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INFORMATION

The 13th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) to be Held in Hiroshima.

The 13th ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) will be held in Hiroshima City from November 30 to December 2, 2015. The WTIS focuses on statistics and indicators of information and communication technology (ICT) and this will be the first WTIS held in Japan. This year commemorates the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The WTIS will be held as one of the commemorative events in countries.

TOPICS

Results of 21st EU-Japan High Level ICT Dialogue and 1st EU-Japan ICT Strategy Workshop.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the European Commission held the 21st EU-Japan High Level ICT Dialogue and the first EU-Japan ICT Strategy Workshop on March 23 and 24, 2015.

As some of the major achievements of this dialogue, the MIC and the European Commission confirmed that they would make necessary preparations for signing a minister-level joint statement in May 2015 on the cooperation in the field of R&D and the collaboration in discussions at international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with a view to strengthening the cooperation in fifth-generation mobile communication system (5G) between Japan and EU. Moreover, the two parties basically confirmed a future schedule for holding the third public offering on international collaborative studies between Japan and EU.

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Results of 21st EU-Japan High Level ICT Dialogue and 1st EU-Japan ICT Strategy Workshop.

1. 21st EU-Japan High Level ICT Dialogue

(1) Outline

The EU-Japan High Level ICT Dialogue has been held on a regular basis between the MIC and the European Commission (Communications Networks, Content and Technology) on entire ICT policies. The 21st Dialogue was held for the first time since December 2013. The two parties had talks on various agendas concerning the field of ICT (Agendas of this Dialogue: Trends of information and communication policies, promotion of international harmonization over Internet governance, regulatory policies, consumers' policies, harmonization of policies for protection of youths, use of personal data and privacy protection, international collaborative studies, utilization of ICT in the aging society, security policies and 5G) and actively exchanged opinions.

(2) Major achievements

1) 5G

The initiatives for 5G taken by both Japan and EU were presented. Moreover, the two parties confirmed that they would make necessary preparations for signing a minister-level joint statement in May 2015 to the effect that Japan and EU would cooperate in the field of R&D and collaborate in discussions at international organizations such as ITU for the purpose of strengthening the bilateral cooperation in 5G aimed at its commercialization by 2020 when the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held. Furthermore, Japan and EU welcomed a trend toward the signing of a joint statement on cooperation in 5G between the industrial worlds of the two parties.

2) International collaborative studies

Both Japan and EU reported the current state of international collaborative studies implemented from FY2013 and shared their importance. Moreover, the two parties shared the recognition of future schedules (it is planned to hold a joint public offering fall this year or later) of the third international collaborative studies to be carried out from FY2016 in consideration of themes such as 5G based on discussions at the 5th EU-Japan Symposium on ICT Research and Innovation and agreed to continue and deepen the cooperative relationships in the field of R&D.

3) Utilization of ICT in the aging society

The results of the ICT for Active and Healthy Aging Workshop held the other day were presented. Moreover, Japan and EU explained the initiatives for ICT in the fields of medicine and health in view of a super-aging society and agreed to cooperate in the field of R&D in the future.

4) Promotion of international harmonization over Internet governance

Japan and EU shared the recognition of the importance of Internet governance under multi-stakeholder approach in ensuring free flow of information and maintaining the open and transparent Internet and confirmed that the two parties would continue collaborations at various international conferences.

5) Harmonization of policies for protection of youths, use of personal data and privacy protection

EU explained the state of deliberations on the draft rules for protection of personal data at the European Commission. Japan explained filtering in the age of smartphone, PR activities for proper use by the youth and enhancement of their moral when using smartphones, and demonstration experiments such as technical verifications for ensuring privacy protection of the users. The two parties confirmed that they would continue to share best practices so that international harmonization is achieved in terms of protection of privacy of users who use applications for smartphones.

(Reference) Attendees of the 21st Dialogue

Japan: Yasuo Sakamoto, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and others

EU: Dr. Zoran Stančić, Deputy Director-General European Commission Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology and others

2. 1st EU-Japan ICT Strategy Workshop

(1) Outline

Before the EU-Japan High Level ICT Dialogue was held, the two parties held the EU-Japan ICT Strategy Workshop as a place for freely exchanging opinions between the public and the private sectors on important issues concerning digital economy such as initiatives for development of digital economy through standardizing the rules. In this workshop, Japan and EU a) exchanged opinions on the development of digital economy through standardizing the rules, b) presented initiatives for digital economy taken by the industrial worlds, and c) shared the initiatives for market access to third countries other than Japan and EU.

Through discussions at this workshop, the two parties agreed to deepen their cooperation.

(2) Outline of major discussions

In this workshop, EU presented its initiatives for formation of a unified digital market for the purpose of integrating regulations and systems among the EU member states and smoothly circulating information in the EU.

Results of 21st EU-Japan High Level ICT Dialogue and 1st EU-Japan ICT Strategy Workshop.

a. The Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), as a representative of the Japanese industrial world, made proposals toward the development of digital economy such by reinforcing the importance of cross-border data transfer, use of personal data and a balance with economic growth.

b. The Mobile Content Forum announced at the Mobile World Congress 2015 held in Barcelona this month that it had concluded a strategic memorandum of understanding (MOU) with related European organizations with the aim of supporting overseas operations of Japanese mobile application companies and operations of foreign companies in the Japanese mobile application market.

(Reference) Attendees of the EU-Japan ICT Strategy Workshop
Japan: Yasuo Sakamoto, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and others, Keidanren, Mobile Content Forum and others
EU: G. de Graaf, Director European Commission Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology and others

3 Future plans
Based on the achievements of this Dialogue and initiatives to be taken in the future, Japan and EU will hold a meeting to continue and concretize collaborations on ICT in Brussel during 2016.

TOPICS

Results of Invitation of Mission of Vice Minister Quintanilla for Telecommunications and Information Society and Others from the Republic of Ecuador Initiatives for Development of ICT Public-Private Joint Project between Japan and Ecuador Society.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC) implemented an invitation project of receiving the mission of Mr. Xavier Quintanilla, Vice Minister of Telecommunications and Information Society of Ecuador and others with the aim of strengthening the cooperative relationships between the governments of Japan and Ecuador through the sharing of ICT-related policies and experiences of Japan and introducing case examples in which ICT is utilized in Japan, so that the ICT public-private joint project between Japan and Ecuador will progress.

The MIC invited a total of 5 persons including Mr. Xavier Quintanilla, Vice Minister of Telecommunications and Information Society, from the Republic of Ecuador that has adopted the Japanese terrestrial digital broadcasting system.

In this invitation project, the case examples in which ICT is actually used in Japan were introduced for the development of “urban transportation control system,” “e-learning system” and “disaster-prevention system utilizing broadcasting technologies” under the ICT Public-Private Joint Project currently implemented by Japan and Ecuador. Moreover, the two countries confirmed that they further strengthen the cooperative relationships of the public and private sectors through the sharing of policies and experiences of Japan and accelerate future initiatives.

The MIC invited a total of 5 persons including Mr. Xavier Quintanilla, Vice Minister of Telecommunications and Information Society, from the Republic of Ecuador that has adopted the Japanese terrestrial digital broadcasting system..