

**ITU/MIC Kyoto Symposium on ICTs and Climate Change
15-16 April 2008**

**Welcome Address
Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications
H.E. Mr. Satoshi NINOYU**

Good morning and welcome to Kyoto, everyone. As a representative of the host country, it is indeed a pleasure to see so many people participating in this symposium. I should like to extend my warmest regards to you and more especially thank Mr. Takashi HANAZAWA, Chairman of ITU/MIC Kyoto Symposium on ICTs and Climate Change and Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union.

Kyoto is the venue for the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in December 1997, where the Kyoto Protocol was adopted. It is truly a very special symposium held here today in this historical location with the participation of so many individuals.

Global warming affects everyone on this planet and, for this reason, international responses are needed. The seriousness of global warming is increasing year by year. Measures have been implemented in response to global warming in the past, and the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol begins this year. In addition, climate change will be a major issue to be addressed at the OECD Ministerial meeting slated for June and at the G8 summit to be held in Toyako, Hokkaido in July. Thus, this is truly an environmental year.

It is in this dire situation that Information and Communications Technologies offer a ray of hope and are expected to contribute to addressing the problems of global warming by reducing traffic volumes and increasing the efficiency of production, logistics, and consumption. At the same time, however, it is necessary to consider the impact of global warming from the perspective of higher electric power consumption caused by the increased use of ICT devices and their adoption of advanced functions.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) formed “the Study Group on ICT in response to global warming” since September of last year to identify both the positive and negative impacts of ICT use on global warming and to investigate responses in the ICT field. The results of deliberations by the study group were compiled in a report released on the 10th of this month.

ICT use is expanding not just in Japan, but on a global scale. Responses to global warming that adopt an ICT-based approach are becoming increasingly more common in the EU and the United

States. The MIC hopes to adopt specific measures that reflect the proposals of the study group.

The ITU is aware of the importance of the role ICTs play in addressing climate change, and specific research topics concerning climate change countermeasures will be discussed and examined at the World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly(WTSA-08) to be held in South Africa this coming October.

In light of these developments, the MIC decided to co-organize this symposium with the ITU. During the symposium, we hope that the importance of ICTs in addressing climate change will be discussed and that the results used for proposals on future deliberations and disseminated broadly in Japan and other countries.

Seven companies and organizations active in ICT related fields are holding an exhibition in the hall adjacent to the symposium site. Please take time to visit this exhibition which provides an insight into some of the latest technology.

I would like to conclude my address by expressing the hope that the participants who have a wealth of knowledge on ICTs and the environment will over the two-day duration of the symposium, lead the discussions to a successful conclusion and provide us with a springboard for the promotion of global discussion on ICT and climate change.

Thank you for your kind attention.