

RECENT SITUATION OF PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATION POLICY OF JAPAN ⁽¹⁾

Tomoji Ichinose

1. Preface

Following the final report of the Ad Hoc Public Administration Research Council (Rinji Gyosei Chosakai), ⁽²⁾ preparations were made for alterations in the form and organization of Japanese Public Corporations since 1983. These are, in particular, the Japan Tobacco and Salt Public Corporation (JTSC), Japan National Railway (JNR), and Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation (NTT).

According to my research, "Kōkyō Kigyō Tai" in Japan is a little different concept from "Public Corporation of European and American countries". That means, "Kōkyō Kigyō Tai", which is translated from Public Corporation or Government Corporation, is legally used for JNR, JTSC and NTT only.

However, when we generally refer to Japanese public enterprises, they will include "Kōdan"; "Kōko", "Jigyōdan" and mixed enterprises, "Japan Airline (JAL)", "Kokusai Denshin Denwa Kaisha (KDD)" and others. ⁽³⁾

The above-mentioned three "Kōkyō Kigyō Tai -- JNR, JTSC and NTT" were established in 1949 (JNR and JTSC) and in 1952 (NTT).

Evaluating the situation from a historical viewpoint, it is said, these "Kōkyō Kigyō Tai" have not accomplished their own purposes, public nature, providing social benefit as well as efficiency and self-supporting. And generally speaking, there has been monopolistic inefficiency and some local political influences, instead of strong points or merits associated with government and private enterprise. ⁽⁴⁾

Therefore, the necessity of review for “Kōkyō Kigyō Tai” was pointed out by the report of the Fourth Division, Ad Hoc Public Administration Research Council.

These points were (1) Need for Deregulation, (2) Autonomy and Self-supporting, (3) Self-consciousness of Labour and Management Relations, and (4) Competitive Efficiency and Development Towards New Stage in Technical Innovation and Internationalization. ⁽⁵⁾

2. Reform of the Three Japanese Public Corporations

(1) *Japanese National Railway (JNR)*

The JNR Reconstruction Supervisory Commission (Chairman, Mr. Masao Kamei) established by the report of Ad Hoc Public Administration Research Council in May, 1984, has been under preparation of plans for breaking up into several parts, which will include to separate out local lines and make into mixed enterprises with the participation of local governments.

The JNR has suffered deficits annually since 1964; its deficits surpassed more than 10 billion yen and accumulated debt is estimated to surpass 370 billion yen by 1986. ⁽⁶⁾

The JNR was by far the most important target of the research councils' prescriptions for Public Corporation reform, which has started as 6 JR Line Companies and 1 JR Line Commodity Transit Company and others from April 1, 1987, after the long period of dispute and preparation since 1984. ⁽⁷⁾

(2) *The Japan Tobacco and Salt Public Corporation (JTSC)*

The sales percentage of import tobacco of JTSC is only one percent, instead of the second market-share among liberal world countries. Besides, the international market-share of JTSC is almost nothing. Therefore, the U.S. Government and tobacco companies have strongly requested for free market of tobacco trade. ⁽⁸⁾

JTSC has started to change into a special private enterprise from April, 1985 by the legislation of the New Japan Tobacco and Salt Company Act. ⁽⁹⁾

(3) *Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation (NTT)*

According to the final report "The fifth report of the Ad Hoc Public Administration Research Council", the demerit of monopolistic form and organization of telecommunication has been pointed out.

In order to adapt for ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) society which is expected in the 21 Century, it would be necessary for telecommunication information and CATV & other New Media to have vitality and flexibility of private free enterprises, the report said as above-mentioned.⁰⁹

And the New Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company Act, with the New Telecommunication Act, was under legislation in the Japanese Diet, to have been enforced from April 1, 1985.⁰⁹

3. Telecommunication Policy of Japan

(1) *The process of the new order of the telecommunication industry*

The new order of telecommunication was under way by the legislative process of the New Telecommunication Act in the Japanese Diet. The present reform of the telecommunication act system was to be a fundamental rectification of an integrated telecommunication common carrier as Public Enterprise since Meiji Era. The reasons which such kind of revision was to be acceptable, will be listed up as follows, (1) rapid technical innovation of computer, TV and various cables, (2) countermeasure towards socio-economic development and internationalization of our country and her environment, (3) introduction of free private enterprise vitality into the telecommunication field.⁰⁹

The present common carrier act of telecommunication was to be abolished and a new telecommunication industry act was effected from April, 1985. The summary of the new telecommunication industry act will be as follows.⁰⁹

