

Tackling Climate Change Issues by Using Information and Communications Technologies

As the European Commission is aggressively promoting to use information and communications technologies (ICT) to improve energy efficiency, to tackle climate change is one of the key issues for ICT industry, and it may be the area where Japan could contribute much to those activities in the EU as well as the rest of the world. In order to learn some Japanese activities for “Green IT” which can be used as the similar phrase for ICT for energy efficiency in the EU, JBCE organized a meeting by inviting three Japanese experts in this area.

The meeting, held on 20 March 2009, was jointly organized by three committees in JBCE namely Information Society Committee, Standard and Conformity Committee and Environment Committee because Green IT issue relates with variety of policies such as environmental regulations, standardisations, internet technologies, etc.

The meeting was divided into two parts. Part 1 was to discuss ICT for Energy Efficiency. Mr. Takeo Hoshino, Director, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, presented Green IT Initiatives and other activities in Japan. He explained how IT can contribute to conserving energy in the society, Green IT Project, Top Runner Program, mechanism to assess the contribution by Green IT, etc. Then, Mr. Masaki Ito, Senior Engineer, Strategy Planning & Development Office, Information & Telecommunication Group, Hitachi Ltd., presented Hitachi’s efforts to combat global warming in ICT field. He explained Hitachi’s efforts and activities mainly in eco-friendly datacenter including power-saving equipments and cooling systems in data center.

Part 2 was the session for Environment and Standard. Dr. Yoshiaki Ichikawa, IEC TC111 Convenor, and ECMA TC38 Chairman as well as Chief Engineer, Corporate Environment Policy Division, Hitachi Ltd., presented Current and Future Activities for Standardisation on Green IT. He explained some international standardization bodies such as IEC and ISO.