



Section 3 Establishment of a Safe and Secure Ubiquitous Network Society

1. Consumer administration in relation to telecommunications services

(1) Illegal and harmful information on the internet

A. Dealing with illegal/harmful materials on the internet

The rapid development and penetration of the Internet have brought about convenience to users on one hand, while on the other hand, so-called “black websites” are becoming a social issue and there is an increasing number of incidences where minors can get access to harmful material and consequently become involved in crime. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) has held meetings of the Study Group to Address Illegal and Harmful Information on the Internet since November 2007 to deliberate on the promotion of the introduction of further filtering for young people, support for measures to be taken by providers, etc., including deletion of illegal and harmful information, comprehensive measures against illegal and harmful information, such as dissemination and enlightenment campaigns to improve Internet literacy. Subsequently, an interim report on improvement measures for filtering for mobile phones, etc., was compiled in April 2008.

B. Promotion of dissemination of filtering

Today, we are seeing a number of cases where young people get access to harmful Internet sites, such as so-called “online dating sites” and get involved in crime, which are emerging as a social problem. As a tool for dealing with harmful information on the Internet, filtering is one of the effective methods, which allows users to take what is good and refuse what is bad through their own will. In December 2007, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) requested mobile phone operators to gain parental consent for using filtering services when young people use mobile phones. In April 2008, the MIC also requested mobile phone operators to make efforts to improve filtering services, in line with the directions set forth in the interim report of the Study Group to Address Illegal and Harmful Information on the Internet.

(2) Measures against nuisance e-mails/ phishing

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and

Communications (MIC) has convened meetings of the Study Group to Address Methods of Dealing with Nuisance E-mails since July 2007, and the interim report of the Study Group was released in December 2007, which focused on a review of legal systems. Based on the interim report, the Law Partially Amending the Law on Regulation of Transmission of Specified Electronic Mail was promulgated on June 6, 2008. Since the amended law includes a provision whereby telecommunication operators can refuse the provision of service if a sender sends e-mails with a false e-mail address, it can also be effective as a countermeasure against phishing.

(3) Safe and secure use of mobile phones

In order to promote the safe and secure use of mobile phones, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) is committed to the appropriate enforcement of the “Law on Identification of Cellular Phone Users by Mobile Operators and Prevention of Abusive Use of Cellular Phones.” (Law No. 31, 2005) This Law obliges mobile phone operators to conduct identity verification when concluding contracts or transfers to prevent the abuse of mobile phones.

Since we have seen a surge in the number of cases where consumers are seeking advice regarding the expensive packet communication fees of mobile phones in recent years, the MIC is conducting PR activities with regard to implementing measures, such as the use of services that inform the user or restrict use if the communication fee exceeds a certain amount.

(4) Protection of personal information in the telecommunications field

In view of the fully-fledged enforcement of the Private Information Protection Law, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) had held discussions through the Panel on Personal Information in the Telecommunications Services since February 2003 and revised the guidelines to ensure stricter implementation of the proper handling of personal data in August 2004. And in September 2007, in response to the diversification of positioning information services and penetration of terminals with GPS functions, the interpretation of the guidelines was partially revised in order to clarify the contents of neces-

sary measures to be taken by telecommunication service operators when providing positioning information services.

With respect of the protection of personal information in the broadcasting field, the MIC formulated the “Guidelines concerning Protection of Personal Information of Broadcast Viewers/Listeners” in August 2004 prior to the fully-fledged enforcement of the Private Information Protection Law in April 2005. These guidelines were reviewed in July 2007 in line with the changes that occurred after the enforcement, and were partially revised with respect to the following two points: (1) to clarify who may acquire personal information of viewers, etc., and (2) to handle the personal information recorded on a reception device safely.

2. Promotion of information security policy

(1) Information security measures of the government

The government has made a concerted attempt to promote information security measures by establishing the National Information Security Center in the Cabinet Secretariat (NISC) in April 2005, as a central organization for information security measures, and the Information Security Council in the Strategic Headquarters for Promotion of an Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society in May 2005.

The First Information Security Basic Plan (the Basic Plan) was formulated by the Information Security Council in February 2006 as a strategy to cover information security issues in Japan during the three years from FY2006 and FY2008, and “Secure Japan 2007” was compiled as a specific annual plan for FY2007 based on the Basic Plan.

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

Based on the u-Japan policy and the First Information Security Basic Plan, etc., the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) has been making efforts toward responding to diversified products and the improvement of human and organiza-

tional capacities that would lead to the enhancement and increased reliability of networks which, from the standpoint of a competent ministry in the ICT field, is one of the most important infrastructures, in order to develop an environment where people can use information and communications networks safely.

(3) Ensuring safety and reliability in the telecommunications services

In recent years, as IP networks progress, accidents and disturbances have been occurring more frequently on a larger scale and for longer periods. In order to respond to these changes, deliberations have been conducted at the Information and Communications Council, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) received a partial reports entitled “Safety/Reliability Measures for IP Based Networks” in May 2007 and “Safety and Reliability Standards for IP Based Networks” in January 2008 from the Council. Based on these reports, the MIC reviewed (1) the revision of ministerial ordinances to include a review of reporting criteria and control regulations for accidents and periodical reporting of accidents, and (2) the revision of guidelines.

3. Ensuring reliability of electronic data

In order to promote socio-economic activities further, using a network such as e-commerce and ensuring a smooth user environment for electronic signatures attached to electronic data, the Law concerning Electronic Signature and Certification Services has been enforced since April 2001 in Japan. As of the end of April 2008, 18 specific certification services have been accredited.

Since the importance of a time stamp attached to electronic data that would improve reliability at the time of creating electronic data that are distributed and stored in the field of e-commerce, and the associated “time business service”, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) has been actively making efforts toward promotion of the use of time business by formulating and releasing the Guidelines concerning Time Business to allow people to use time business services provided by private business safely.