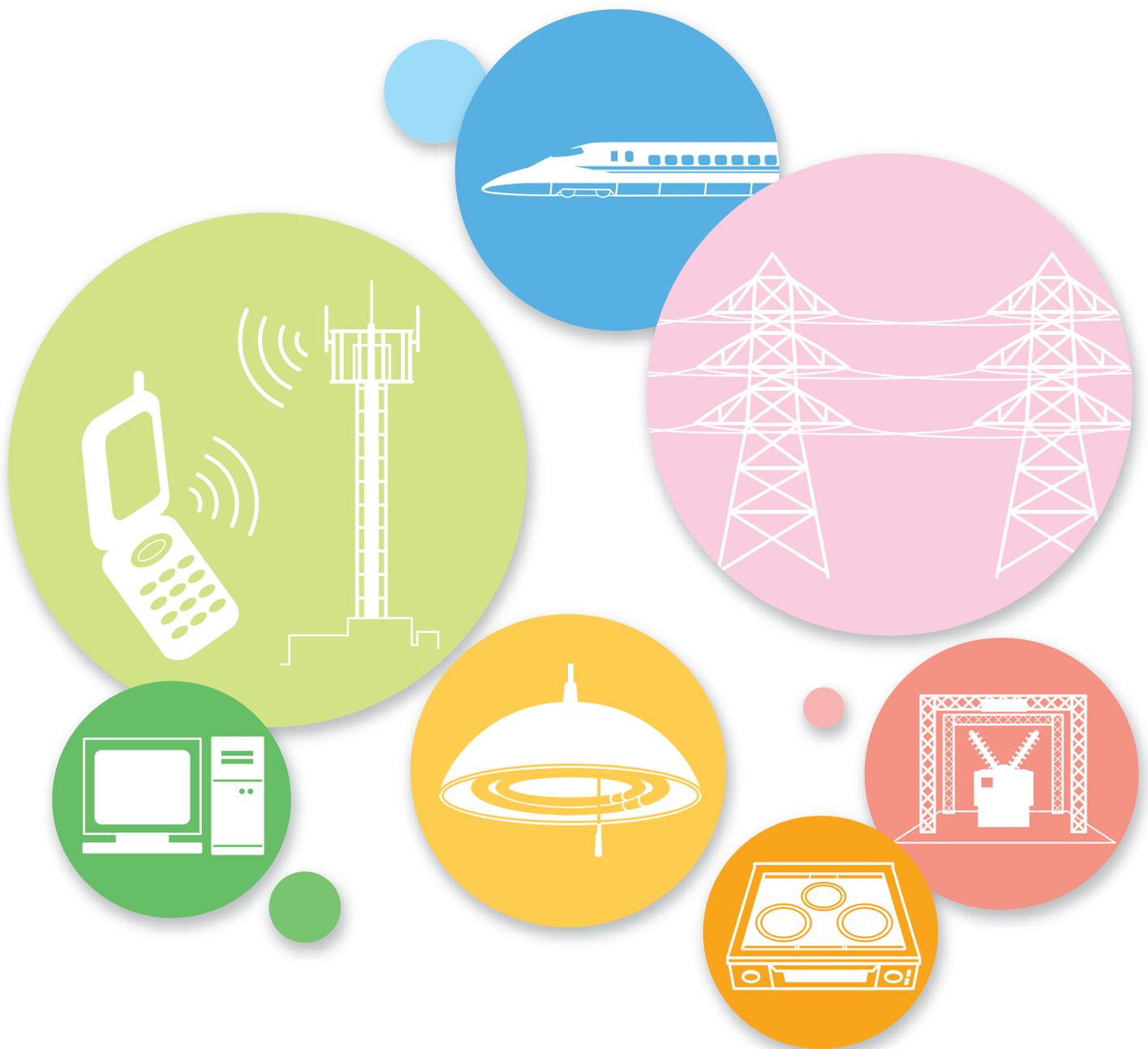




Japan EMF Information Center

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Japan Electrical Safety & Environment Technology Laboratories

