47th Celebration for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)

The ITU Association of Japan

■ **Photo 1: Group Photo**

May 17 marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention. The Convention was signed in 1865, 150 years ago, and became the starting point of the International Telecommunication Union.

This year, the ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ) marked the occasion by holding the 47th Celebration for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo, Japan, with over 270 participants from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the ICT industry. The ceremony featured a video message from the ITU Secretary-General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, celebrating our 47th WTISD event as well as the 150th anniversary of the ITU.

At each year's Cel-
ebration, ITU-AJ pres-
ents awards to recognize
those who have furthered
the aims of WTISD by
raising awareness of how
information and com-
munication technologies
(ICT) can contribute to international standardization and cooperation between societies and economies with regard to sustainable develop-ment goals, and can help bridge the digital divide. This is a long-established award ceremony that was first held 43 years ago.

■ **Photo 2: Video message from Mr. Houlin Zhao**

The highest honor — the MIC Minister's Award — was presented to Toshio Obi, Professor of GSAPS and Director of the Institute of e-Government at Waseda University.

Other ITU-AJ Awards, in the form of trophies, were also presented to prominent figures in the fields of standardization and international cooperation, as listed below.

Awards for accomplishment in the field of ICT (international standardization) were presented to seven winners, while awards for accomplishment in the field of international cooperation were given to eight winners. Encouragement awards were presented to twelve winners in the field of ICT and seven in the field of international cooperation, in expectation of their on-going contributions in their respective fields.

The list of award winners is as follows:

MIC Minister's Award
Toshio Obi, GSAPS/ WASEDA UNIVERSITY

ITU-AJ Award: Accomplishment in the Field of ICT
Hiroshi Ota, ITU
Shigeyuki Sakazawa, KDDI R&D LABS
Kazuyuki Shiraki, NTT
Masaru Takechi, NHK
Kenji Furukawa, NTT DOCOMO
Akira Matsunaga, KDDI
Makoto Murakami, NTT

ITU-AJ Award: Accomplishment in the Field of International Cooperation
Asia Mobile Backhaul Improvement Project: Contribution to Environment of Broadband Communication in APAC Region, NEC
Yosuke Uchiyama, KDDI/KDDI FOUNDATION
Masayoshi Kuwahara, NHK (retired)
Jiro Kokan, NTT (retired)
Tadayoshi Kotoge, BHN ASSOCIATION
Toshikazu Sakano, ATR
Atsushi Takahara, NTT
Hiroshi Toda, ITEA
Kiyoshi Mushu, NTT (retired)

Encouragement Award: Field of ICT
Kota Asaka, NTT
Koji Isshiki, NTT-AT
Hiromasa Umeda, NTT DOCOMO
Masashi Eto, NICT
Makoto Kadowaki, NEC MAGNUS
Kohei Kambara, NHK
Kiyoshi Tanaka, NTT
Sei Naito, KDDI R&D LABS
Satoshi Nagata, NTT DOCOMO
Nobuhiko Naka, NTT DOCOMO
Kazutomo Hasegawa, FUJITSU
Yusuke Fukui, KDDI

Encouragement Award: Field of International Cooperation
Kazuhiko Akatsu, NTT EAST
Minako Akiba, BHN ASSOCIATION
Yoshinori Kawana, NHK
Susumu Tanaka, NEC
Digital Broadcasting Experts Group, ARIB
Shinichi Nobutsune, KDDI FOUNDATION
Hiroshi Fujita, NHK