- (a) The introduction of the competition principle will be the main motivation for deregulation. New participants will be welcome into telecommunication fields.⁰⁹
- (b) VAN (Value Added Network) industry and other various telecommunication industries as well as new NTT, will be to appear from April, 1985.⁰⁹

- (c) Telecommunication services necessary for peoples' life, communication secret and security, important communication for emergency & times of disaster and other public services of telecommunication should be maintained.⁰⁶
- (d) Government regulation should be maintained at a minimum at almost the same conditions with other public utilities such as electricity, gas, transportation and others, because creativity of private and technical innovation will be mostly promoted for the development of telecommunication.⁰⁷
- (e) In order to promote the free use of telecommunication, limited provisions will be removed, related to the utilization of telecommunication cable, terminal apparatus and use of telecommunication equipments.⁰⁸

According to the new telecommunication industry act, there are two kinds of telecommunication industries; the one is equipped with telecommunication cable and is to provide telecommunication services, and the other is to make lease-use of telecommunication cable. The former will be said "the first category telecommunication industry" and the latter will be said "the second category telecommunication industry".⁰⁹

The first category telecommunication industry will be common carrier which will require a huge amount of equipment investment, therefore, government permission will be requested, related to opening of new business. Because, I believe, a large amount of equipment investment might be double investment and lead to destructive competition. Therefore, some kind of public utility regulation from the viewpoint of protection of consumers' or utilizers' benefit will be required.⁰⁸

Besides, the first category telecommunication industry will be, in principle, opened to new entry of other industries, however, the capital ratio of foreign investment will be limited below 1/3.⁰⁹ Moreover, government sanctions will be requested for making rates since it will exert great influence on the national economy and society.

On the other hand, the second category telecommunication industry, so called VAN (Value Added Network) will have many problems which include conflicting government opinion between the Ministry of Post

& Telecommunication (MPT) and the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MITI).²²

There are two kinds of VAN, one is "general VAN" and the other is "special VAN". Related to general VAN, MPT requires only a report, because general VAN will be a local area type and relatively small size; MITI insists complete free competition of general VAN. Also related to special VAN, which will cover national-wide network and basic international VAN business, MPT insists the requirement of government permission because of socio-economic importance.

On the other hand, MITI insists complete freedom from regulation, from the viewpoint of consideration for economic conflict between Japan and US & EC countries.²³ And moreover, capital ratio of foreign stockholders will be under 50% or complete no regulation.²⁴

Finally, political coordination among the Liberal Democratic Party and two Ministries has been made as follows: government regulation will be limited to both general VAN and special VAN, which will be only a report submission. And no regulation for foreign investment will be made by the government.²⁵

After April of 1985, there will be other groups of telecommunication enterprises except NTT, for example, Kyocera group (Daini Den Den Ltd.), JNR group (Nippon Telecom Ltd.), Road Construction Corporation & Ministry of Construction group (Nippon High Speed Communication Ltd.), Tokyo Electric Power affiliated company (Tokyo Tsūshin Network Ltd.) JC-SAT, Space Communications (2 satellite carriers) and so on. These kinds of new entry will be expected to bring about competition principle and a favorable fee for final users.²⁶

(2) *Summary of New Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Co., Ltd.*

The other big revision of telecommunication industry system will be the reform of NTT (Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Public Corporation) into mixed enterprise, which will be at first a special company (Tokushu Kaisha) with whole public ownership. Company stock, however, will be gradually opened to private ownership, finally leading to 1/3 public ownership and 2/3 private ownership.²⁷

If we might observe the historical perspective of telecommunication

industry, as you know, Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Public Corporation was established in 1952 by the suggestion of GHQ, Commander in chief, General Douglas MacArthur. This was followed by the establishment of Japan National Railway and Japan Tobacco and Salt Public Corporation of 1949.⁵⁸

However, these types of Public Corporations were very different from other Public Corporation in the United States or in Europe. These three Kokyo Kigyo Tai (Japanese Public Corporations) were only an extension of government enterprise which were under strict legal and financial control of the government, compared with Public Corporations in the US and European countries.

