements as a registered station. Thus, institutional revision to deal with the system as a registered station has been carried out concurrently.

(9) Wireless access system: realization of ultra high-speed wireless LAN

The 5GHz band frequency was newly allocated for wireless LAN internationally at the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) in July 2003. In response, MIC introduced 5.25-5.35 MHz bands in May 2005, in addition to the existing 5.15-5.25GHz bands for wireless LAN.

(10) Promotion of the ITS (Intelligent Transportation System)

As the second stage for the ITS which is expected to

be greatly advanced in the near future, MIC has been making efforts to implement measures for promotion, advancement, R&D, and standardization of ITS, while working with industry and academia, including related private organizations and government agencies. The objectives of these measures are to establish a ubiquitous environment in the ITS field and to realize safe and secure road and transport society where anyone can move comfortably and freely.

2 Promoting the broadcasting advancement

(1) Promoting the transition to the digital terrestrial broadcasting

Following CS broadcasting, BS broadcasting and cable television broadcasting, terrestrial digital TV broadcasting was launched in three largest metropolitan areas, Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka, in December 2003. Terrestrial digital TV broadcasting will gradually expand its coverage area. It is scheduled to start in every prefectural capital by the end of 2006, and analogue TV broadcasting will be terminated and digitization will be completed in 2011.

To surely implement a nationwide launch of digital terrestrial broadcasting by 2006 and complete digitization by 2011, examinations were made at “the Study Group on the Promotion of Terrestrial Digital Broadcasting,” which is the Information and Communications Policy Group of the Information and Communications Council, and the second interim report was compiled on July 29, 2005.

Toward a smooth transition to the digital broadcasting and the development of broadcasting that could accurately meet viewers’ needs, MIC set up “the Study Group for the Development of Digitization and Broadcasting Policy” in July 2004 to conduct deliberations on the progress of digitization, the development of new broadcasting services, public broadcasting in the digital broadcasting era, and broadcasting contents in the digital era. The Study Group issued the interim report in August 2005.

(2) Responding to environmental changes surrounding satellite broadcasting

Based on the report issued in February 2005 by “the Study Group on Protecting Personal Information in the Field of Broadcasting and Satellite Broadcasting in the IT Era,” MIC partially amended the Enforcement Regulation of Law concerning Broadcast on Telecommunications Services in June 2005 to widen the scope of the regulation and include the broadcasting using left-hand circular polarization at the east longitude 110 degrees wide band communication satellite.

Furthermore, with a view to the future direction of satellite broadcasting, MIC has convened “the Study Group on the Future Direction of Satellite Broadcasting” since October 2005 to discuss policies to improve users’

benefits and widely examine international broadcasting policy in the prospect of future satellite broadcasting.

(3) Advancement of cable television

The environment surrounding cable television has drastically changed in recent years, including the digitization of broadcasting and intensifying competition with telecommunications carriers due to the development of broadband networks, and problems are increasingly recognized.

Thus, in February 2006, MIC set up “the Study Group on Cable TV in the 2010s” to conduct discussions regarding perspectives on the cable television in the 2010s, future challenges, and comprehensive measures for the development of cable television, and the report is scheduled to be finalized by March 2007.

Section 4

● Establishment of a Safe and Secure Network

1 Consumer administration in relation to telecommunications services

(1) Efforts to counter illegal and harmful information on the Internet

While the rapid diffusion of Internet allows provision of various telecommunications services, the circulation of information that infringes the rights of others has increased. As an effort to counter this situation, “the Guideline for Defamation/Privacy based on the law concerning the Liability of Internet Service Providers” which had been compiled by “the Council on the Guidelines for the law concerning the Liability of Internet Service Providers” which comprised industry associations and experts was revised in October 2004. The Council also adopted “the Guideline for Trademark based on the law concerning the Liability of Internet Service Providers” in July 2005 which stipulates specific cases of trademark infringement, integrated procedures/formats of deletion requests to the hosting providers, and deletion requests via credibility confirmation organizations. In September of the same year, one credibility confirmation organization was accredited based on the Guidelines.

MIC had held “the Study Group on measures against Illegal and Harmful Information on the Internet” which comprised experts and telecommunication business associations since August 2005 to deliberate on voluntary efforts by hosting providers against illegal and harmful

information on the Internet, and systems and measures to effectively support such efforts. The middle report was released in January 2006.

(2) Measures against spam and phishing

Based on the Final Report of “the Study Group on a Framework to handle Spam,” MIC has been taking comprehensive measures against e-mails delivered to mobile phones and PCs for advertisement and commercial purposes without consent of receivers (so-called “spam”). These measures include (1) effective law enforcement by Government; (2) self-regulation by the private sector; (3) developing technologies; (4) enhancing awareness and (5) seeking international cooperation.

Against phishing which illicitly obtains personal information by luring mail receivers to access a fake Web site by disguising itself as a financial institution, MIC has held regularly “Contact Group to Promote Countermeasures Against Phishing” since January 2005 in cooperation with the Internet service providers (ISP) to share information and to deliberate on effective measures.

(3) Measures against fraud

As a result of efforts to eliminate the anonymity of prepaid mobile phones which are often used for criminal purposes, mobile carriers have completed the verification of the subscribers of all prepaid mobile phones currently in operation by 31 March 2006 and have also ter-