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Osamu Hayama
University of East Asia

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National IT Policy and Strategy lll: The Mature Leopards

Panel Chair: Margaret Tan, National University of Singapore, Singapore

Panelists: Osamu Hayama, University of East Asia & Nomura Research Institute, Japan
Rod Badger, Department of Communication and the Arts, Australia
Niels Bjorn-Andersen, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Gerard Pogorel, Ecole Nationale Superieure des Telecommunications, France

The New Wave of Japan's Information and Social Infrastructure

Osamu Hayama
Graduate School of Integrated Science and Art, University of East Asia
Nomura Research Institute, Yokohama, Japan

Abstract

The national effort to construct the information-telecommunication infrastructure that aims to realize information society started in the early 1980s in Japan. The basic concept of the Japanese policy of promoting the construction of the information-telecommunication infrastructure is to define it as future basic "social infrastructure" and to help develop Japan's new economic frontiers, to improve the quality of human life and to preserve better environment by best utilizing advanced information-telecommunication infrastructure. Specific goals of the activities include completion of the nationwide optical fiber network by 2010 and securing efficient high-quality public services which include health care and education.

The strategies of the industrial circles in Japan are shifting more to the software-oriented approach from the traditional hardware-oriented development activities. For example, promoting the development of the multimedia industries is also an important objective for the creation of the new employment opportunities as well as new market for the industries.

A feature of the Japanese policy is that the Government is placing emphasis on global cooperation and harmony between the developed and developing countries in the development of the information-telecommunication infrastructure.

Networking Australia's Future: A National Approach to the Information Age

Rod Badger
Department of Communication and the Arts
Canberra, Australia

Abstract

The Australian Government, like Governments everywhere, is confronting the challenges posed by the rapid evolution of information services and technologies popularly labelled the "information superhighway." The rate of change in all aspects of our communications and information industries is likely to increase exponentially in the years ahead as we experience the full weight of the three primary influences driving us to the new information society; the full digitisation of electronic information flows, the convergence of telecommunications, computing and broadcasting, and the growth in systems that will enable interactive broadband communications.

Recently, the Australian Prime Minister announced the implementation of a national strategy aimed for the adoption of the new information and communications services and technologies. The issues are being addressed through a coordinated whole-of-government approach, particularly with respect to national policy formulation, the Government's own use of these technologies, and industry development.

This paper details the background to the Prime Minister's announcement, the structure through which the strategy will be developed, and the policy principles underlying the Government's strategic approach.