Global, National and Regional Information Infrastructure

Fusao MORI
Senior Advisor
MITSUBISHI Electric Corporation

Society has undergone major changes during the 100 years of FID's activities, shifting from an industrial-oriented society into the advanced information society. The values of the Japanese people have also continued to evolve from a narrow focus on material wealth to broader concerns in spiritual well-being. These factors have been apparent in Japanese history.

Today, the information infrastructures are very important. The computer network systems initiated in the United States are forming a gigantic world-wide network. The National Information Infrastructure (NII) is now attracting attention as an area for the nation and expanding throughout the world.

Although Japan had lagged behind other some nations, its information infrastructure has recently begun to initiate a quicker pace of expansion through such institutions as the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the Ministry of Education, the Science and Technology Agency and NTT.

Software applications and usage of these information infrastructures must be thoroughly examined to obtain optimum use of the networks. Users are now equipped with the tools that enable retrieval of information from literally any area. The ability to access such a network is vital and should be emphasized in economic and regional development.

Such a complex system may well result in chaos, if a vast majority of the public is readily allowed access to it. This is a matter of important consideration.