Section 6
Dealing with Global Warming Issues in the ICT Field

1. Addressing environmental issues with ICT

In November 2009, the MIC inaugurated an ICT Policy Task Force for a Global Era in order to investigate new ICT policies so as to contribute to finding solutions to the various economic and social issues being faced by Japan and many other countries through the effective use of ICT. In the division of this task force dedicated to investigating global issues, investigations are carried out so as to overcome the regional and global issues that are facing countries, such as environmental problems and medical care problems, so as to make full use of Japan's outstanding ICT, and ensure Japan earns the trust of the global society as a bridge to the world. From December 2009 through March 2010, a Working Group on Environmental Issues was held under the auspices of this division with the aim of promoting "Green of ICT" and "Green by ICT," ICT-based "green decentralization reform," and international contributions, compromises and standardization efforts. This working group analyzed the key areas outlined below to gauge the impact of the ICT sector on climate change through 2020, and compiled a report in March 2010 which was reported to the division on investigating global issues in May 2010.

2. Promotion of increased penetration of energy-efficient household appliances

The Program to Promote the Spread of Green Home Appliances by Utilizing Eco-Points has been in effect since 2009 under the auspices of METI, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) and the MIC, with the aims of promoting global warming countermeasures, stimulating the economy, and facilitating the wider use of televisions for terrestrial digital broadcasting. Specifically, the program encourages the replacement of various household appliances by awarding Eco-Points for the purchase of highly energy-efficient appliances (air conditioners, refrigerators, televisions for terrestrial digital broadcasting carrying four stars on their unified energy saving labels.