

**Memo-Registration No. & Issued Date:** SHIM 15 - 209, July 21, 2015

**Subject:** “News & information delivered recently from COMARA”, a memorandum distributed at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of “JAPAN INTELSAT Club” in May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Presenter:** Dr. SHIMASAKI\_Nobuhiko, a member each of the JAPAN INTELSAT and COMARA

**Text:** The original Japanese-written Memorandum of 3 pages contains seven subsections.

They are:

- (1) Introduction,
- (2) COMARA obituary article,
- (3) Joint activities of COMARA & IRA(Intelsat retirees Association of USA),
- (4) Introduction of Mr.NOGUCHI\_Toshitake’s big effort on the through investigation of a book :“**The Rise and Fall of COMSAT: Technology, Business, and Government in Satellite Communications**”, written by Prof. David J. Whalen & published by Palgrave-Macmillan, [http://comara.org/legacy/Whalen\\_book\\_May\\_2014.html](http://comara.org/legacy/Whalen_book_May_2014.html), where Prof. David J. Whalen <[whalen@space.edu](mailto:whalen@space.edu)> is Ph.D., Associate Professor Space Studies, UND; Tel: 703-629-5673, [whalen@space.edu](mailto:whalen@space.edu).
- (5) SHIMASAKI’s brief impression after skim through the above book of enterprise business history study:“**The Rise and Fall of COMSAT**”, written by Prof. David J. Whalen ,
- (6) A proposal of the possible start-up of reminding effort concerning the history of **SS/TDMA System R&D activities**.
- (7) Postscript.

Some additional relevant explanatory comments on some subsections are as follows:

Subsection 4:

In the next presentation of Mr.Noguchi, he will carry out brief explanation on his investigation of the book, utilizing his compact memorandum of summary.

Subsection 5:

This book is very interesting/impressive to the presentator, because Shimasaki had happened to witness/participate/contribute a bit personally, in the start-up stage of COMSAT Corp./COMSAT Labs. as an Intelsat-assigned foreign technical expert, working in Communications Processing Lab(CPL) as a Member of Technical Staff(MTS), though a short lapse of 3 years(March 1968-March 1971).

In this book about the international satellite communications business history, some important business activities of COMSAT are very well summarized/recorded SELECTIVELY. The author’s judgement on the selection seems based upon evidences such as the author’s interviews to some board-members as well as other key employees<sup>1</sup>, and the relevant published documents. However, several other seemingly interesting activities are unfortunately withdrawn/neglected/underestimated in the above selection, by any reasons.

Subsection 6:

**The SS/TDMA<sup>2</sup> System R&D activities** were carried out since 1968 through 1980s

---

<sup>1</sup> The characters, who appear in the book and, at the same time , who are my acquaintance since my COMSAT days, are,though imperfectly, listed as follows:

Dr. Joseph V. Charyk , Sidney Metzger, Siegfried Heinrich Reiger, Wilburt Louis Pritchard, Emeric Podraczky, Dr. Tadahiro Sekimoto, John G. Puente, O.Gene Gabbard , Michael Onufry , Dr. Samuel Joseph Campanella, Dr. Burton I. Edelson, and besides, as authors of references : Dr. Samuel G. Lutz, Dr. Harold A. Rosen, the both being of Hughes Aircraft Co.

<sup>2</sup> *Relevant terminology explanation:*

SS/TDMA System : Spacecraft-Switched/(Space-Division)/Time-Division Multiple Access (Geo-stationary Satellite Communications) System

VSAT : very small aperture terminal

SPADE: SCPC-PCM-Access-DAMA-Equipment

SCPC: Single Carrier Per Channel,

by the initiative of Intelsat/Comsat in good cooperation with other global telecommunications business-relevant incorporations such as Japanese firms: KDD, Fujitsu Labs. and NEC Corp.

Subsystem 7:

Here, only for informations, attentions are drawn to other relevant literatures which contain wide description concerning the global telecommunications business/technology history, such as:

- ① Anthony Michael Tedeschi, 『Live Via Satellite: The Story of COMSAT and the Technology that Changed World Communication 』、ACROPOLIS BOOKS LTD. Washington DC , 1989 ), ISBN: ~~9780874919226~~ 87491- 922- 3
- ② Arthur C. Clarke: 『Voices Across the Sea』

**Supplementary Remarks:**

Quoting to the above literature ① COMSAT –initiating SPADE System was, by COMSAT management, accepted business-wise *as useful* for drawing attention/recognition of start-up of “new” COMSAT Corp. and INTELSAT Organization as appropriate/effective organs for handling/promoting thin teletraffic flows among developing countries, by then existing/operating international telecommunications operating organizations.

On the other hand, (Conventional, Fixed)TDMA System seems estimated as “not so effective” from standpoint of enterprise business operation by Prof. David J. Whalen, and the phrase:” In spite of the apparent ”failure” of Comsat’s TDMA efforts,...” is included in his book.

This expression would be proper from viewpoint of business administration study. However, the expression might trigger mis-understanding impression of laymen, possibly, due to the too straight wording: ”failure” (without modification).

*-End of Text-*