E-mobility and Sustainable Information Societies: Japan Perspectives (Outline)
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I. e-mobility

A. e-mobility and communication

> mobility of people and mobility of information (communication)
> e-mobility increases " efficiency of communication "
> depending on the type of communication being sought

B. Attributes of communication being sought

> number of participants (one-one, one-many,…)
> distance between participants (face- face, telecom,…)
> speed (instant, best effort, delayed,…)
> degree of interactiveness (one way, one way with acknowledgement, interactive,…)
> type of contents (voice, letters, images,…)
> volume of contents (small, medium, large,…)

C. The power of e-mobility:

> makes possible information exchanges among those separated by
>> 1. physical distance
>> 2. time difference
>> 3. participation entropy

II. e-mobility in Japan

A. E-mail in Japan
 1. history:
> direct meeting and consultation / conversation
> telephone → fax → e-mail
 2. business use
> replacing telephone and fax rapidly
> will soon become the most important means
> mostly short messages for not-so-important matters
> not used for important decision making
 3. home use, private use
> increasing but still limited
 4. e-mail by youngsters (B.2)

B. Mobile phones (cellphones) in Japan
 1. history

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www.osaka-gu.ac.jp/php/oniki/

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penetration increased exponentially since 1994 (liberalization of terminal sales)

digitized 100% by 1999

low price and rich services

1 out of every 2 Japanese owns cellphone now in Japan

  2. use by youngsters

indispensable means of communication with friends

(← importance of friend relations)

(← group activities rather than individual independence)

price lowered as penetration increased

short messages, short mails

  3. the " i-mode " fever (since 1999)

easy mail handling

simplified web access

 C. Other e-mobility activities in Japan

  1. WWW

widely used for business, pleasure, etc.

rapid increase in use by female and youngsters

still not popular among middle-aged and elder males

steadily increasing

  2. e-commerce, e-service, e-government, e-politics, etc.

use being increased

2nd / 3rd place in Asia

 D. e-mobility and shortcomings in collective decision making in Japan

  1. collective decision making in Japan

relies primarily on traditional means of communication

heavy use of face-to-face communication, direct consultation, meetings, etc.

lack of transparency, insufficient disclosure of information

  2. consequences

those decisions beneficial to the nation as a whole often blocked by groups holding

information (and power) on the matter in question

economic stagnation, social deadlocks

  3. e-mobility and e-politics in Japan

may break impediments to the disclosure of information

may work to organize the interest of the majority

III. Proposal for worldwide e-mobility and e-democracy

e-mobility to organize the interest of the majority of the human beings on the globe

example: to support the COP3 agreements for limiting the emission of greenhouse

gasses (Kyoto, Japan, 1997)

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