Message from Director of the Japan EMF Information Center

Electromagnetic fields (EMF) have been used in diverse areas along with technological development. It has played a major role in industrial development and improving our lives, becoming indispensable to all of us. EMF became a real physical entity in the contemporary world – from electrical currents used in everyday life and industry, to radio and TV broadcasting, to wireless communications. Although many researchers around the world have been studying if EMF or electromagnetic waves (EMW) generated by power supply systems, information communication systems, and other electrical products and equipment adversely effect our health, there is no common opinion on these issues. Therefore many people are still concerned about the potential hazard of EMF.

The Japan EMF Information Center (JEIC) was created to facilitate the communication between industry, newsmedia and general population. The JEIC is founded to present in a neutral way the positions of industry, science and society, and to discuss the risk analysis. JEIC's philosophy and purpose are to provide easy-to-understand scientific information on EMF and minimize the gap of risk perception on health effects from EMF between interested parties, promoting risk communication from a fair perspective.

I would like to ask for your understanding and support in promoting JEIC's action policy.

Sincerely,
Chiyoji OHKUBO, Director

[Dr. Chiyoji OHKUBO]



- Director, Japan EMF Information Center (JEIC)
- Visiting Professor, Meiji Pharmaceutical University
- Member of International Advisory Committee, WHO International EMF Project
- Former Scientist (International EMF Project staff member), Radiation and Environment Health Unit, WHO
- Chairperson, Research Committee on the Possible Health Effects of Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications
- Former Director, Department of Environmental Health, National Institute of Public Health

Operation and Organization of the Japan EMF Information Center

The Administration Audit Committee was founded in order to ensure and monitor the neutrality and transparency of JEIC operations.

The JEIC institutional system is determined to develop itself into a world-class risk communication center with expertise in EMF.

The following three groups are also created within JEIC.

■ Information Research Group

Will collect, organize, and analyze EMF information, and build and maintain the EMF information database.

■ Communication Strategy Group

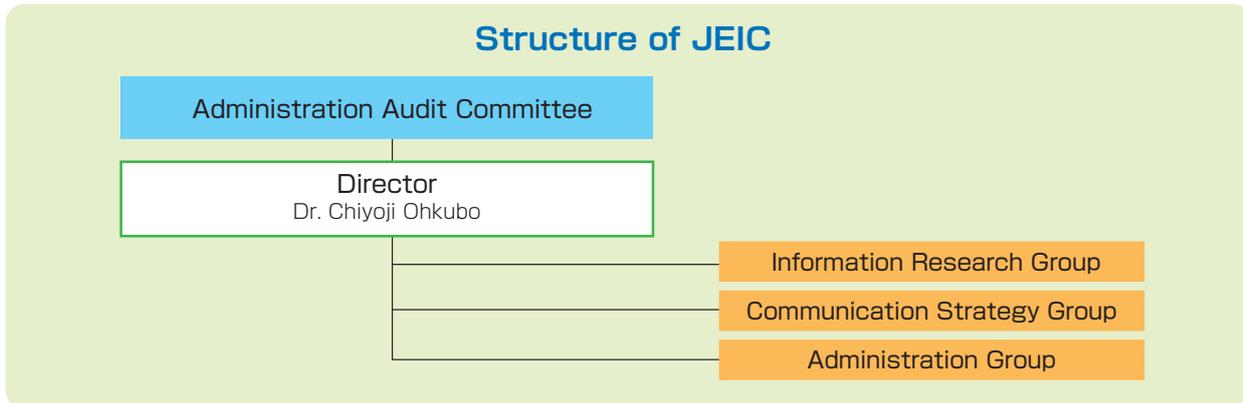
Will provide EMF information and education on the potential EMF effects, and operate consultation services such as a Q&A service (via hot phone line or/and WEB site).

■ Administration Group

Will handle accounting, personnel affairs, and other general affairs as well as concluding and controlling contracts for the smooth administration of JEIC.