Therefore, especially, JNR became a typical deficit enterprise with local political railroads supported by the local community under the name of "Social Benefit" or "Local Public Interest".⁵⁹ On the other hand, NTT was a most excellent enterprise among these three Japanese Public Corporations, however, very rapid technical innovation of telecommunication and development of information & communication society have brought concrete introduction of competition principle. New Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Company will be almost the same form with Kokusai Denshin Denwa Kaisha (KDD).⁶⁰

4. INS Experiments of Mitaka-Musashino Area in Tokyo

(1) *Summary of INS Experiments*

The INS is "Information Network System", which is internationally called ISDN "Integrated Services Digital Network" experiments had started from September 28, 1984 for two years a half.⁶¹ This experiment would be, in some sense, an opening of new age of "Information Society" as well as the starting of the Japanese CAPTAIN System (Character and Pattern Telephone Access Information Network System) from November 20, 1984.⁶²

However, a total system of this kind of telecommunication new media will consist of hardware & software, information providers and end users. Especially, the increase of end users and business or home subscribers would be inevitable for the development of a total new media

system. In this report, I would like to explain about this kind of INS situation in Japan shortly.

According to the explanation of Mr. Antei Kitahara, Vice President of NTT, terminal equipments of INS are, as a principle, next four: (1) Telephone, (2) Fax, (3) Data terminal and (4) Video terminal.⁸³

Of course, in the future various equipments through technical innovation will appear in realization. And the philosophy of INS will be integrated into services of a digital network, which will become the "Infrastructure" for Area Development.

Various services for INS experiments in the Mitaka-Musashino area has been shown as follows: (1) Digital Fax, (2) Videotex Communication, Complex PBX/CES, Document Communication and Multi-media Enhanced Services, (3) Digital Telephone, Digital Design Services and so on, (3) Super High Speed Fax, Image Circuit Services, etc., (4) DDX (Digital Data Exchange), Fax Network, etc.⁸⁴

These kind of services will be made easier not only for business use, but also home use, municipalities and schools & colleges. For example, "Home Shopping", "Home Banking", "Study at Home" and "Work at Home" or "Satellite Office System".

However, there will be several problems to be overcome in spite of enthusiastic efforts by NTT. There may be as follows: (1) Necessary and useful Informations for End Users Through These New Media, (2) Popularization of Terminal Equipments, (3) Reform of Legal Regulation System for the Development of New Media, especially "Home Shopping" and "Home Banking", etc., (4) Legislature of Copyright for Information Providers and Data Bases,⁸⁵ (5) Self-supporting for Information Providing Industry.

Any way, I would like to make efforts myself for the desirable development of new media, INS or ISDN society.

(2) *INS Experiments for University Education at ICU*

The International Christian University has also been participating into the INS Experiments in the Mitaka-Musashino area from the beginning of this experiment, September 28, 1984, which will be called ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) internationally.⁸⁶

Our Experiments have included the following items: 1) VRS for the purpose of the University and Campus Information, 2) Long-distance TV Lecturing by TV Conference System, 3) TV Joint Seminar, 4) Use of TV Conference and TV Telephone System for Open Lecture of "International Community College".⁶⁹

- 1) VRS was produced for the purpose of Public Relations for ICU Information with the technical cooperation of NHK Service Center. This can be seen at the Integrated Learning Center (ILC) of ICU. The contents of VRS are the guidance of ICU and Campus Life, which will be further developed and refined, including the entrance examination schedule, etc. in the future.
- 2) Long-distance, distance signal or remoting TV Lecturings were experimented with the Language classes (German and Indonesian). Two lectures of German and Indonesian were broadcasted from Kasumigaseki to Campus classes separately, which equipments have been connected between Kasumigaseki and Mitaka. The German case was held in October, and the Indonesian case was held in November, 1985.
- 3) TV Joint Seminar was a small size class through a TV conference system between ICU and Asia University at Musashino, related to "Business Administration". However, this type of experiment has to be carefully arranged from the viewpoint of educational effects.
- 4) The use of INS for Open Lectures were relatively exciting for Mitaka Community where citizens participated into Open Lecture, not only on Campus but also at the Community Center of Mitaka City or their own homes. In future, many citizens will be able to participate in the Open Lecture or other events of the University through this kind of INS media.

This kind of series of Experiments will be only tentative during the experiment period until March, 1987. And the evaluation of this kind of INS use of University Education has to be carefully made from the viewpoint of future educational style and effect as well as the viewpoint of social life changes, coming from the development of New Media and Information Industries. Not only educational effect, but also cost

analysis for management and administration will be necessary for the future use of this kind of media.⁶⁸

Especially, when considering the feasibility of this kind of TV lecturing from out of Campus just like from Kasumigaseki, or from other universities, or even from overseas, it would be necessary to prudently examine from various aspects, such as educational curriculum, comparing cost, TV Lecturing v.s. normal lecturing, and administrative management aspects.⁶⁹

5. Related to Teleport Planning of Tokyo

(1) *Concept of Teleport*

From April 4 to 6, 1985, a Conference and Establishment Meeting of World Association of Teleport in Tokyo with New York, San Francisco, London, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and so on was held. Generally speaking, Teleport is to be defined as "The Base of Information and Communication for Domestic & International Use", which will include the Harbor Port Area Development.⁴⁰

The necessity of Tokyo Teleport is insisted by Tokyo Metropolitan Government as follows.

