

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-

minated their services to approximately 300,000 lines used by unknown subscribers.

2 Promotion of measures for information security and privacy protection

(1) Information security measures of the government

The government has been promoting information security measures by establishing “the National Information Security Center (NISC)” in the Cabinet Secretariat in April 2005 as the core organization to implement information security measures, and “the Information Security Policy Council” (chairman: Cabinet Secretary) in the IT Strategic Headquarters in May 2005.

(2) Realization of an environment for safe and secure use of the Internet

An improvement in information security is essential to promote ICT society in the future. Based on the efforts in information security measures of the government and the discussions at “the Security Working Group of the Study Group on Next Generation IP Infrastructure” which was established in December 2004, MIC has been making efforts to reinforce information security measures from three viewpoints: “network”, “users”, and “facilities”.

(3) Ensuring important communications in the telecommunications services

There are growing needs to develop an effective system to ensure important communications in cases of emergency such as disasters in cooperation between the government, telecommunications carriers, and industry in order to respond to the development of telecommunications services and diversification in the usage patterns along with the diffusion of mobile and IP phones. Responding to such facts, MIC had held “the Study Group for Ensuring Important Telecommunications in the Telecommunications Business” since April 2002, and the Study Group compiled a report in July 2003. Based on the recommendations in the report, subsequent major efforts by mobile carriers were released in January 2005 and in December of the same year.

(4) Promotion of safety evaluation and advancement of cryptographic technology

The CRYPTREC (Cryptography Research and Evaluation Committee) by study groups co-hosted by MIC and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, continues to monitor e-government recommended ciphers, and to study, research, and set standards to ensure the safety and reliability of the e-government recommended ciphers in fiscal 2006. In addition, it promotes discussions on response procedures and implementation systems in the case that e-government recommended ciphers become uncertain.

(5) Protection of personal information in the information and communication field

With respect to protection of personal information in the all areas comprehensively, the Act on the Protection of Personal Information was promulgated in May 2003 and has been fully enforced since April 2005. In order to strictly implement appropriate handling of personal information, in August 2004, MIC revised again “Guidelines on the Protection of Personal Information in the Telecommunications Business” which had been compiled in 1991 and revised in 1998. The Ministry also formulated “the Guidelines concerning Protection of Personal Information of Broadcasting Receiver”. These guidelines have been applied since April 2005.

3 Efforts to ensure the reliability of electronic data

In order to further promote socio-economic activities using the network such as e-commerce by ensuring a smooth use environment for electronic signatures, “the Act on Electric Signatures and Certification Services” was enforced in April 2001. By the Law, optional certification systems by the government were introduced to authentication services which satisfy certain standards.

As of the end of fiscal 2005, 19 specific authentication services had been accredited.

4 Development of radio use environment

(1) Protection of the human body from health effects from radio wave exposure

The former Telecommunication Technology Council compiled “Radio-Radiation Protection Guidelines” to create an environment where people in Japan can use radio frequencies safely and securely and introduced regulations based on the Guidelines, which included basic principles to judge whether the radio frequencies were within a safe range, not causing undesirable effects on human health, and reference levels based on the principles.

(2) Measures against unnecessary radio frequencies

MIC has established the CISPR Committee within the Information and Communications Council to contribute to formulation of international standards of the Comité International Spécial des Perturbations Radioélectriques (CISPR) and has formulated national standards, while seeking consistency with the international standards of the CISPR. In fiscal 2005, the national standards were set forth to add the limits and methods of measurement of radio disturbance characteristics of electrical lighting and similar equipment in the frequency range 150kHz or below.

(3) Appropriate monitoring and control of radio frequencies

With the expansion of radio usage, inappropriate use of radio frequencies by unlicensed radio stations has increased and much harmful interference to licensed radio stations have been reported. In order to conduct effective detection of unlicensed radio stations, the government has been developing the Detect Unlicensed Radio Stations (DEURAS) since 1993.

Section 5

Promotion of Content Distribution and Efforts to Promote Creation and Fostering of Information and Communications Venture Businesses

1 Promoting production, distribution and preservation of content

(1) Promoting production and distribution of broadband content

To promote the distribution of multiple content in the ubiquitous network era, efforts have been made since fiscal 2005 to develop and verify the technology for the use of multiple content in order to realize appropriate protection of rights associated with content at every level of usage in personal communications networks, while ensuring high flexibility and convenience which allow unrestricted and seamless mobility between various equipment as well as between audiovisual services regardless of the type of equipment or the place.

Also, with respect to super-high resolution images (next generation visual contents), research and development activities have been undertaken since fiscal 2005 to develop the technology to transmit real-time images everywhere around the country, while ensuring security and production support technologies which allow divisional cooperation in editing by uncompressed materials which cause no delays in remote areas or quality degradation.

(2) Promoting advanced use of digital archives

The digital archive is a collective term for a system to accumulate and preserve digital content, and has increasingly become part of the important infrastructure to establish a cycle of creation and accumulation/conservation, utilization and further creation. MIC, in response, has been making efforts to promote the creation of archives of website information and network use of the archives.

(3) Efforts to promote production and distribution of high quality content

In response to the proliferation of illegal and harmful information on the Internet, MIC has been conducting surveys and studies on a framework under which webmasters themselves would assure the safety of the site since fiscal 2004. Discussions have been held about the practical use of such a framework at the Council for the Promotion of Contents Advice Mark (tentative) (Secretariat: the Association of Media in Digital) consisting of academic intellectuals, parents and guardians, content producers, and Internet service providers.

In fiscal 2005, empirical tests were performed, in cooperation with the said Council on the system in which information senders (webmasters) would self-rate the expression level of content and to place a mark on the website after screening by a third party.

Efforts will continue to support the private sector in ensuring the safe and secure use of Internet content in fiscal 2006 and onwards.

2 Development of an environment to promote creation and fostering of information and communications venture businesses

As measures to support promotion of creation and fostering of information and communications venture businesses, MIC established the Information and Communications Venture Exchange Network, a membership-based society for large corporations and venture capital (supporters) and venture companies. The Ministry also established a forum to deliver business plans, providing opportunities for technical collaboration, financial assistance, business cooperation, people to