

# 21st AIAA International Communications Satellite Systems Conference (ICSSC) and Exhibit

Theme: The Impact of Communications Satellites on the Information Infrastructure



## Opening Remarks at Opening Ceremony of ICSSC-21

April 16, 2003

Takashi Iida, General Chair of ICSSC-21

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

I am Takashi Iida from Communications Research Laboratory and serve as General Chair of the 21st International Communications Satellite Systems Conference and Exhibit (ICSSC-21). Since the Technical Committee on Communication System (TCCS), AIAA, asked us to hold this conference in Japan two years ago, we have worked for preparation under much effort of Mitsubishi Electric Corporation as a secretary company as well as many Japanese companies, carriers, and public organizations such as the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications (MPHPT). As a result of such efforts, we could open this conference here today. I would like to give my sincere thanks to all of them for their cooperation and efforts.

The first ICSSC was held in 1966 and it has been held every other year in North America. In 1998, it was held in Japan, which was the first ICSSC held in outside North America. After that, it is held in North America every other year and, meanwhile, it is taken place in Asia and in European in turn. So, this conference is the second one in Japan.

We have proceeded the preparations for the conference on the basis of last experience, but the recent world situation is changing very rapidly as you know. In addition to the situation of economic recession not still recovering, we face the situation of the Iraq war which comes

from the terrorist attack to U.S.A in September 11, 2001, and a problem of the acute respiratory organs syndrome, SARS, is occurred very recently. On this account, I have asked all of you the cooperation that we can hold this ICSSC according to the plan, even if any kind of situation was occurred. I am very glad to be able to hold this conference today as a result of every ones' effort. I also would like to give my deeply thanks all of you for your cooperation.

The ICSSC-21 is sponsored by AIAA and the ICSSC-21 organization committee in cooperation with the Association for Promotion of Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering, Japan. 21 companies and organizations gave us their financial support and three foundations supported us as well as 18 organizations and companies including the MPHPT. I thank them once again. The International Conference Specialist, Inc. is in charge of the secretariat and pushes forward very energetically. I would like to ask the secretariat such energetic work continuously during sessions from today. Preparations for this conference is executed by the ICSSC-21 organization committee, and many, many people have been involved to collaborate.

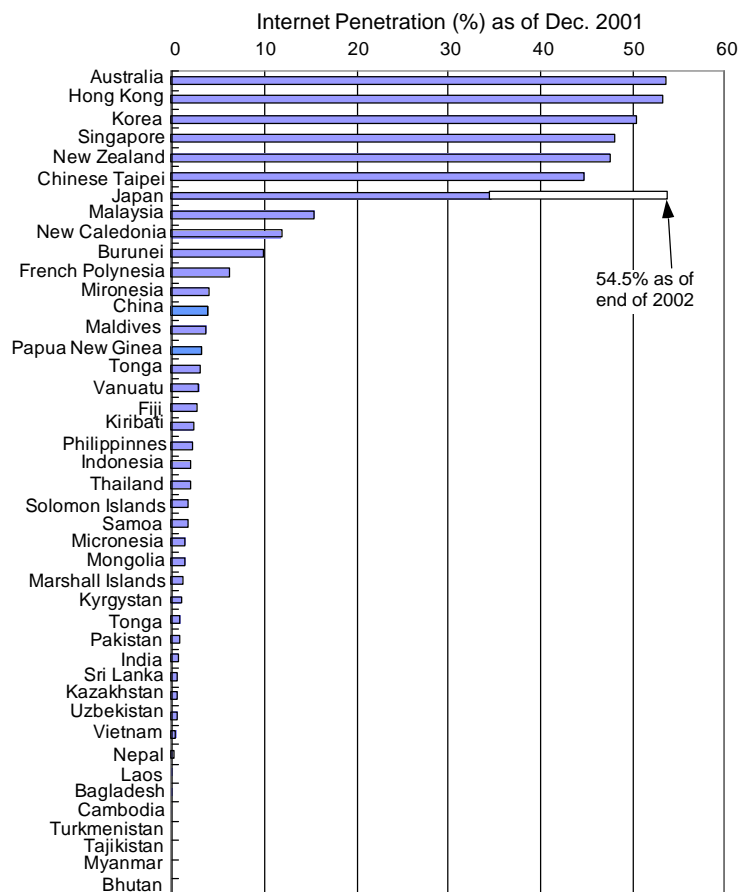
The ICSSC-21 is held for four days from today to 19th April. During these days, more than 200 technical papers will be presented. The exhibition will be open from tomorrow. In addition, on the reception related events, a welcome reception will be held this evening, the award luncheon on Thursday, 17th April and the reception will be held at "Sankei-en" where is very famous as a beautiful Japanese garden on Friday evening 18th April.

In the opening ceremony, a congratulatory address will be given by Mr. H. Ishihara, Director General for Technology Policy Coordination, MPHPT. The keynote speech will be given by Dr. I. Taniguchi, Chair, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation. The keynote speech will also be given by Dr. J. N. Pelton, Director, Space and Advanced Communications Research Institute, George Washington University.

Just following the opening ceremony, the Plenary Session A: The Impact of Communications Satellites on the Information Infrastructure, Plenary Session B: Emerging Applications, Services and Satellite Design for New Era, and Plenary Session C: Broad Band Services Through Satellites in Asia-Pacific will be taken place today.

An exhibition opens from tomorrow as I mentioned before. 33 companies and organizations participate at their 93 exhibit booths.

Finally, I would like to say the followings. A figure here shows the Internet penetration rate of each country in Asia and the Pacific area.



As shown in this figure, only advanced countries have high penetration rate of the Internet as of end of 2001, but the penetration rate in most developing countries is still extremely low. This is just the digital divide to be bridged. In order to bridge the digital divide, much investment might be required especially in the islands, mountainous or low security area. However, the investment to the communications infrastructure may be decreased due to the economic recession. Therefore, it looks that such digital divide may be rather widened recently. In such situation, I think that the satellite communications can serve as such a role because of its good efficiency. In other words it is right a turn of satellite communications then. Therefore, a role of satellite communications will become more and more important in future.

Hot topics of satellite communications are just told in this ICSSC-21 a lot. I hope all of you to participate and enjoy the conference till the last. In addition, I am happy if you, especially participants from overseas, enjoy Japanese spring to the full.

I conclude my opening remarks by declaring now to open this ICSSC-21 under a theme of "The Impact of Communications Satellites on the Information Infrastructure."

Thank you for your attention.