

IIJ Announces Retirement of Hiroyuki Fukase as Chairman of Board
- Company Appoints Kazumasa Utashiro as New Board Director -

Tokyo, June 27, 2001 -- Internet Initiative Japan (Nasdaq: IIJI) ("IIJ"), a leading Internet and comprehensive network solutions provider in Japan, announced today the retirement of Mr. Hiroyuki Fukase as Chairman of the Board of Directors, effective June 27, 2001, for personal reasons. Mr. Fukase was named as an advisor to the Company.

Mr. Hiroyuki Fukase, who has served as Chairman of IIJ since April 1994, also retired his positions as Director of IIJ America (88.2% owned subsidiary), IIJ Technology (64.1% owned subsidiary), Net Care (50.0% owned subsidiary) and Asia Internet Holding (20.6% owned affiliate). The Company will not name a successor for the position of Chairman.

The Company also announced today that Mr. Kazumasa Utashiro was appointed as a Director of the Board at the Shareholders' Meeting held today.

Mr. Utashiro, who has 18 years experience in Unix software and security service development, joined the Company in 1994. For the past two years, he has served as Co-Chief Technology Officer of IIJ, as well as General Manager of the Applied Technology Division. Prior to joining IIJ, Mr. Utashiro held the position of Senior Research Engineer at Software Research Associates.

Mr. Koichi Suzuki, President of IIJ, stated: "As one of the founding member of IIJ, Mr. Fukase was instrumental in the rapid growth and development of the Company's network solutions offerings and we thank him for his efforts. On the other hand, we are pleased to have Mr. Utashiro join our Board. Mr. Utashiro is a seasoned officer with extensive experience in the IP security industry. He has been an innovative source of many of the technological initiatives instituted at IIJ and an insightful evaluator of the business challenges and opportunities that have been presented to the Company over the years. With the continuing changes in the network industry, Mr. Utashiro's operational acumen will continue to be a great benefit to IIJ."

About IIJ

Internet Initiative Japan Inc. (IIJ, NASDAQ: IIJI) is Japan's leading Internet-access and comprehensive Internet solution provider mainly targeting high-end corporate customers. Founded in 1992 as a pioneer of commercial Internet services in Japan, IIJ has built one of the largest Internet backbone networks in Japan as well as between Japan and the United States. IIJ and its group companies provide total solutions including new generation network services over optical-fiber infrastructure optimized for data communications, construction of Asian-wide IP backbone networks, high-quality Internet access, securities, hosting/housing, and content design and systems integration.

The statements within this release contain forward-looking statements about our future plans that involve risk and uncertainties. These statements may differ materially from actual future events or results. Readers are referred to the documents filed by Internet Initiative Japan Inc. with the SEC, specifically the most recent reports on Forms 20-F and 6-K, which identify important risk factors that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements.

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