JEIC Organization

Structure of JEIC



Major JEIC Operation

Information Research

- Swiftly and precisely collecting EMF information around Japan and overseas in cooperation with related organizations
- Translating and summarizing information obtained, reorganizing the information into easy-to-retrieve and easy-to-use formats, and registering the information in databases
- Assigning experts to analyze and assess the information obtained, to examine whether to revise EMF risk, and to assess the information for subjects to study

Communication

- Conducting flexible and manoeuvrable output of information to meet the need of an audience
- Holding seminars and forums, operating and maintaining the website, distributing e-mail newsletters, preparing and distributing pamphlets, and issuing an informational magazine
- Improving the EMF Q&A section and responding quickly to questions
- Proactive responses to requests for lecturers on EMF study by assigning lecturers to workplaces, communities, lifetime educational organizations, and other locations
- Offering advice to diverse interested parties on their individual issues to promote correct and better understanding of EMF and engaging in activities to improve mutual understanding

References

JEIC's philosophy and purpose are based on the results and recommendations of the International EMF Project of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Working Group of Electric Power Facility EMF Policy in Japan.

WHO International EMF Project

Evaluate scientific evidence

- Report on current status of knowledge
- Identify gaps in knowledge needing to be filled by focused research to make better health risk assessments

Promote and facilitate research programs,

formally assess health risks of EMF exposure,

encourage internationally acceptable harmonized standards, and

provide information on risk perception, risk communication, risk management; and

advise national programs and non-governmental institutions on policies for dealing with the EMF issues.

- WHO's International EMF Project has been established in 1996 to assess health and environmental effects of exposure to EMF in the frequency range from 0 to 300 GHz.
- The Project is a multinational, multidisciplinary effort to create and disseminate information appropriate to human health risk assessment for EMF.
- From April 2005 through March 2007, Chiyoji OHKUBO, Director of JEIC, worked as Scientist at WHO's EMF Project Secretariat. He is also a member of the International Advisory Committee as a Japanese Government Representative.

Working Group of Electric Power Facility EMF Policy and its Recommendations

Following WHO's issuing EHC (Environmental Health Criteria) No. 238 and Fact Sheet No. 322, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry founded the Working Group of Electric Power Facility EMF Policy in June 2007.

The Working Group held six meetings to study the desired regulatory regimes and measures to be taken based on international regulatory situations, studies of the possible health effects on EMF, and WHO's fact sheets on 50 and 60 Hz EMF effects on the health of general public that are brought about from target electric power facilities (transmission, distribution, and transformation facilities) pursuant to the Electric Utility Law. Through the meetings, the Working Group decided what was appropriate and reached an agreement on regulating magnetic fields from electric power facilities to be a maximum of $100\mu\text{T}$ for 50Hz, or $83\mu\text{T}$ for 60Hz, as defined under the ICNIRP guidelines. Furthermore, the Working Group held hearings with different citizen organizations on, for example, whether additional measures are necessary, and submitted a report including recommendations, after considering the hearings, to the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. The Working Group Report includes the following items:

- (1) Response to short-term effects on health from high-level magnetic fields
It should adapt to the ICNIRP exposure guidelines for power-frequency magnetic fields on electric power facilities ($100\mu\text{T}/50\text{ Hz}$, $83\mu\text{T}/60\text{ Hz}$).
- (2) Response to potential long-term effects on health from low-level magnetic fields
 - 1) Promoting further research programs
 - 2) Encouraging risk communication activities
 - 3) Low-cost measures for lowering EMF exposure

Note item 2) above includes the following:

- Establishment of a neutral and permanent EMF information center designed to promote risk communication is necessary in order to eliminate problems arising from people incorrectly understanding the possible health effects from exposure to magnetic fields. The center is expected to expand its work beyond electric power facilities in the future.
- Risk communication activity is especially important at places and facilities where there are many children, such as kindergartens and schools. Electric utilities should make special efforts to reach agreements with local residents when they are going to build a new electric power facility in the vicinity of such places and facilities.

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