

## 2015 New Year Greeting from the Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications



**Sanae Takaichi**

Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications

**H**appy New Year!  
ICT falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and provides an essential foundation of our everyday lives and social/business activities, where it drives the creation of new innovation and economic growth.

The Information and Communications Council recently delivered a review of systems aimed at furthering the spread and development of the world's highest-level ICT infrastructure in the 2020s. The aim is to stimulate the Japanese economy and improve people's lives by providing an environment where diverse services can be created and used safely and securely through innovative use of the ICT infrastructure.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications has also set up a forum for joint studies by industry, academia and government in order to promote ICT across the whole of society with a view to achieving continuous growth in Japan during and after the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in 2020.

In the future, we will continue to work on studies aimed at realizing our goals, including promoting the development of a free public wireless LAN environment, using ICT to provide support for multiple languages, extending the delivery of broadcast content to overseas, pushing ahead with the introduction of 4K/8K television and digital signage, implementing a fifth-generation mobile communication system, and making use of resources such as open data.

On the global scene, we have been utilizing a top-level approach to international sales activities related to Japanese ICT, such as the Japanese digital terrestrial television (ISDB-T) system, mainly in developing countries. Last year the ISDB-T system was adopted by the Maldives in April and Sri Lanka in May, bringing its global total to 17 countries.

In the future, we will not only continue to promote the international deployment of ISDB-T, but we will also build the cooperative relationships cultivated through ISDB-T into the ICT field as a whole, and we will contribute to the world by striving to resolve diverse issues that face society, such as education, medical treatment and disaster prevention.

Meanwhile, Japan will also contribute to the global development and deployment of ICT by actively contributing to international and regional organizations.

Last year, at the quadrennial ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Busan, South Korea, we held elections to choose the executives for the next four years, and voted on the ITU's strategic and

financial plans. Japan has been elected to the ITU Council member for eleven consecutive periods of office since 1959. In the Radio Regulations Board elections, Yasuhiko Ito (KDDI Executive Adviser) was re-elected by receiving the largest number of votes in the Asia-Pacific region.

Japan recognizes that the ITU is playing a vital role in the realization of an Information Society, and at this conference we expressed our intention to continue making the largest financial contributions to the ITU.

We also approved and supported a new resolution to eradicate the Ebola hemorrhagic fever through the use of ICT, which was adopted unanimously.

This year is particularly auspicious, being both the 150th anniversary of the ITU's founding, and the year of the tenth annual World Summit on the Information Society. In December, Japan will also host the WTIS-15, high-level symposium on international statistics in the ICT field, where we are looking forward to participating in lively discussions. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is thus actively contributing to the ITU in various ways.

Furthermore, with the aim of conferring the benefits of ICT equally to people in Asia-Pacific countries, an international organization called the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) is working on human resource development, radio communications and standardization in the telecommunication field, and on the coordination of regional telecommunications policies and other regulations.

As the largest donor country in this region, Japan has actively contributed to the APT since it was first established. At the APT deputy secretary general election in November last year, Masanori Kondo from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications was elected to this position. Japan will continue to support the APT with human resources and financial assistance.

As ICT pervades into our daily lives and its influence increases, an increasingly important role is being played by the ICT that falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will continue to promote measures related to ICT and fully mobilize its policy resources so to enhance people's daily lives. I hope for your continued support and cooperation over the coming year.

And finally, allow me to wish you a year of happiness, good health, and success in all your endeavors.