Tokyo, the Capital City of Japan, has become a cosmopolitan city open to the world. The functions of high-level central government, finance and international activities are concentrated into Tokyo. Also Tokyo performs an important role as the international information nexus. As internationalization will make progress more and more, Tokyo will strengthen her positions as a cosmopolitan metropolis along with New York, London and so on.

Therefore, it has become increasingly necessary for Tokyo to construct a center just as Tokyo Teleport as an advanced information and communication base.

The international city of Tokyo can perform her functions in the emerging society of integrated information systems.

(2) *Location of Tokyo Teleport*

Tokyo Port LAND #13, the future site of Tokyo Teleport, lies on a line just 6 km from the heart of Tokyo. It will be more convenient,

with the construction of the Tokyo Port Bridge and the new transportation system to be constructed which will be completed in 1992 and 1993 respectively.⁴⁰

Tokyo Teleport consists of an Earth Station for the communications satellite, a Telecom Center which processes information and data by computer, and the Intelligent Office which offers informations and data communications services.

Tokyo Teleport is a high-grade data communications processing base. The Teleport and each facility are connected by optical fiber cables, enabling massive amounts of high-speed information to be processed most economically. Data communications services are offered by connecting the Tokyo Teleport and existing communications circuits by optical fiber cables.

(3) *Contents of Services*

Tokyo Teleport provides a variety of value-added information services through VAN business operators. Principal information services are: Physical distribution, Product distribution, International transportation, Firm banking, International finance, Technological data, etc.

In addition, international communications service are provided directly: Data communications, Image transmission, High-speed facsimile, Teleconference. Moreover, broadcasting services are to be provided.

Experts in various areas will form a committee, in order to realize the Tokyo Teleport concept, and a more detailed design plan will be conceived from the point of comparative Teleport concept.

This will call for a thorough projection of various requirements in order to determine the scale of facilities. Furthermore, a comprehensive examination of the technical problems as well as the nucleus of the Project (including construction, operation, and management) will be required.⁴²

(4) *Remarks for international cooperation and exchange of informations*

Related to communication services, the background of privatization movement behind NTT. As generally known, NTT is a largest corpora-

tion in Japan. Within Tokyo Metropolitan Area, there is a large branch of Tokyo Telecommunication Region.

From the standpoint of the urban area, we have to construct telecommunication networks even in the Tokyo Metropolitan Area, which will, of course, make various networks for domestic and international purposes.

Especially, the development of computer and communication will make so called "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)" Society in the 21 Century. However, problems are what kind of hardware and software, structural and functional adjustment will be required, related to telecommunication, VAN and other information and communication industry, and Local Government.⁴³

Hardware and software, structural and functional adjustment of Tokyo Teleport is now going on, and from the standpoint of vital use of private capitalistic energy, it is said, mixed enterprise may be useful for construction and operation of Teleport.⁴⁴

Finally, I would like to take remarks on the necessity of information exchange related to communication among member countries of the East Regional Organization of Public Administration (EROPA), which include Asian Pacific countries. Because this kind of Communication and Information System will not only serve as infrastructure facilities, but also as a basic industrial conditions as well as transportation and other industrial location factors for "Nation Building" of EROPA countries.⁴⁵

Notes:

