

**Working Party 3
Information & Communication Technologies**

Further Challenges for Quality of Life with ICT

1. Introduction

2005 is a decisive year for Japan and Europe as it is the final year for the e-Japan Strategy and the Science and Technology Basic Plan in Japan, and the starting point for a new era under the revised Lisbon agenda focusing on growth and jobs in Europe. At this turning point for EU and Japan, both governments should steadily continue their efforts to ensure higher utilization of ICT by setting up and implementing programmes, based upon objective reviews of the achievements of previous plans. ICT is already having a disproportionate impact on productivity and growth, but it should and can play an even bigger role in economic and social development in both countries in the future. The sector is ready to increase investment substantially in order to introduce the next generation of networks, services and develop new business models. Both governments should remove existing barriers, in particular regulatory, to major investment in networks and services in order to facilitate the role that ICT can play for the economic development of Japan and Europe. Through an enabling framework and progressive deregulation, policy makers in Japan and Europe can play a key role for the stimulation of the sector.

2. Issues and recommendations

3-EJ-1: Promotion of broadband usage

Widespread availability and use of broadband networks are driving factors for the improvement of competitiveness of both economies. E-entertainment services are important for the take up of broadband access. End users attracted by services beyond the PC as for example through mobile phones or digital TV have an incentive to subscribe to broadband services. Both governments must ensure that the provision of e-entertainment services is not hindered by regulatory obstacles as e.g. inappropriate legislation on e-payments. Another way to enhance broadband take up is the development of large scale e-public services. The public sector is a service intensive sector, which would gain a huge benefit by further implementing ICT. Better and lower-cost services would be the result of the introduction of large scale e-public services. Governments should ensure that no legal requirements prevent the delivery of public e-services to citizens.

- Both governments should enable development of mass market e-entertainment services and give priority to large scale public e-services.

3-EJ-2: Establishment of a seamless ubiquitous network environment

Both governments should promote the development of seamless ubiquitous network environments to allow users to access networks “anytime, anywhere” regardless which kind of network is used. In Europe and Japan, the issues of effective utilization and system

improvement of wireless networks must be included in R&D activities. Radio spectrum policy of both countries should be forward-looking.

- Both governments should coordinate as widely as possible when it comes to the preparation of the next World Radio Conference in 2007.

3-EJ-3: Ensuring secure ICT infrastructure

Managing Security, trust and privacy at all levels of ICT infrastructure is of key importance for the future development of the market.

Therefore, ensuring availability of the ICT infrastructure by activities for improvement of reliability of the infrastructure is quite important, including prevention of disruption of communications, clearance of exceptional traffic, and early recovery of services in a case of disasters such as terrorism. Additionally the governments should work together to address the growing problem of computer-related crime. Worldwide open and transparent negotiations, following the example of the negotiations leading to the Council of Europe's Convention on Cybercrime should be the way forward.

As ICT develops, some negative impacts of some human uses of ICT are growing, such as defamation on a network, which takes place frequently nowadays in Japan. It is worrying that further growth in these negative trends, which are becoming overt, will hinder technology development and spread of ICT. In this context research on the physiological and psychological effects of the widespread use of ICT is useful in order to learn more about how citizens and societies can benefit as much as possible from ICT.

For users Spam is a significant and growing problem, networks and the Internet as a whole. Spam and cyber-security should be dealt with at appropriate national and international levels. We therefore welcome the joint declaration Europe and Asia issued at an Asia-Europe (ASEM) conference on eCommerce, held in London on 21-22 February 2005. In the statement on international anti-spam cooperation, government participants in the conference agreed to take action to fight spam nationally and to promote anti-spam efforts in international organisations and by industry.

From a user perspective data protection laws, which guarantee privacy, are the most important step to a secure ICT infrastructure.

- Both governments should have continuous talks to raise their awareness of quality of ICT infrastructure for ensuring secure ICT infrastructure, by promoting highly reliable and secure system/products, information exchange and matching regulations between them, and establishing a framework that can draw lessons from terror events and disasters.

