

58th Celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

The ITU Association of Japan

On May 15, the “58th Celebration of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day,” hosted by the ITU Association of Japan (ITU-AJ), was held at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Nishi-Shinjuku (Shinjuku-ward, Tokyo). Approximately 140 participants from the Japanese government and the telecommunications and broadcasting industries attended the event. A celebratory reception followed the ceremony. May 17 marks the anniversary of the signing of the International Telegraph Convention in 1865, which laid the foundation for the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In conjunction with the global observance of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) by the ITU and its member countries, ITU-AJ holds this annual commemorative ceremony in Japan. During the ceremony, the MIC Minister’s Award and the ITU-AJ Awards, both of which have a distinguished history and were presented for the 54th time this year, were awarded in recognition of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields of international standardization, international cooperation, and the broader information, communications, and broadcasting sectors.

In her remarks as a guest of honor, Noriko Horiuchi, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, noted that the widespread adoption of AI is ushering information and communications into a new era. She highlighted Japan’s efforts to develop and standardize All-Photonics Networks as a key infrastructure for an AI-driven society, emphasized the important role of the ITU in bridging the digital divide, and expressed Japan’s continued commitment to actively contributing to ITU activities, including support for the re-election of Seizo Onoe as Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau. Remarks were also delivered by Ryo Nakamura, Director-General and Assistant Minister (Ambassador) for Global Issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA), who stressed the importance of the ITU’s role in ensuring that people around the world have access to information and communication technologies. He further noted that Japan should continue to play a leading role within the ITU in promoting the development of telecommunications and stated that Japan would continue its outreach efforts to relevant countries in advance of upcoming elections. Hiroyuki Morikawa, Chairman of the Selection Committee for the ITU-AJ Awards, presented a report on this year’s award selection process.

The award presentation ceremony then took place, during which the MIC Minister’s Award and the ITU-AJ Awards were conferred. The MIC Minister’s Award was presented to Satoshi Miyaji of KDDI Corporation. Mr. Miyaji served as Chair of ITU-T Study Group 9 (SG9) from 2016 to 2024, during which he promoted the standardization of Japanese proposals, including IP cable broadcasting technologies and fifth-generation cable modem systems. He contributed significantly to the smooth management of SG9 meetings and the revitalization of the group’s activities. In addition, at the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 (WTSA-24), he played a leading role in the integration of SG9 and SG16 and, as Chair of Committee 3, guided consensus-building efforts.

Through these achievements, he made outstanding contributions to the advancement of telecommunications technologies and to enhancing Japan’s presence in the international arena. The ITU-AJ Special Award was presented to Dots for Inc. and Okayama Broadcasting Co., Ltd. Dots for Inc. was recognized for establishing low-cost communications infrastructure powered by solar panels and other technologies in rural regions of Africa that previously lacked connectivity, thereby creating sustainable digital access environments. The company has also leveraged the resulting connectivity and data to support a range of initiatives, including installment-based sales services, vocational training, advertising businesses, and remote work opportunities such as AI annotation. By integrating communications infrastructure development, data utilization, and employment creation, Dots for has made a significant contribution to local economic transformation. Okayama Broadcasting was honored for its more than 30 years of efforts to expand the possibilities of sign-language broadcasting and improve information accessibility. The company pioneered Sign Language Commentary 2.0, in which deaf individuals themselves provide live sign-language commentary, and has broadened opportunities for visually accessible sports viewing through practical applications in sporting events and Deaflympics-related programming. Through these initiatives, it has contributed to the realization of a more inclusive society through broadcasting. In addition, recognition was given to five individuals who received the ITU-AJ Special Achievement Award, thirteen individuals who received the ITU-AJ Accomplishment Award, and twenty individuals and one team who received the ITU-AJ Encouragement Award. These awards honored contributions to the activities of the ITU and related ITU initiatives in Japan, the implementation of the principles and action plans of the World Summit on the Information Society, international cooperation in the fields of telecommunications, broadcasting, and postal services, and other internationally significant activities related to information and communications or broadcasting.