- (1) This is the article which Prof. Tomoji Ichinose addressed at the 16th Public Utilities Williamsburg Conference near Washington D.C. auspiced with Michigan State University in 1985 and revised with recent data and informations.
- (2) The review of the Ad Hoc Public Administration Research Council (Rinji Gyōsei Chōsakai) was held from March 16, 1981 to March 14, 1983. The report for Public Corporations, the fourth division report of May 17, 1982 and January 17, 1983, had been submitted and published.
- (3) The Japanese public enterprises are included generally into "Tokushu Hōjin and Gengyo, etc.", which reports will be expected for more development of Japanese public enterprises.
- (4) Tomoji Ichinose; "The measurement problem of public employment productivity – Public Enterprise growth in employment and its financing –" *The Journal of Social Science*, No. 20 (1), October 1981, ICU.
Tomoji Ichinose; "Overhauling of Japanese Public Enterprises – related to Ad Hoc Public Administration Research Council Reports –" *Public Utility Economics*, No. 35-1, 1983.
- (5) It was said a failure of Japanese type Public Corporations. However, I think, if real self-supporting system model of Public Corporation was adopted in Japan, some different evaluation might be made.
- (6) *Audit report of Japan National Railway*, Audit Committee, August 1984, p. 8.
- (7) *The final report of Ad Hoc Public Administration Research Council*, Chapter 2, pp. 57-59. Also refer to Kamei Report.
- (8) Ibid. The report of May 17, 1982, pp. 28-35, and The report of July 30, 1982, pp. 95-99.
- (9) The New Japan Tobacco and Salt Company Act was already enacted.
- (10) Ibid. The final report of March 14, 1983, pp. 57-58.
- (11) The New Telecommunication Act and the New Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Company Act were expected to be enacted in the coming ordinary Diet in December, 1984.
- (12) Tomoji Ichinose; "Accumulation and providing of Internationalization Information through new media", *Koei Hyoron* No. 5, 1984.
- (13) Refer to "Telecommunication Industry Bill".
- (14) The introduction of competition principle into public utilities fields will be one of typical characteristics of the present reform of Public Corporations in Japan.

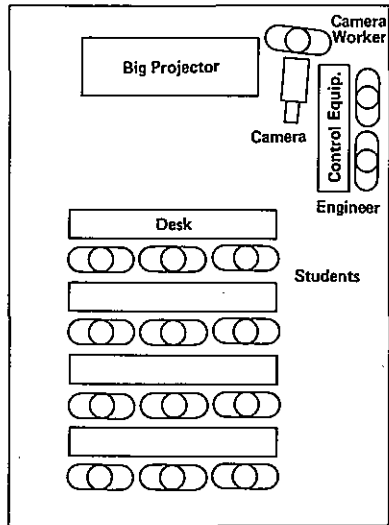
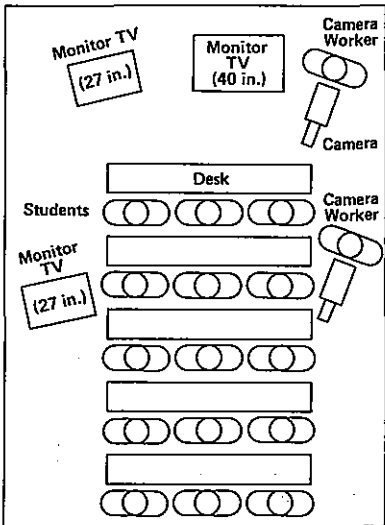
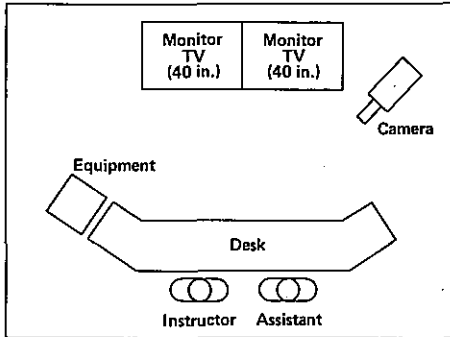
- (15) The definition of VAN (Value Added Network) industry is in Japan recognized as a mixture of communication and information industry.
- (16) Public functions of telecommunication services will be important as well as introduction of competition principle into telecommunication industry in Japan.
- (17) Traditionally, typical models of public utilities were electricity, gas, water supply and telecommunication common carriers. However, environments of public utilities are now changing by rapid technical innovation.
- (18) Refer to *Telecommunications Regulation Today and Tomorrow* edited by Eli M. Noam: Alfred E. Kahn, "The passing of the public utility concept: A reprise," pp. 3-37.
- (19) The first category telecommunication industry will be common carrier for general public. And the second category telecommunication industry will be free enterprise in general.
- (20) The history of public utilities has shown several conflicts among transportation and consumers by court cases in 19 century.
- (21) Principle of making free for foreign investment must be equal in international perspective.
- (22) These kinds of opinion conflict among each Ministry will be called "Sectionalism", but if comparing to other countries, this will be one of typical characteristics of Japan.
- (23) Economic conflict between Japan and US and EC countries will show the necessity of careful consideration for every government policy and regulation.
- (24) On the other hand, there is an opinion that telecommunication should include sovereignty of each country.
- (25) Internationalization of capital investment will be a general tendency especially among developed countries. Nationalism and Internationalism should be considered by balanced administrative sense.
- (26) Refer to the study report "The Study of Economic Law including Anti-trust Law and Telecommunication Industry" Research Institute of Telecommunication Industry, March 1984.
- (27) It is said that the establishment of "Telecommunication Promotion Foundation" by the capital surplus of private ownership is now being planned within the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication.
- (28) Tomoji Ichinose, *Public Corporations of Japan*, Tōyōkeizai Shinpōsha, 1976.
Also refer to Wolfgang Friedmann, *Public Corporation*, 1955.
- (29) Tomoji Ichinose, Shoichiro Kikuchi, Kyohei Terado & Shigehiko Naoe, *Kosha, Kodan and Jigyodan*, Kyōikusha, 1982.
- (30) Typical example of "Tokushu Kaisha" is KDD.

