ITU Consultation on Best Practices for IXPs: Comments from IXPs in Japan

We, existing Internet Exchange Points (IXP) operators in Japan, understand that establishing an IXP may lead to "improving quality, increasing the connectivity and resilience of networks, fostering competition and reducing the cost of international telecommunication interconnections".

Establishing an IXP, however, does not always promise such results. They will be achieved only by populated IXPs that more Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the country connect to.

IXP is a place for interconnecting between ISPs which have their own policy and business background, therefore requests to IXP are to be neutral to all the member/customers and not to force unreasonable policies to members/customers. Peering or not peering is dependent of each ISP. Such IXPs with neutrality can be established and operated by volunteers from member/customer ISPs as grass-root manner. Therefore we insist that establishment and management of IXP should be driven by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the country, not by the government.

- The equipment required for an IXP are simple layer-2 switches, which are purchased at affordable price these days or can be donated by some company or organization. Running IXP can easily be done cooperatively by participants from each ISP or volunteers. Some of existing IXPs started from such grass-root activities.

- Sometimes current IXP associations such as Euro-IX, APIX, LAC-IX, and Af-IX offer support for a start-up IXP, with their knowledge, experiences, and human resources in some cases. Even some IXP itself offers such support.

- The cost reduction of international connection should not be a purpose establishing an IXP, but it is a result of connecting many members and exchanging much traffic domestically, which attracts providers in other countries.

- The most important things regarding Internet Exchange is that it is a place for exchanging traffic by participating ISPs at their own will; every ISP is not enforced to peer each other's, because each ISP has their own policy of

business and operation.

- The principle role of the governments here is to watch the peering situation and arbitrate in case of dispute. Country by country business practice differs, so rules for managing IXP may differ.

Consequently, IXP operation and rules for peering should be determined in bottom-up way by ISPs in the country.

August 28, 2015

BBIX Inc.
Equinix Japan
Japan Internet Exchange Co., Ltd. (JPIX)
Internet Multifeed Co. (JPNAP)
WIDE project (Dix-ie, NSPIXP)