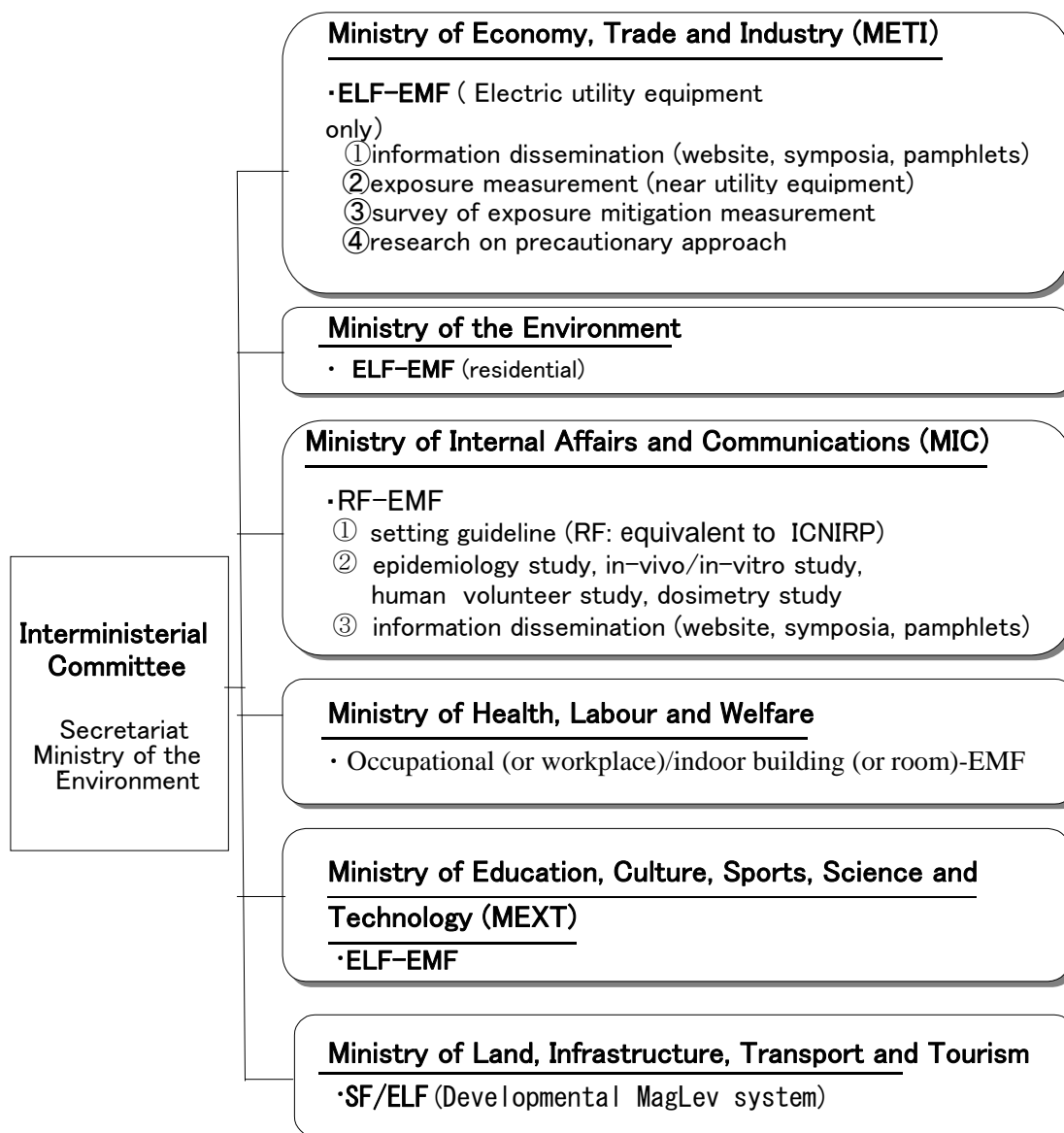


# Governmental Activities of Japan (FY 2008)

Prof. Chiyoji Ohkubo

[ohkubo@jeic-emf.jp](mailto:ohkubo@jeic-emf.jp), [ohkubo@my-pharm.ac.jp](mailto:ohkubo@my-pharm.ac.jp)



## **Actions of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in Connection with EMF Produced by Power Facilities**

### **Japan's regulations concerning power frequency EMF**

The Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) is responsible for electric power facilities.

Regulation of 3 kV/m electric field strength beneath high-voltage power transmission lines was enacted in 1976 as the Ministerial Ordinance of Standards for Electrical Equipment. This clause is not intended to protect human health but to prevent electric shocks which might be caused by electric fields.

NISA organized a Working Group to review regulatory policy and related measures which should be taken for the general public, concerning EMF associated with electric transmission lines or other utility electric facilities. The 12-member Working Group, comprising well-informed persons from academia, industry and consumer groups, compiled a report on the issue on Dec. 20, 2007, based on review of WHO Fact Sheet No. 322, WHO ELF EHC Vol. 238, international guidelines, and scientific findings in and outside the country.

The Working Group advising METI has proposed that Japan establish a public "EMF information center" to educate and inform citizens about EMF issues. In addition to creating an EMF information center, Japan should adopt the ICNIRP exposure guidelines for power-frequency EMF.

In accordance with the Working Group's recommendation, the "Japan EMF Information Center" was established for civilians in July, 2008, and is educating and informing citizens about EMF issues from a neutral standpoint. Moreover, in addition, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency is examining the introduction of regulation of the magnetic field.

## **Actions of Ministry of The Environment**

The Ministry of the Environment aimed at the accumulation of the finding concerning health by ELF-EMF.

**Actions of Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications to protect the human body from radio-wave radiation****Promotion of the investigation on the effect of radio waves on the human body.**

In order to scientifically clarify the effects of radio waves on the human body, research on biological safety evaluation is being promoted.

- |                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Committee to Promote Research on the Possible Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

“Committee to Promote Research on the Possible Biological Effects of Electromagnetic Fields”, comprised of medical and engineering researchers (Chairperson: Shogo Ueno, Professor of the University of Kyushu) met fiscal year 1997 to implement studies on biological safety evaluation using animal experiments. This committee had made the finding report for ten years (FY1997-2006) on 27th Apr. 2007.

- |                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. Committee on the Possible Adverse Health Effects of RF Electromagnetic |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Considering the necessity to establish an organization that evaluates and analyzes the current researches and reviews the extraction of the research issues to be addressed, MIC established a new Research Committee on the Possible Health Effects of Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields in 2008. This committee has comprised of specialists in medical, engineering and risk communication, and homemakers (Chairperson: Chiyoji Ohkubo, Visiting Professor of the Meiji Pharmaceutical University). This committee will be held several times a year and aiming to issue a report in several years.

**Major activities**

- (1) Evaluating and analyzing the results of the researches on the effects of radio waves on the human body at home and abroad
- (2) Extracting the themes to be addressed by research on the effects of radio waves on the human body
- (3) Evaluating and Validating the Radio Radiation Protection Guidelines
- (4) Other related issues

**International collaborations**

- Collaboration with international organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Collaboration and cooperation with other countries (Korea, US, EU, Australia, etc.) through expert meeting (GLORE meeting).