

Report from Symposium on Multimedia Browsing Technology for the Visually Impaired

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STRL has been conducting search with the goal of making digital broadcasting more enjoyable for people with visual impairments. This research includes a three-year study, titled "Research and Development of Multimedia Browsing Technology for the Visually Impaired," commissioned by NICT¹. This study aims to provide a common information presentation environment to enable anyone, regardless of the type or extent of visual impairment, to benefit from the same broadcasting and communications services. A symposium with three keynote addresses and four research reports took place on February 27 at the STRL auditorium. The keynote addresses presented a wide variety of technologies, ranging from current information accessibility technologies to future five-sense broadcasting, and dealt with future services to be brought about by information barrier-free technologies. The technical exhibition demonstrated supporting technologies that incorporate new tactile devices in addition to sound and Braille. Many visitors, including those with visual impairments, were able to experience tactile and audio digital broadcasting.

¹ National Institute of Information and Communications Technology



Keynote address/research result report



Technical exhibition

SHV shown for the first time in Asia

The BroadcastAsia 2008 exhibition was held in Singapore from June 17 to 20, and it was our first international exhibition in Asia (outside Japan) featuring Super Hi-Vision (SHV) and digital terrestrial broadcasting related technologies. Viewers including government ministers from the information technology departments of several Asian countries were impressed with the program screened in the SHV Theater, and the screenings were featured in a front-page article of a Singapore newspaper. Digital terrestrial broadcasting related technologies also drew a lot of interest. Some of the most popular items on exhibits were the One-Seg broadcasting service and a system for automatically activating receivers by a emergency warning broadcast. These even attracted the attention of visitors from countries that have already chosen digital broadcasting schemes.



During the four days of the exhibition, our SHV presentation was enjoyed by 4,490 visitors, over one third of the total number visiting BroadcastAsia 2008.