Remarks for Special Issue on Dependable IT and Network Technology

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt appreciation to our customers, without whose understanding and support for the products, services, solutions of NEC, and, of course, for our R&D efforts, we would be unable to continue our pursuit of excellence.

Currently both in Japan and overseas and for every type of data communications, work is accelerating on the building of a new infrastructure that employs Internet technologies. And from this year, full-scale construction is beginning on next-generation networks that will enable the convergence of fixed and mobile communication services, multicast image services and other advances. Within these technology trends, the line that once separated computers and networks is growing increasingly blurred, and the achievement of a new and highly advanced data communications infrastructure that fuses IT[*] and IP[**] networks becomes even more essential for the coming Ubiquitous Society.

As everyone knows, the openness and simplicity of the Internet have contributed to the dizzying speed of its evolution and explosive growth on a global scale. In addition to telephony services mainly comprised of conventional voice communications, the next generation of IT and networks are expected to serve as a foundation for every imaginable form of communication - enriching the lives of individuals as well as society as a whole by diverse digital data telecommunications services premised on true people-to-people communications that facilitate the exchange and sharing of voice, images, text and other information at anytime, anywhere, and with anyone. In addition to meeting the demand for enhanced ease of use (convenience) and improved cost performance - which have been achieved by Internet technologies and will continue to evolve and advance in the future, the next-generation foundation for

[*]IT: Information Technology
[**]IP: Internet Protocol, the set of rules governing communication data across a packet-switched inter-network.

the multimedia communications must also satisfy society's needs for an information infrastructure that is stable and supports public safety as a vital lifeline. Balanced achievement of all these requirements will be indispensable for its success.

As a global leader in computer, telecommunications, semiconductor and solutions technology, NEC is contributing to the construction of the next generation of IT and networks, and is aggressively pursuing research and development activities into technologies that will build "dependable" multimedia communications infrastructure to enable safe and secure usage of universal services high in convenience.

In this special issue, NEC will introduce some of the fruits of its R&D activities in various IT, network, and device-related technological fields that will make our vision of dependable IT and networks a reality. Through these research and development activities that will lead to the innovations to empower individuals, corporations and society overall in the Ubiquitous Society of tomorrow, we aim at providing solutions and products that satisfy and exceed the expectations of our customers.

In the future, we hope that you will continue to provide us with your frank views and invaluable support and encouragement.

KUNIO Takemitsu
Associate Senior Vice President