3-EJ-4: Bridging the digital divide

ICT has the potential to combat the digital divide by empowering unemployed, elderly, sick and disabled to participate in society. Due to the complexity of digital divide issues ranging from age over education to skills, a broad set of measures should be envisaged by governments. The plan of the European Commission to propose an Action Plan on e-government for citizen centred services in 2006 is one of several useful initiatives helping to overcome the geographic and social digital divide. The similar programme is incorporated in "e-Japan Priority Plan 2004" as well as "u-Japan Policy". The basic aim should be the improvement of ICT literacy. A priority for governmental measures must be the promotion of ICT education in schools.

- Both governments should adopt every possible measure to improve ICT literacy, especially by promoting ICT education in schools. We encourage an exchange of information between Japan and Europe on the success of these initiatives in order to mutually benefit from experiences gained by the partner country when developing future initiatives.

3-EJ-5: Ubiquitous and interoperable platforms

Recognizing the primary role of industry in developing voluntary, consensus-based standards that promote interoperability, both governments should foster the development of interoperable software and systems allowing various networks, services and equipments to interconnect in a seamless way. Governments can assist by ensuring a smooth cooperation between different industries and by including interoperability issues in their R&D efforts.

- Interoperability of software and systems should be a relevant matter in R&D programmes set up by governments.

3-EJ-6: IPR in a network society

The network society is a huge opportunity for right holders, as it is creating a new and complementary market for their offers. However copyright protection, effective copyright enforcement and a secure environment for content is crucial for the development of this market. Especially the take-up of open, interoperable and standardised protection solutions as DRM should be fostered by governments, where appropriate.

On the other hand data protection rules for individuals are also part of the regulatory framework that has to be taken into account when dealing with this issue. Data protection is important in order to keep a relationship of mutual trust with customers. Furthermore it has been proven, that a large choice of attractive and user-friendly legal content is a very effective way to prevent users from piracy, regarding music and motion pictures for example.

From a customer point of view it must be ensured, that customers pay only once for content through DRM systems and not twice due to levies on devices.

Another aspect the governments should take into account is the importance of patent protection for IT-related innovations and the need for improvement of patent systems worldwide. The EU and Japan also have a shared interest in seeing increased capacity of other governments to protect IPR through effective policy infrastructures and adequate resources for enforcement.

- Governments should intensify their dialogue on the best way how to protect intellectual property rights e.g. by promoting the use of protection solutions as DRMs.

3-J-7: Barriers to market access (Recommendation from EU)

It is vital to ensure the international flow of both ICT products and services. Only when the barriers to market access are abolished, the ICT sector can help to facilitate economic growth and productivity gains. Japan has recently reviewed its regulatory system for radio equipment by introducing Suppliers' Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) concept. However, the application of this concept has been currently restricted to very few radio interfaces and only terminal equipment. Terminals increasingly accommodate several radio interfaces hence requiring terminal manufacturers to resort to third party certification when placing radio products on the Japanese market. Japan should consider to expand the list of products subject

to SDoC regime in terms of radio interfaces and type of equipment (i.e. inclusion also network equipment).

- Japanese government should continue to work towards eliminating barriers to market access.

3-EJ-8: Diverse working styles for ensuring quality of life (Recommendation from Japan)

Realization of diverse working styles that are fit to individuals' lifestyles contributes to quality of life of every citizen. A seamless and ubiquitous network environment must be realized in workplaces. The environment must be configured so as to enhance businesses' efficiency and extensively create job opportunities by realizing a "ubiquitous office" and "enhancement of knowledge creativity". This is to promote an advanced ICT utilization for workers in workplaces.

For that purpose, proposals on new working styles in the ubiquitous society are required.

- Both governments should take an active role in encouraging work-style conceptual frameworks by promoting societal experiments, and their evaluation, by experts in various areas of industry, academia, and government.