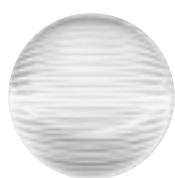Strategy. Hence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications created the "School LAN Introduction Manual", showing a model plan to develop a school network, and published it on its website, in order to support introduction of school LAN, which is an ICT infrastructure at schools.

## 9. Promotion of Telework

Working with the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications started "Demonstration experiments on telework model system (Shared use model system enabling a safe and secure introduction of telework")" to develop an environ-

ment for telework of private sectors. In addition, according to the tax reform in fiscal 2007, the Ministry established the "Tax system for development of telework environment", which provides investment incentives to the companies introducing telework facilities.

The Ministry is also implementing a wide range of measures such as diffusion and education activities with industry-academia-government cooperation ("Telework Promotion Forum"), and creation of a "Telework Introduction and Operation Guide Book" with the concerned ministries (Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Land, Infrastructure and Transportation Ministry).

# Section 5
## Promotion of Research and Development

### 1. New research and development strategy toward a ubiquitous society

Japan has developed the world's most advanced broadband environment and achieved the status of the world's leading nation in the field of mobile internet usage. While making use of its expertise, it is also important to promote research/development and demonstration experiments for elemental technology and utilization technology required to realize a ubiquitous network society, together with research/development to create solutions for newly emerged issues such as establishment of the next generation backbone, which can handle the rapid increase in traffic volume.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications consulted the Information and Communications Council in July 2004 about the nature of research and development toward a ubiquitous society. The Council issued a report in July 2005. The report includes suggestions on the nation's role to promote "UNS Strategy Program" and this program, as well as the system and environment, which will be essential to conduct research and development.

The UNS Strategy Program (Universal Communications, New Generation Networks, Security and Safety for the Ubiquitous Network SocietyÅjconsists of 1. Strategy for Next Generation Network Technology aimed at maintaining and strengthening international competitiveness, 2. Safe and secure ICT strategy aimed at establishing a safe and secure society, and 3. Universal Communications Technology Strategy to develop intellectual prowess. The Ministry of Internal

Affairs and Communications promotes the research and development of fiscal 2006 intensively and strategically based on this program.

### 2. Strategy for Next Generation Network Technology

Amid the progress in the re-construction of core networks (advancement of IP communications) on an international scale, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications promotes research and development activities to realize next generation network technologies as an infrastructure in a ubiquitous society based on optic fiber or mobile communications, based on the Strategy for Next Generation Network Technology aimed at maintaining and strengthening international competitiveness. The R&D activities include research/development of (1) next-generation backbone, (2) basic technologies for ubiquitous networks, (3) next generation photonic network technology, (4) advanced utilization technologies for information appliances, (5) next generation network infrastructure technology, and (6) dynamic network technology.

### 3. Safe and secure ICT strategy

As the "ICT Safe and Secure Technology Strategy" aimed at establishing a safe and secure society, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications promotes research and development activities to overcome issues in various fields including medical care/welfare, food/agriculture, security/disaster prevention, urban/natural environment with ICT, to achieve "ICT-based Safety and Security" which offers older people a sense

of security, and to provide a dependable ICT infrastructure so that anyone can enjoy "Safe and Secure ICT".

The R&D activities include research/development of 1. ubiquitous sensor network, 2. systems to ensure child and elderly safety using ubiquitous network technologies, 3. information and communications technologies for advanced utilization of e-Tags, 4. mobile satellite communication technology, 5. high-speed, large capacity satellite communication technology, 6. quasi-zenith satellite system, 7. remote sensing technology, 8. next generation advanced network infrastructure, 9. integration between robots and ubiquitous network, and 10. information security technology.
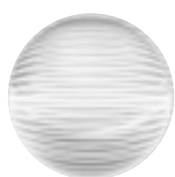
## 4. Universal Communications Technology Strategy

As a "Universal Communication Technology Strategy" for boosting intellectual energies, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications promotes research and development activities to realize communications technologies that promote intellectual creativity

and communications technologies friendly to people, including the elderly and disabled, who can then overcome the age, physical, language and cultural barriers through the use of the most advanced ubiquitous networks in the world.

## 5. Development of a research and development environment to promote the UNS Strategy Program

To effectively and efficiently promote research and development activities in information and communication technology including the UNS Strategy Program, creating an open, flexible and competitive research/development environment is essential. Hence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is now developing the advanced test-bed network for research and development (JGN II), utilizing competitive research funds.

# Section 6
## Promotion of International Strategy

## 1. Promotion of international policy

**(1) Promotion of international policy in Asia-Pacific region**

**A. Promotion of the Asia Broadband Program**

As an action plan for the development of a broadband environment in the Asian region, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications formulated the Asia Broadband Program in March 2003. In this Program, Asia aspires to become an information hub by 2010. Also, with a strong connection to private sectors in Japan, the Ministry has been hosting the "Broadband Promotion Conference in Asia" since March 2004. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and other concerned ministries revised this plan at the meeting held in August 2006.

**B. Cooperation and coordination between Japan, China and Korea**

In September 2002, the first Japan-China-Korea ICT Ministerial Meeting was held in Marrakech, with the aim to promote cooperation between the respective countries

in the field of information and communications. In March 2006 ,the fourth Meeting was held in Amoi, China. The three countries agreed on reinforcement of collaboration with ASEAN countries and further corporation in the ICT field including information security, next generation IP network and 4G, and signed an agreement to ensure the corporative framework among the three countries.

**C. Multilateral Efforts in other Asia-Pacific region**

Various multilateral efforts have also been made: Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) Telecommunication and IT Ministers Meeting, and Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). As for ASEM, "The first ICT Cabinet members Meeting" was held in Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2006, and the chairman's statement including the "List of Activities", summarizing issues to be tackled for ASEM in the future, was adopted at the meeting. Agreement was also made with regard to keeping the exchange of opinions and information sharing in order to promote cooperation in the ICT field.