

ECOM News

No.38

Board Meeting and General Meeting for FY2008 Held!

— July 2, 2008, at Toranomon Pastoral —

■ First Board Meeting of FY2008

The first Board Meeting of FY2008 was attended by board members, the inspector, and the adviser. Chaired by Jiro Kokuryo, the new Chairman of ECOM (professor of Keio University), deliberations were conducted on the business report for FY2007 and the settlement of accounts for FY2007, both of which were unanimously approved.

■ General Meeting for FY2008

Prior to the General Meeting, Chairman Kokuryo gave an address on ECOM's business plans and Mr. Ichiro Tsuchimoto (Director, Information Economy Division, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) gave a speech on behalf of guests concerning expectations for ECOM.

At the General Meeting presided over by Chairman Kokuryo, reports were presented on the business report for FY2007 and the settlement of accounts for FY2007, which had been approved at the Board Meeting.

Address by the Organizer

Jiro Kokuryo, Chairman of ECOM (Professor of Keio University)

At the previous General Meeting, it was decided that ECOM would be continued. This year, we have started activities under a new organization and policies. If we are to implement activities based on your voluntary and active participation, we would like to implement worthy activities that will satisfy participants and deliver a message to the world.



Organizer's address by Jiro Kokuryo,
Chairman of ECOM

Starting this year, in response to social problems such as product safety and environmental issues and to create new corporate value and business, ECOM will focus on ① information collaboration that transcends corporate and industrial boundaries based on EDI and RFID tags and ② the development of an environment in which related parties, including general consumers, can make use of EC with a sense of safety and security. In addition to implementing these specific initiatives, I believe that, with regard to next generation electronic commerce, we need to work to establish value chains and a new social system, staying one or half a step ahead of developments, while keeping an eye on changes at all times.

To further advance value chain management, we are now examining its link to temporal-spatial information, which is information concerning time and space. In the world of GIS (geographic information systems), temporal-spatial information has received a great deal of attention. Needless to say, this kind of information, which includes information such as destinations and delivery deadlines, has found its way into the value chain world, on which we are now focusing our efforts. These two worlds are moving a little out of sync at present, but combining them will



create a very interesting world. Their combination will make it possible to describe ordering and traceability information, such as “what kinds of goods are flowing, or have flowed, when and where,” more precisely than ever. It will also make it possible to deliver goods to moving targets, enabling us to meet requests such as one asking for a bouquet of roses to be delivered to someone while they are out on a date. In the industrial world, this will lead to greater productivity through the correct delivery of goods to moving targets. I also believe that, in the areas of the environment, recycling, and the realization of a safe and secure society, the introduction of highly accurate temporal-spatial information into inter-company messages and the use of such information for electronic commerce will be one of the most influential tools in further improving not only value chains but also the social system.

It is my view that, in this interconnected world, all the efforts we have made to date to develop RFID tags and achieve safety and security will lead to the emergence of the next generation. I would like to consider the form that this next generation will take together with all of you and work to see ECOM’s activities for this year and our studies geared toward the future reflected in national policies.

Address by a Guest Speaker

**Mr. Ichiro Tsuchimoto,
Director, Information Economy Division,
Commerce and Information Policy Bureau,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry**

From the viewpoints of strengthening the industrial competitiveness of Japan, improving the efficiency of supply chains, and resolving recent social problems, the promotion of electronic commerce based on EDI and RFID tags and inter-company collaboration is extremely important. I would like to mention three expectations we have for ECOM, which is a key player in electronic commerce activities in the industrial world.

(1) Industrial application of temporal-spatial information

I hope that the combination of a variety of different kinds of devices, such as the EDI, RFID tag, and GPS technologies that ECOM has worked on, will enable us to gather quite meticulous spatial and temporal information and to trace goods and information, making the realization of all kinds of applications possible. I think this presents ECOM with an opportunity to demonstrate its originality in exploring yet-to-be-discovered applications.

I feel very encouraged by the fact that ECOM has identified and resolved all kinds of problems through its past activities by predicting the next era—that is to say, what is to come in the next era and how this can be put to use in the industrial world. I think that temporal-spatial information in particular may prove to be a key technology in changing Japanese industries and I have high hopes for the investigations that ECOM will conduct into this.

(2) Promotion of standardization for inter-company and inter-industry collaboration

In Japan, EDI continues to be customized by each industry and company according to its needs, making inter-industry and inter-company collaboration difficult due to the differences that have emerged. With this in mind, it is essential that steady efforts be made to promote standardization, and I hope that ECOM will continue to do all it can in this regard.

How small and medium-sized enterprises can be connected is a particularly important issue for the whole Japan in terms of promoting industrial collaboration. I think that the standardization activities undertaken by ECOM, including the use of common dictionaries, will also promote inter-company collaboration for small and medium-sized enterprises.