- (31) Two years later, international conference of telecommunication forecasting will be expected at Mitaka in Tokyo. This conference was held on December 1-3, 1986 in the campus of International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan.
- (32) CAPTAIN System is a Japanese name of Videotex communication.
- (33) Antei Kitahara, "The way to the Information Network System (Internationally ISDN)" August 5, 1981.
- (34) Ibid., op. cit. The summary of the speech.
- (35) Especially, legislature of copyright for author and right for production, etc. should be widely protected.
- (36) Our University has made a series of researches by the joint working group with NTT, Research Institute of Information and Communication, Asia University and ICU.
- (37) This kind of researches and experiments has been made from the standpoint of, mainly, user-side of telecommunication services, which will be inevitably necessary for the development of Telecommunication Society.
- (38) The final report of INS Experiments at ICU was prepared and published in March 1987.
- (39) In order to develop ISDN economically and socially, there will be very many problems to be solved, which should be experimented more precisely and effectively from the viewpoint of "User-side."
- (40) Tomoji Ichinose, "Teleport Planning and International Cooperation - Challenge for Future Society -", *International Development Journal*, October, 1986, pp. 58-63.
- (41) It is said that transportation system will not be sufficient for Teleport and neighborhood areas.
- (42) It will be necessary, it is said, for Tokyo Bay Area Comprehensive Development to mobilize private sector powers as well as public sector powers.
- (43) Refer to the final report of INS Experiments at ICU, January 1987.
- (44) Refer to the Plan of International Comprehensive Cooperation Forum, 1987.
- (45) Refer to Tomoji Ichinose, Delivery of Public Services in National Development; Urban Management related to Public Utilities and Communications Services, presented at EROPA Eleventh General Assembly and Conference, December 8-14, 1985, Bangkok, Thailand.

I Attached Charts : Experiment System of INS

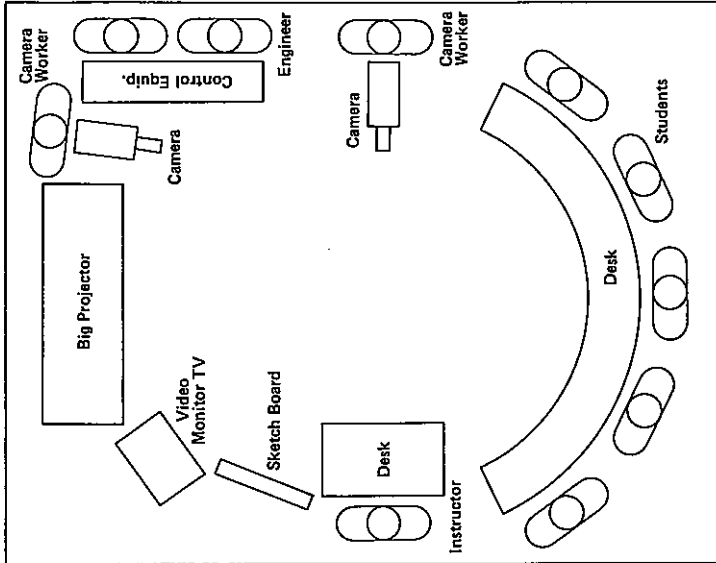
(1) TV Lecturing (Terminal Allocation)

