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President, Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International (ATR) Dr. Hirata received B.S. (1965), M.S. (1967) and Ph.D. (1977) degrees from Kyoto University. In 1967, he joined KDD, where he has been engaged in research on digital technologies for satellite communication systems. From 1994 to 2000, he was Executive Managing Director of KDD. Then, he was Senior Vice President of KDDI (2000-2003) and Chairman of KDDI R&D Labs (2003-2007). Since 2007, he is President of ATR. He is now an IEEE Life-fellow and an IEICE Life-fellow.