

Section 6

Promoting Network Contents Distribution and Developing Human Resources

1. Promoting Production and Distribution of Network Contents

Amidst the development of the advanced information and communications infrastructure, as represented by the popularization of broadband services and the start of digital broadcasting, promotion of its use has become an important task. To this end, it is necessary to increase high-quality network contents and to create a favorable cycle of infrastructure improvement and network contents expansion. The MPHPT engages in improving the market environment so as to promote production and distribution of network contents by advancing demonstrative experiments under collaboration between the government and the private sector.

2. Developing Human Resources

It is essential that children acquire qualities and abilities to be able to subjectively respond to computerization in an advanced information and communications network society. Thus, in fiscal 2002, computers and the Internet began to be actively utilized in the lessons of the respective subjects and the newly introduced “integrated course” throughout elementary, junior high, and high schools, while a compulsory “IT and computer” lesson was com-

menced as part of the Engineering and Home Economics curriculum in junior high schools. In addition, “IT” was added to the high-school curriculum as a compulsory general subject in fiscal 2003. Along with the increase of IT education in school curriculums, steady efforts are also being made to improve the Internet environment in schools.

Since the information and communications field is evolving rapidly through advanced technological development, skillful IT engineers and researchers are vital for maintaining and strengthening the international competitiveness of existing industries by utilization of information and communications. Accordingly, the MPHPT introduced the “Supporting System for Training of ICT Human Resources” in fiscal 2001 to develop human resources with expert knowledge and skills in the rapidly advancing information and communications field and to contribute to becoming a major IT human resources nation. At the same time, the MPHPT promotes measures to improve IT literacy of citizens, including provision of opportunities for IT learning.