Kasumigaseki Communication Center

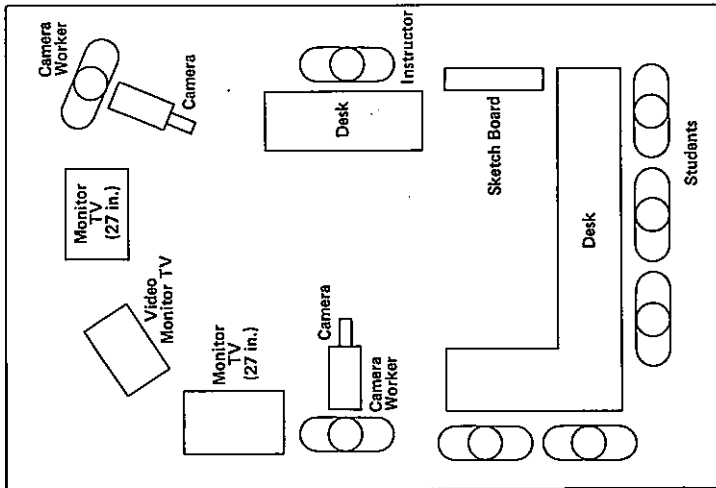


(2) TV Joint Seminar (Terminal Allocation)

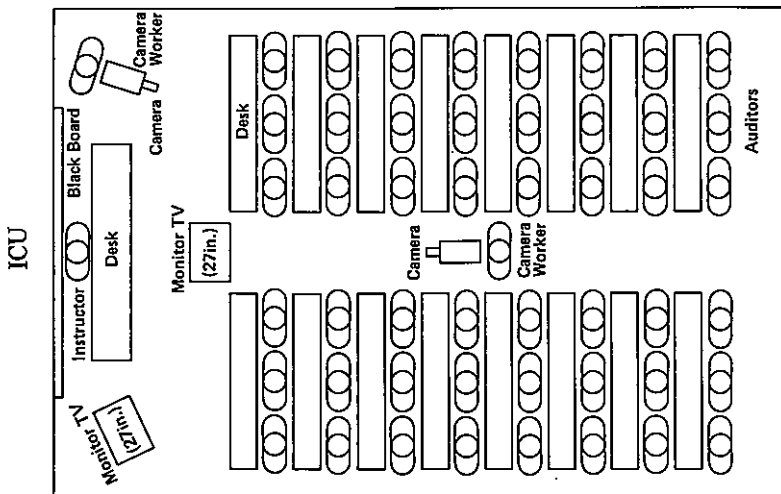
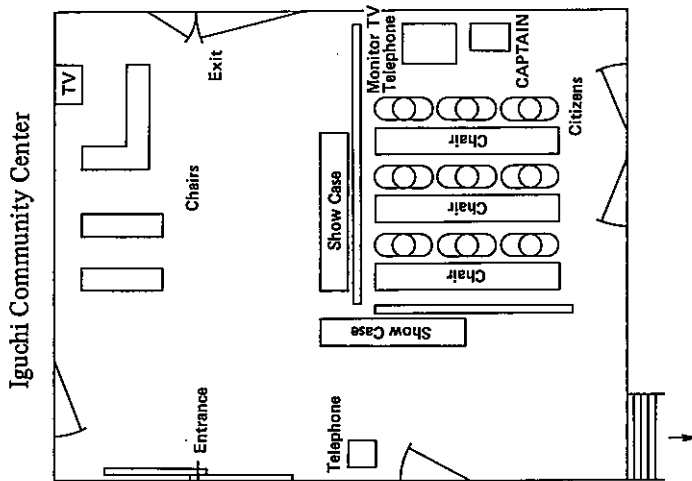
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(3) Open Lecture (Terminal Allocation)



