

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.

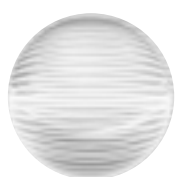
#### 4. Universal Communications Technology Strategy

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 cooperation in the ICT field including information security, next generation IP network and 4G, and signed an agreement to ensure the corporate 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.

## **(2) Promotion of international policy among international institutions and multiple nations (except for Asia-Pacific region)**

### **A. Participating in ITC (International Telecommunication Union) Activities**

ITU is a specialized agency of the United Nations in the telecommunication field. Japan is making a positive contribution to the work of the ITU; for example, Japan has accepted assignments of a chairperson and vice-chairperson to the Study Group, and supports human resource development.

Regarding the World Summit on Information Society, based on discussions at the second phase of the WSIS that took place in Tunis, the first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in Athens (Greece) during late October and early November 2006.

As well, Japan is also actively contributing to a new round of negotiations of the G8 Summit, WTO (World Trade Organization), and activities of the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) and WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization).

### **(3) Promotion of international policy in bilateral relationship**

Japan has been having multifaceted discussions with the United States every year since June 2001, based on "US-Japan Economic Partnership for Growth", which was created to promote sustainable growth through dialogue. In June 2006, as a result of 5th year dialogue on the U.S.-Japan Regulatory Reform and Competition Policy Initiative, a report concerning regulatory reform and competition policy in various fields including telecommunication was summarized and announced.

Then in December 2006, petitions were exchanged during the 6th year dialogue.

As well, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is having consultations on policy with other countries' ministries and agencies of information and communication, including bilateral policy dialogues with European countries and China. Also, the Ministry is making active effort to conclude FTA (Free Trade Agreements) and EPA (Economic Partnership Agreements).

## **2. Promotion of international cooperation**

The information gap (digital divide) has been growing internationally, and there is an increasingly recognized need to build information and communications networks on an international scale, including developing countries. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications provides various supports, including ICT human resources development, support for ICT policy and system formulation through policy dialogue with the information and communications ministries of developing countries, support for the development of information and communication infrastructure by implementing international joint experiments, etc., and support for the international and regional organizations that promote international cooperation in eliminating the digital divide. The Ministry also contributes to sustainable development in the information and communications field in developing countries through Official Development Assistance (ODA) in cooperation with various agencies and organizations, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).



## **Section 7**

### **Development of Postal Service Administration**

#### **1. Smooth and secure execution of privatization of Japan Post**

On October 1 2007, Japan Post Corporation (holding company) and 4 other business corporations (a mail delivery company, an over-the-counter service network firm, a postal savings company and an insurance services company), together with Organization of Postal Savings and Postal Life Insurance (independent administrative agency), were established based on the Japan Post Law. The services of Japan Post are supposed to be transferred

to above companies and organization.

To facilitate privatization and splitting up of Japan Post, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications has started a preparation towards privatization, such as approving "Execution Plan for Transferring Services of Japan Post" regulating transfer of assets, services and personnel of Japan Post to Japan Post Corporation and respective companies while improving fiscal performance and management efficiency to ensure sound management and encourage compliance.