Trends in the Information and Communication Technology Industry in Japan

It is needless to say that the information and communication technology (ICT) industry is the basis of all social and economic activity. Especially at the time of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the importance of its role as a lifeline was once again recognized. There are also strong expectations on ICT as a crucial strategic sector that holds the key to sustained growth in the Japanese economy and the resolution of social issues. The promotion of the active use of ICT is therefore being sought in new sectors, including administration, medicine, education and the environment.

The ICTJ Basic Views

1. As well as aiming for the further strengthening of the ICT infrastructure that supports the ICT industry, we will strive to realize the “society that is easy to live in,” based on the “ICTJ Design for the 21st Century,” and the healthy development of an ICT industry that plays a vital social role.

2. We will encourage the stable provision of ICT infrastructure and its further expansion and upgrading, not only as a “basis of daily life” and a “basis of production” but also as a crucial “lifeline.”

3. In order that all people will feel reassured about making use of ICT, we will promote measures toward ensuring information security as well as work for the enhancement of education on safety for users.

4. We will work toward the active nurturing of ICT engineers, including in information security, and the further establishment of fair competitive conditions as we strive toward the healthy development of industry.
Information Communication Policy in Japan

Nominal Market Sizes of Major Industries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Market Size (trillion Yen)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICT industry</td>
<td>85.4</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical equipment (not ICT)</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (not ICT)</td>
<td>53.9</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>59.4</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron and steel</td>
<td>27.9</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other industries</td>
<td>546.7</td>
<td>58.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (all industries)</td>
<td>928.9</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Changes in Subscriptions to Telecommunications Services

The number of mobile communication subscribers in 2011 was approximately 130 million, and that of fixed-line phone subscribers was approximately 35 million.

In 2000, the number of mobile communication subscribers and that of fixed-line phone subscribers were almost the same, but the number of mobile communication subscribers has been dramatically increasing since 2001, while that of fixed-line phone subscribers has been declining. The number of mobile communication subscribers in 2011 was 3.7 times as many as that of fixed-line phone subscribers.

In addition, the long-term evolution (LTE) for 3.9-generation (3.9G) mobile communication systems was launched in 2010 and the upgrading of the speed of mobile communications is expected to continue to accelerate.

Present Situation of Information Communication

The Japanese population was 126.53 million as of 2012, and the total number of employees in all industries was 59.77 million.

The number of employers engaged in the information communication industry is 3.8 million, 6% of the total of all industries.

The market size of the Japanese ICT industry in FY2010 (nominal GDP) was 85.4 trillion yen, some 9% of the total of all industries, which means that the ICT industry is the largest of all industries.

It is envisioned that the information society will make further progress in the future; the role of the ICT industry will become increasingly important, and in fact indispensable for industry and society.

Changes in Subscriptions to Telecommunications Services

To Promote the Utilization and Application of ICT: ICTJ’s Perspective

As well as developing a system to promote the integral use of ICT in national and local government, and relaxing regulations which limit the use of ICT, we plan to utilize and apply ICT in various fields to realize a society that is good to live in, including new services that utilize ICT, such as cloud computing. Specifically, we promote the use of ICT in the administrative, medical, educational, and environmental fields.

ICT is essential in our life, and the ICT infrastructure to support this is an essential “bread and butter” factor in our life. In addition to this, ICT is regarded as an important “production base” for the operation of companies, and as a “lifeline” in times of disaster. Thus, it is a duty of ICT workers to provide a steady supply of socially important ICT infrastructure.
Looking at the breakdown of mobile communication subscribers at the end of March 2013, the number of feature phone subscribers was 73 million, and that of smartphones was 43 million. The number of smartphone subscribers is strongly increasing in Japan; it is expected that smartphone subscribers will be in a majority in 2014, and will continue to increase after that. In addition, all smartphones released after last autumn can be connected to LTE, which is available in almost all areas in Japan.

On the other hand, data traffic measures have become indispensable for carriers because the quantity of mobile data traffic is increasing dramatically against the background of an increase in users and the diversification of contents application services (video service providers such as YouTube). We therefore offer a service utilizing a public wireless LAN as a data off-road service.