II. Land Reclamation of Tokyo Bay

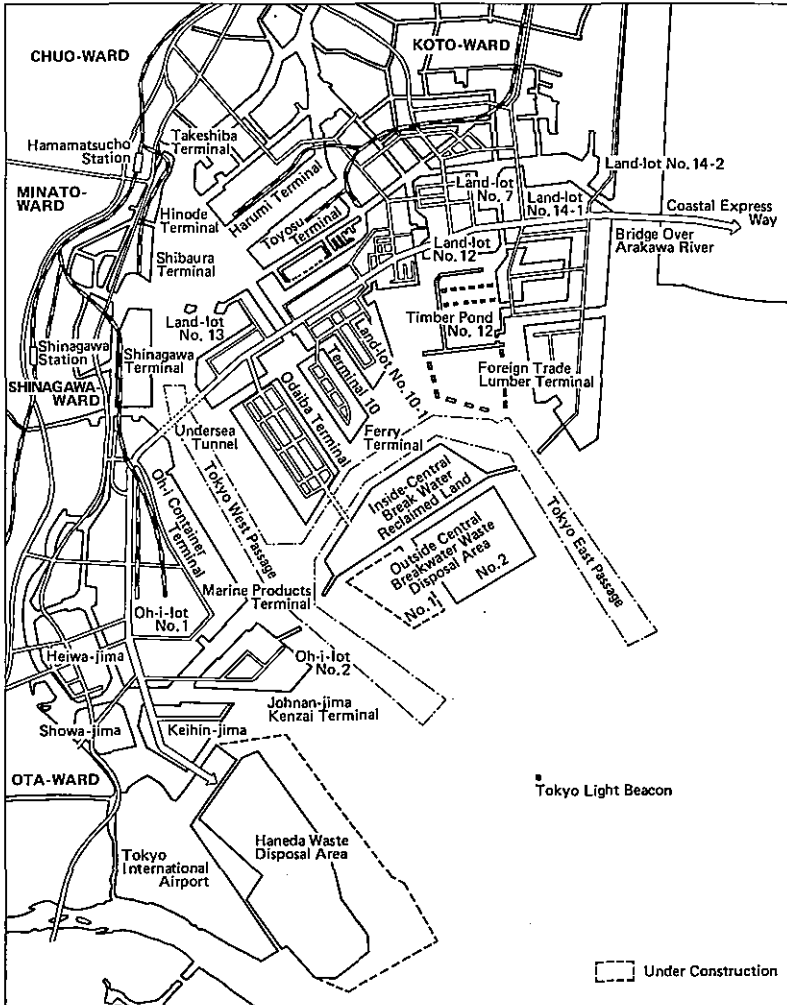
The Port of Tokyo has a long history of land reclamation dating back nearly 400 years to the time when Tokugawa Ieyasu, later to become shogun, transferred his seat of power to Edo castle. The Nihonbashi and Hibiya area, now the thriving business center of the city, was in fact reclaimed from the sea during the Edo period.

Full-scale land reclamation began in the Meiji era. Some 3,600 ha, or the equivalent of the three city wards of Chiyoda, Chuo and Sumida all together, have been reclaimed since improvement work began on the mouth of the Sumida River in the early 1900s.

Work is now underway to reclaim 780 ha through the use of municipal garbage at two sites; outside the central breakwater and the Haneda offshore area.

The Port of Tokyo has thus developed hand in hand with consistent land reclamation from the beginning of the 17th century to the present.

Source: *Port of Tokyo 1984*,
Bureau of Port & Harbor,
Tokyo Metropolitan Government.



日本の公共企業体と電気通信政策

〈要 約〉

一 瀬 智 司

1984年の臨時行政調査会の答申および国鉄再建監理委員会の答申に基づき、日本たばこ産業と日本電信電話株式会社(NTT)は、1985年4月から、日本鉄道(JRライン)は1987年4月から発足して、かつての日本型公共企業体は改組されるに至ったが、中にもNTTは三公社の中でも最も優良な企業であったにも拘わらず、経営形態を変更して公私混合の第三セクター化した背景には、コンピュータ、コミュニケーションの技術的發展という世界的な動向をふまえて、21世紀に向けて競争原理の導入や新しい事業機会の創出など多角的展開をはかろうとするものであった。かくして本稿では、日本型公共企業体の改組の概況を述べるとともに、とくに国際化、情報化時代と言われる最近のわが国の内外環境を前提として、電気通信政策につき、その動向を紹介分析するとともに、その技術革新を反映して出てきている(1)三鷹武蔵地区で行われたINS(高度情報通信システム)実験の状況、(2)それに地方自治体との関連で東京都臨海部13号地に予定されているテレポート計画(1985年12月バンコックで行われたエロパ国際会議で報告したもの)について事例的に指摘することにした。

新しい電気通信事業法によれば、第一種、第二種の電気通信事業があり、前者は電気通信設備を設置してサービスを提供するもの、後者は電気通信設備の提供をうけてサービスを提供するもので、第一種電気通信事業がいわゆるNTT他第二電電グループによる従来の伝統的な公益事業としての電気通信事業であるのに対し、第二種電気通信事業は、VAN(付加価値通信)事業などを行う事業主体として、流通業、金融業を始め、

あらゆる産業・企業が参入しうるので、電気通信、情報通信革命であるとともに産業革命にも連なると考えられるものである。

ついで事例として掲げた(1)本学ICUにおけるINSの教育への利用、(a)大学広報用のVRS、(b)TV会議システムを用いての遠隔講義の実験、(c)地方自治体(三鷹市)と共同しての公開講座への実験など、将来の可能性を探るものであり、(2)エロバにおける東京テレポート計画の紹介は、電気通信、情報通信メディアを用いての国際協力への示唆を指摘している。