(3) Responding to globalization

The idea of establishing international standards based on proposals submitted by Japan has been much touted in all industries, but little has actually been achieved. I do hope that ECOM will promote this idea as it is close to realizing the standardization proposed by Japan thanks to the seat it holds in an international standardization organization.

Corporate activities have become globalized, with the manufacturing industry in particular having developed strong connections with Asia and the consumer market in Asia having



Address by a guest speaker:
Mr. Ichiro Tsuchimoto,
Director, Information Economy Division,
Commerce and Information Policy Bureau,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

become very large. In my opinion, it is vital that we consider how to globalize electronic commerce, inter-company collaboration, and EDI in the midst of this globalization of corporate activities.

I regularly talk with Korean and Taiwanese government officials about electronic commerce, and ECOM is very well known to people in the industrial worlds of these two countries. They have expressed a strong desire to collaborate with ECOM in specific investigations. In this sense, I hope to see ECOM globally advance cross-corporate activities as well as corporate activities, by making appropriate use of its presence abroad.

■ Reception

A reception was held with approximately 70 participants. Following an address given at the beginning of the party by Mr. Masaaki Kimura (Vice-Minister, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), Chairman Kokuryo gave a toast in which he expressed his hope that everyone would join him in envisaging a dream-inspiring future and make steady efforts to accumulate standardization activities.

Address by a Guest Speaker

As a body which draws together a wide range of users and IT vendors, ECOM has been implementing activities to promote electronic commerce since it was first established in 1996. That has not been the limit of its role, however, as it has also engaged in various activities concerning electronic authentication, electronic government, PKI, and the infrastructure of the IT society. Internationally, the name ECOM is extremely well respected.

In my view, the environment in which electronic commerce operates has changed dramatically over the past decade or so. Compared to around 1996, the Internet is now indispensable as an infrastructure for businesses and individuals alike. Electronic commerce such as BtoB and BtoC has, I believe, developed remarkably. In addition, with the development of new technologies such as RFID tags and Web2.0, new businesses and services based on such technologies have been realized.

At the same time, however, the creation of a more sophisticated IT society has resulted in the emergence of two new problems: safety and security. In addition, due to globalization of the world economy, economic zones including China have experienced considerable expansion. In five to ten years from now, international electronic commerce will probably have expanded not only in Japan but also throughout the rest of Asia, creating a more level playing field that will result in greater competition.

I am greatly encouraged to hear that the industrial world will continue its activities in anticipation of future electronic commerce, and, with Chairman Kokuryo as its new chairman, we at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, will endeavor to provide as much support for ECOM's activities as possible.

Mr. Masaaki Kimura, Vice-Minister,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry



Address by a guest speaker
at the get-together:
Mr. Masaaki Kimura, Vice-Minister,
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry



I would like to thank you all very much for your cooperation, which has enabled us to bring the Board Meeting, General Meeting, and reception for FY2008 to a successful conclusion.



— First WG Activity Reports —
Working Group Activities Have Begun!

The recruitment of WG activity members had been almost completed by the end of May, and, one by one, individual WGs have begun their work since June. Research Directors of individual WGs submit reports on their first WG meeting, held at the beginning of June.

■ **First Meeting of the Electronic Signature Diffusion WG (Maeda, Research Director)**
[Held on June 5]

The following details were confirmed at the first WG meeting.

By 2007, our activities were focused on the standardization of the long-term digital signature profile and storage of related documents. As a result, the long-term storage format profile proposed in 2006 was established as JIS on March 20. Going forward, in 2008, we plan to conduct a new survey geared toward the standardization of an electronic certificate profile and a survey on applications for which electronic signatures should be used and the role of these electronic signatures, as part of the diffusion of electronic signatures.

WG meetings (eight meetings are scheduled for this year) are conducted principally by the following management group: Mr. Michihiro Kimura (NEC Corporation) as project general manager; Mr. Kazuya Miyazaki (Mitsubishi Electric Corporation), Mr. Yasushi Matsumoto (SECOM Co., Ltd.), Mr. Kenji Urushima (Entrust Japan Co., Ltd.), and Mr. Takuya Mizokami (Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd.) as deputy project general managers; and Mr. Masashi Sato (SECOM Co., Ltd.) and Mr. Jun Goto (NEC Corporation) as organizers. Activities began with the establishment of the following three sub working groups (SWG).

① SWG1 (Electronic Signature Application SWG)

- To conduct a survey on the utilization, standardization, and control of electronic signatures and design a map reflecting the domestic situation.
- To conduct a survey on operational and legal issues concerning electronic signature applications.

In 2008, a survey from not only the technological but also the operational and legal viewpoints will be conducted concerning applications that make use of electronic signatures in EC, including BtoB such as electronic settlement, as well as the GtoB/C that has been advanced by the Electronic Government WG.