Following the award ceremony, commemorative lectures were delivered by the recipients of the ITU-AJ Special Award. Representing Dots for, Mr. Carlos Oba presented a lecture entitled “Technology, Ideas, and Passion to Bridge the Digital Divide for 3.5 Billion People Worldwide” Representing Okayama Broadcasting, Mr. Yoshio Shinoda delivered a presentation entitled “Thirty Years of Sign Language Broadcasting Built Together with the Deaf Community — Pursuing Information Accessibility for All”

The Association is grateful that it was once again able to present the MIC Minister’s Award and the ITU-AJ Awards at this year’s ceremony. We extend our sincere congratulations to all award recipients and wish them continued success and good health. We would also like to express our appreciation to the nominating organizations and to all those whose support made this event possible. A recording and photos from the ceremony are posted on the ITU-AJ web site.

<https://ituaj.jp/?p=43552>

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15 May 2026 at the KEIO PLAZA HOTEL

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MIC Minister's Award Winner
State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications
HORIUCHI Noriko (left) and
MIYAJI Satoshi of KDDI (right)



ITU-AJ Special Award Winner
SHINODA Yoshio of
Okayama Broadcasting Co., Ltd. (right)



ITU-AJ Special Award Winner
OBA Carlos of Dots for Inc. (right)



**Recipients of the ITU-AJ
Special Achievement Award**

Recipients of the MIC Minister's Award and the 54th ITU-AJ Awards

(Listed in Japanese alphabetical order; honorifics omitted. Affiliations are those at the time of nomination.)

MIC Minister's Award

MIYAJI Satoshi KDDI CORPORATION

ITU-AJ Special Award

Okayama Broadcasting Co., Ltd.
Dots for Inc.

ITU-AJ Special Achievement Award

ABE Munee Formerly at Mitsubishi Electric Corporation
KAWASUMI Yasuhiko Formerly at KDDI CORPORATION
TSUGAWA Seiichi Formerly at KDDI CORPORATION
MAEDA Yoichi Formerly at NTT, Inc.
YAMASHITA Makoto BHN Association

ITU-AJ Accomplishment Award

ONO Koji KDDI CORPORATION
KANEKO Toshihiro KDDI Foundation
KUMAKI Kenji KDDI CORPORATION
KENYOSHI Kaoru National Institute of Information and Communications Technology
KONOMA Kazuhisa BHN Association
SAWADA Hirokazu National Institute of Information and Communications Technology
SHIBAGAKI Nobuhiko KOKUSAI DENKI Electric Inc.,
TAKECHI Hiroshi NEC Corporation
TSUJI Hiroyuki National Institute of Information and Communications Technology
NAKAZATO Hidenori Waseda University
NAKAMURA Takauyuki NTT DOCOMO SOLUTIONS, INC.

MASUDA Masafumi NTT DOCOMO, INC.
YASUKAWA Masaki NEC Magnus Communications, Ltd.

ITU-AJ Encouragement Award

INOUE Shoki NEC Corporation
UEMURA Katsunari 1FINITY Inc.
EMA Arisa The University of Tokyo
KAWAMOTO Makio Mitsubishi Electric Corporation
SHIBAIKE Naoya NTT DOCOMO, INC.
TAKAHASHI Masaki Japan Broadcasting Corporation
TAKEI Shigenori SCSK Security Corporation
TAKETSUGU Masanori NEC Corporation
TANIGUCHI Kosuke NTT DOCOMO, INC.
TOJO Yasuhide KDDI Foundation
NAKANO Yuto KDDI Research, Inc.
NAMBU Naoaki Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd.
HIRAMATSU Masaaki National Astronomical Observatory of Japan,
National Institutes of Natural Sciences
HIROYA Nanami The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
FUKUMOTO Norihiro KDDI Research, Inc.
HONDA Mariko National Institute of Information and Communications Technology
MATSUO Yoichi NTT, Inc.
MUNEKATA Takehito KDDI CORPORATION
LIU Juan National Institute of Information and Communications Technology
WAKAYAMA Toshiyasu KDDI CORPORATION
O-RAN Standardization Project Team for O-RU Energy Saving Specification NEC Corporation