Remarks for Special Issue on Future Cloud Platforms for ICT Systems

With the aim of both contributing to a society of greater safety, security, efficiency and equality and empowering people to live richer, fulfilling lives, the NEC Group is exploiting the full potential of our leading edge ICT (Information and Communications Technology) and focusing on Solutions for Society that will innovate social infrastructure. With the creation of innovative value for society forefront in our minds, we have adopted "Orchestrating a brighter world" as our corporate key message, and we have set 7 social value creation themes in response to megatrends that will be shaping the future.

In the next 30 years, global climate change will have an impact on everything from ecosystems to the scale and frequency of natural disasters. In developing countries, populations are increasingly shifting to urban areas, while the developed nations face the issue of an aging population. The society of tomorrow will change dramatically in ways that we cannot even imagine. However, even if faced with difficult challenges, humankind will apply intellectual capital and overcome the diverse problems of society. Moreover, we believe that the driving force behind their solution will be a cutting-edge ICT platform of technological innovation.

From our current age of "anytime" and "everywhere" enjoyment of diverse convenient services via networks, IT is fueling our advance into a new era encompassing "only now," "only here," and "only you" services.



SHIMIZU Takaaki Executive Vice President and CMO

Keeping pace with remarkable advances in technology, ICT platforms are broadening the scope of fields in which they can contribute to solving social problems. Today they are confronting issues that have been hitherto too difficult or complex to tackle. Biometric information, structural aging information and other data that were difficult to acquire can now be obtained by sensing technology and digitalized. By applying advanced analysis technologies to the data, we are reaching a level of sophistication that allows us to identify the early symptoms of illness or the signs of a potential structural failure.

One of the ICT platforms that will support the ever evolving processing of data on this huge scale is the cloud platform. It is vital that this platform not only facilitate "anytime" and "anywhere" utilization, but also be ready to accommodate evolving technologies, environmentally friendly, and above all, safe and secure.

Rarely seen even on the global stage, NEC offers the advantage of a best balance of IT and network technologies and assets. We are not only pioneering the previously mentioned cloud platform technologies, but also developing technologies in fields that exploit the fusion of IT and networks such as SDN (Software-Defined Networking), Big Data and cybersecurity. We shall be providing the world with these strengths of NEC in the form of Solutions for Society. Orchestrating our efforts in close cooperation with partners possessing a broad diversity of unique competences, NEC is committed to making an even larger contribution to the betterment of our customers and society in the future.

In this Special Issue, we take great pleasure in introducing readers to NEC's approach to the cloud platform – an indispensable component in building an advanced social infrastructure, our cloud platform service NEC Cloud IaaS, and the lineup of products that comprise our services. We also will provide a glimpse of the latest technology from our research laboratories and examine a few customer case studies.

It will give us the greatest pleasure if the information presented in the article provides you with useful insights for your business pursuits. On behalf of all of us at NEC, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for your support and encouragement, and our sincere hope that we can continue to be of service in the future.

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