② SWG2 (Electronic Document Management SWG)

To conduct a survey on the actual conditions of document management and operation by domestic companies and extract problems concerning record management, including long-term storage.

To conduct a hearing on the electronic management of documents by private companies including small and medium-sized enterprises, and extract and analyze problems with the long-term storage of electronic data.

③ SWG3 (Long-term Digital Signature Specification SWG)

To participate in ETSI/ESI meetings (held three times a year) and advance harmonization between Japanese standards (JIS) and European standards (ETSI), toward realizing the ISO proposal for 2009. To formulate policies on how to deal with the pending issues concerning technology and utilization identified in activities through last year by reviewing them. Follow up on the status of standards updates.

■ **First Meeting of the Information Security WG (Aihara and Kawashima, Research Directors)**
[Held on June 13]

At the first WG plenary meeting, following an address given at the beginning of the meeting by the project general manager (Mr. Saiki of Matsushita) and the introduction of experts and WG committee members, Mr. Shimizu (Deputy Director, IT Security Policy Office, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry) delivered a keynote lecture exploring the theme of "Information Security Policies by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry."

After this, the Secretariat submitted proposals concerning the future direction of the WG, and leaders of individual SWGs gave details explaining their activities for 2008. It was decided that the following four items would be targeted by the SWGs for implementation.

- ① Information Protect Collaboration Study and Promotion SWG (Kawashima, Secretariat)
To conduct a study on information protection items in commissioned businesses, formulate indispensable items and improvement items as well as guides to facilitate inter-company collaboration on information protection, and raise the level of the industry as a whole.
- ② Web Security Study / Dissemination SWG (Mr. Iwamoto, Leader)
To compile case studies of the vulnerability of Web applications being abused, summarize the damage caused by such abuse and points to remember when creating Web applications according to the type of abuse, and raise awareness of how to create safe and secure Web sites.
- ③ PKI Proper Management / Utilization Promotion SWG (Mr. Saiki, Leader)
To obtain accurate knowledge concerning PKI, study and analyze cases of erroneous use, and summarize specific application methods and utilization methods in actual operation at an easy-to-understand level so as to facilitate the correct operation and utilization of PKI.
- ④ Data Forensics Utilization Study SWG (Aihara, Secretariat)
To conduct a survey on methods to conserve, study, and analyze data obtained from operational logs which can be used as evidence and proof of fraudulent acts, based on scientific methods. To summarize specific application methods in actual operation and raise awareness of data to be conserved and analytical methods.

Following this, participants participated in a lively question-and-answer session. During this, basic details, the future direction of the WG, and other issues regarding the further advancement of each SWG's activities (from early to mid July) were discussed, and it was decided that items for improvement would be summarized at the second WG plenary meeting (mid September) in parallel with SWG activities.

ECOM Press Release

The long-term digital signature profile proposed by the Next Generation Electronic Commerce Promotion Council of Japan (ECOM) has been established as JIS.

— The names of companies that provided products which passed a JIS-based interoperability test (21 companies from Japan and abroad participated) were released —

(Announced on May 23, 2008)

Details http://www.ecom.jp/press/2008_001.html

Outline As part of our activities to develop an environment in which products for the long-term storage of electronic signature documents can be used with a greater sense of security, ECOM has implemented activities to standardize the long-term digital signature format profile (long-term digital signature profile). These activities include the coordination of long-term digital signature specifications and an interoperability test with the ETSI^{*1} and the preparation of a JIS draft for the long-term digital signature profile^{*2}. Following its examination by the JISC (Japanese Industrial Standards Committee), the draft was established as the following JIS on March 20, 2008.

- JIS X 5092: 2008 CMS utilization electronic signature(CAdES) long-term digital signature file
- JIS X 5093: 2008 XML signature-utilization electronic signature (XAdES) long-term digital signature profile

As a result of the establishment of the draft as JIS, users can choose products that suit their specifications, and the diffusion of products capable of storing signature documents over a long period of time is expected.

ECOM also conducted the JIS-based interoperability test for the long-term digital signature profile before it was adopted as JIS. The JIS-based interoperability test consists of the following three sections.

- ① Common data verification function standard compliance test
- ② Signature generation and verification interoperability test
- ③ International interoperability test

The interoperability test was conducted in line with the “Off-line Long-term Digital Signature Format Verification Test Specification,” which was prepared by ECOM, and all products and prototypes of individual participant companies passed the test.

*1 ETSI: European Telecommunications Standards Institute

*2 The long-term digital signature formats to which the profile of the JIS draft refers are TS 101 733 (cipher message syntactic extension signature) and TS 101 903 (extensible markup language extension signature) formulated by ETSI.