On the other hand, DSL subscribers have been decreasing, and FTTH subscribers overtook DSL subscribers in 2007. However, although the upgrading of the infrastructure has been making progress and the number of subscribers has been increasing, broadband connectivity in Japan is not as high as in other developed countries such as Germany, Korea, Sweden, and so on. We think that the promotion of the further utilization and application of broadband will be necessary in the future.
ICTJ is pursuing a good society to live in, which will be realized by “independence” and “cooperation.” Through cooperation between people both inside and outside the Federation, ICTJ is expanding activities that resonate with and are hoped for by society.

**Labor Relations and Development of the Industry**

ICTJ signed the joint declaration for the development of human resources and the realization of a better work-life balance with Japan Information Technology Services Industry Association (JISA) and is deploying efforts for sound growth and expansion of the entire industry.

**Environmental Protection**

ICTJ has dedicated itself to the promotion of activities to protect the global environment, aiming for the realization of a society where people enjoy peace of mind living together and coexisting with nature.

The annual eco activity is conducted nationwide around the same time each year. Various environment protection practices are carried out, such as picking up trash along the river, giving lessons on the environment, cleaning the coastal area, and forest conservation activities.

**Peace Activities**

World Peace is the common wish of all people around the world. We would like to spread the importance of peace through learning, thinking about and conveying the horrors of war, which can threaten peace and human life. We are engaged in activities to inform people about the importance of peace and the futility of war.

**Dialogue with University Students**

The mismatch between companies and new graduates has become a social issue that is often expressed by the words, “Though I found a job, the image of working was different from what I imagined it to be,” or “We hired new graduates, but they don’t seem to find satisfaction in their work.”

We offer the opportunity to university students to exchange their opinions with our members so that they can get a more precise image of “working.”

ICTJ is contributing to society by supporting students, so that they will be able to bear the burdens of society and play important roles in the future.
Reconstruction Assistance for Areas Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake

We are conducting various support activities for reconstruction and recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake which occurred on 11 March 2011.

An “Event for Recovery Assistance in Affected Areas in Tokyo, 2013” was held, and we sold food and goods made in the affected areas.

Launching an oyster owner system to help restore affected areas

We raised voluntary contributions in units of 5,000 yen from ICTJ members to support the restoration of oyster rafts and the restart of oyster cultivation. Contributing members will receive oysters in a few years’ time.

Selling rice made in Fukushima

Rice grown in Fukushima is very popular nationwide as a fine-tasting rice, and some brands have even won the “special A” ranking. However, sales of Fukushima rice have been severely hit by harmful rumors resulting from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear accident.

We sold rice grown in Fukushima for the purpose of dispelling these rumors about farming in Fukushima.

Voluntary activities to support reconstruction

Volunteer activities for recovery assistance in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture were conducted from October to December, 2011. A total of 183 members participated in these activities.

In addition, between November 2012 and January 2013, ICTJ members also worked as volunteers in restoration activities in Minamisanriku Town in the same prefecture.

Promotion of International Activities

In cooperation with international organizations, we are engaged in activities aimed at coping with employment and labor problems occurring due to the globalization of economic activities and the development of overseas business by companies. We especially participate in various activities of UNI. As well as in Japan, we push forward activities for a better working environment of workers in the information communication industry worldwide. In addition, we dispatch members to hold seminars or events for the capacity building of officers who will bear the burden of the next generation.
What is UNI-LCJapan?
A Domestic Consultation and Coordination Body: UNI-LCJapan

UNI-LCJapan (UNI Liaison Council Japan) is the domestic council where UNI affiliates in Japan discuss their involvement in UNI activities and harmonize their opinions and positions. In conjunction with UNI consolidation, UNI-LCJapan was formed in January 2000 and has been growing its membership with determined commitment on organizing. As of February 2013, UNI-LCJapan consists of 12 trade unions as affiliates with a total of 1,032,200 members and carries out activities in close cooperation with UNI/UNI-Apro.

UNI-LCJapan convenes an annual general meeting in February of every year to discuss and make decisions on its activity programs and budget; its officers are elected at the general meeting every two years. Pursuant to the decision made by the general meeting, matters related to its management and activities are discussed and implemented by the steering committee composed of 23 members from the 12 affiliates.

With 1,032,200 members, many Japanese affiliates hold key positions in UNI. Many of them are involved in UNI decision-making bodies, and in particular they are very much responsible for promoting UNI activities in the Asia-Pacific region. Since 2000, many overseas projects have been run by UNI-LCJapan. Seminars with national liaison councils in the various countries have been conducted, in close cooperation with UNI-LCJapan. UNI-LCJ ICTS, namely, ICTS is one of the most promising sectors in Japan.