

Special Issue on Telecommunication Infrastructure Supporting Business Solutions in the 21st Century

PREFACE



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ONE of the remarkable trends in communications network systems is that the volume of data traffic is soon going to surpass that of voice traffic due to the explosive growth of the Internet. In addition, mobile telephony, on top of conventional telephony, has spread widely throughout the world. The Internet and mobile communications were notably recognized as two of the most important advances in business and technology in the last decade of the 20th century. Telecommunications carriers in many countries are coming close to realizing their long anticipated goal, which is to provide network services that enable communication with anybody, at anytime, anywhere.

With the convergence of various media, particularly voice, data, and moving images, the new information network has created a global cyberspace that has had a revolutionary impact on societies and economies. We have now reached the start of a new information society that has tremendous potential to drastically change our lives.

The Kyushu-Okinawa Summit in July adopted the Okinawa Charter on the Global Information Society.

It explicitly states, “the essence of the IT*-driven economic and social transformation is its power to help individuals and societies to use knowledge and ideas. Our vision of an information society is one that better enables people to fulfill their potential and realize their aspirations.” It also urges mutual efforts of governments and the private sector to “bridge the digital divide” and to allow everyone access to the benefits of “digital opportunities.”

The Hitachi Telecommunication & Information Infrastructure Systems has long been offering a variety of communication equipment and system solutions appropriate to every customer segment, making Hitachi a leading advocate of the Okinawa Charter. With its wealth of experience and its competence in technology, Hitachi will continue to support its customers by providing the best solutions for the information networks of the new millennium.

*IT: information technology