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(54) **METHOD FOR COMMUNICATION**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for communication making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the information units when it is instructed from a user terminal to display contents and procedure of a communication or to totalize contents of the communication, or when it is instructed from a manager terminal of a field of the communication to provide a function of the communication corresponding to an object or stage of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction.

Here, information units making contents of the communication include cards as an example, and information units making premising information of a communication and a basis of the communication include boards as an example.

Information of a board as an information unit comprises a board identifier and attribute information for specifying a function of a board such as a relationship between the board and cards.

Also, in order to provide a communication function corresponding to an object and stage of the communication, there is provided a template conformed to the object and stage so that a manager can select and utilize the template.

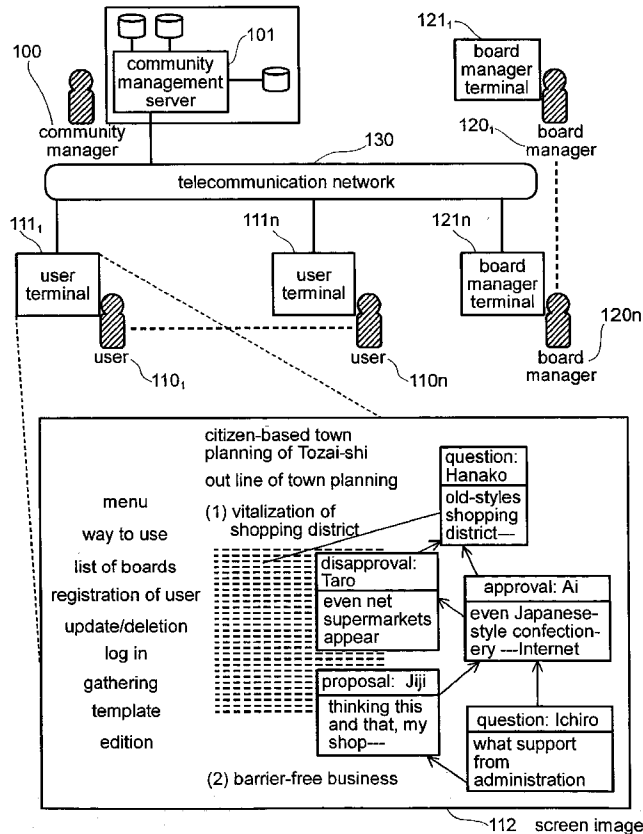


FIG.1

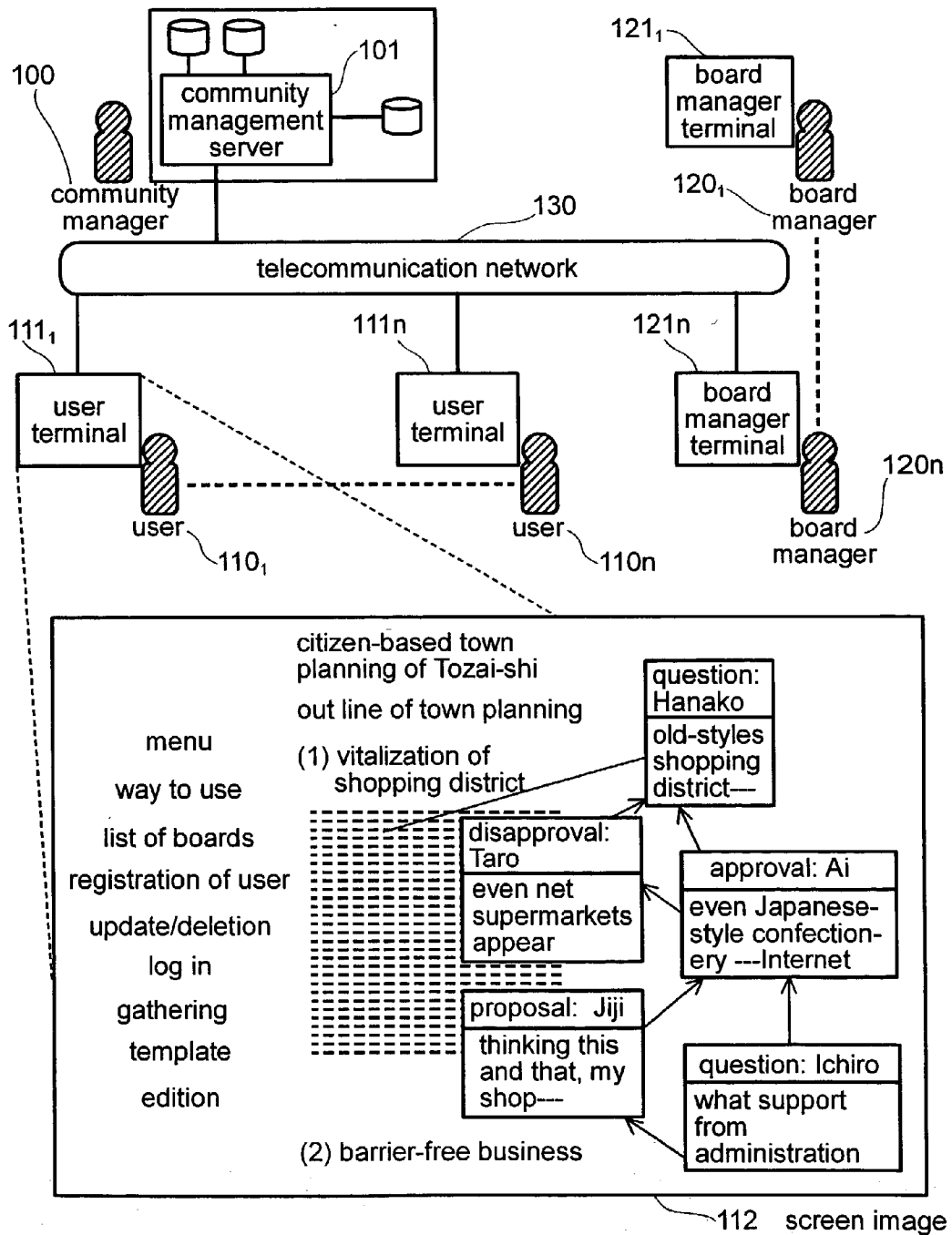


FIG.2

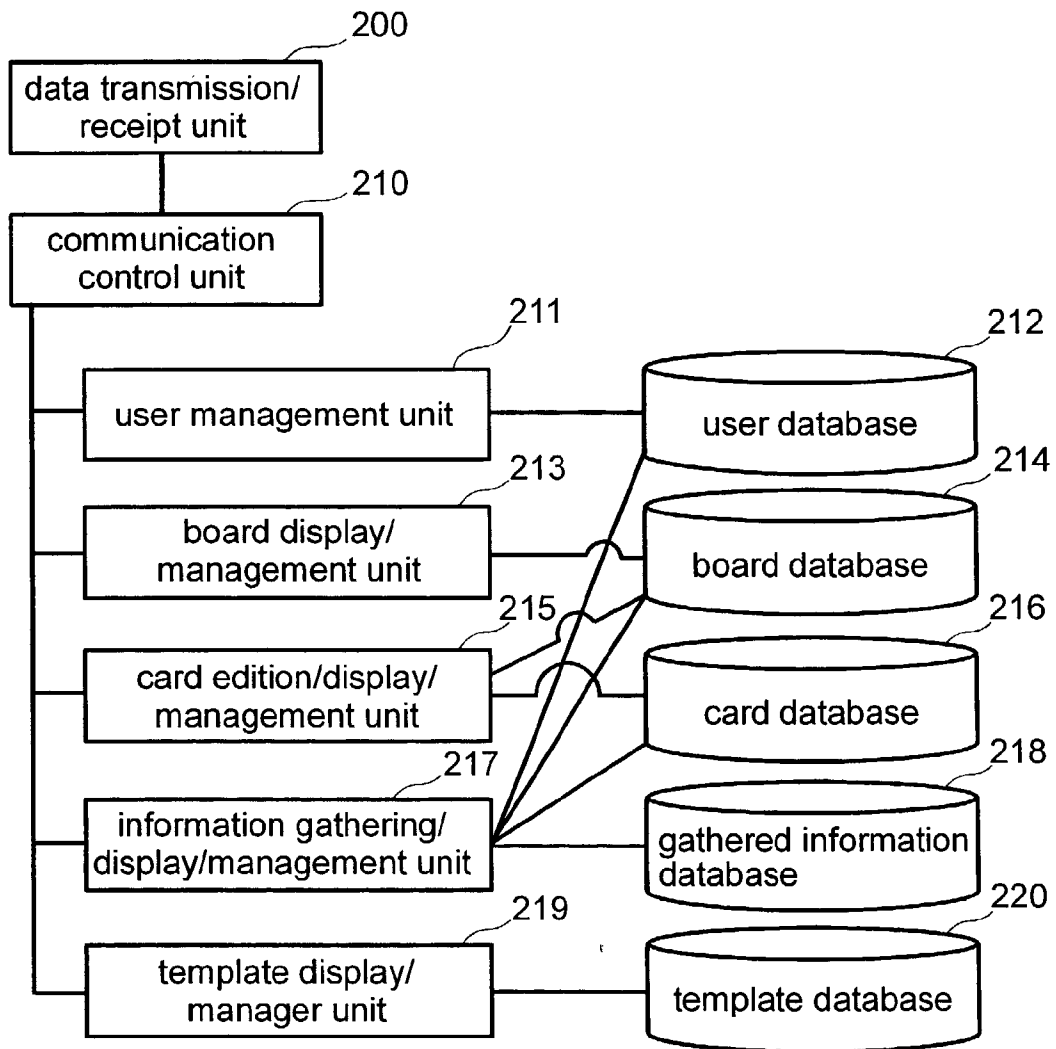


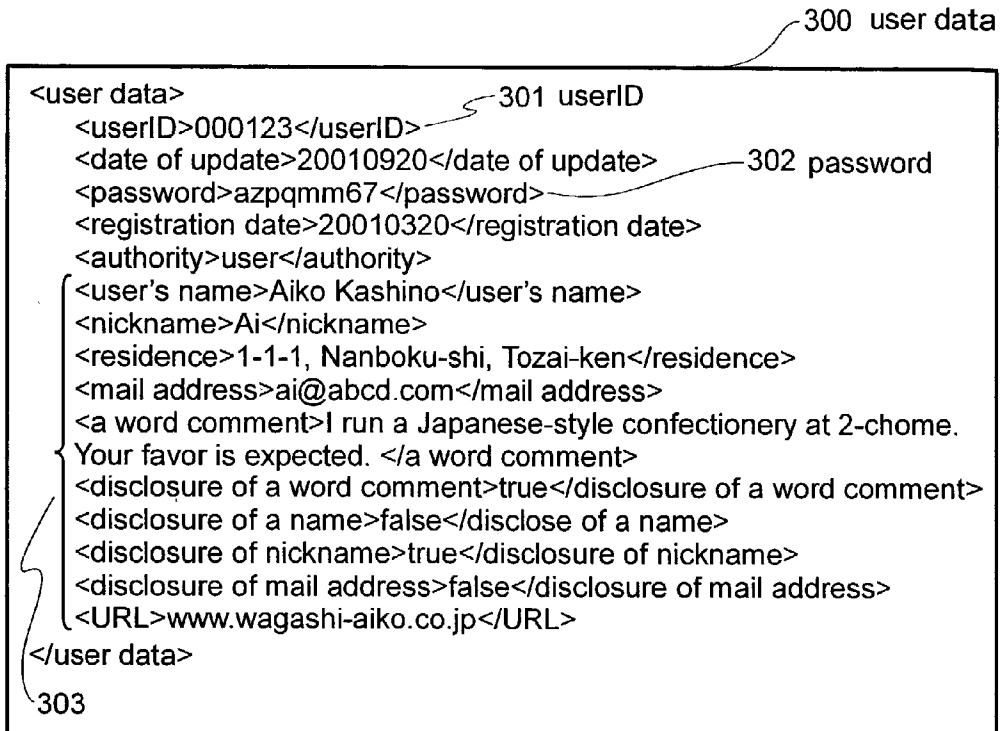
FIG.3

FIG. 4

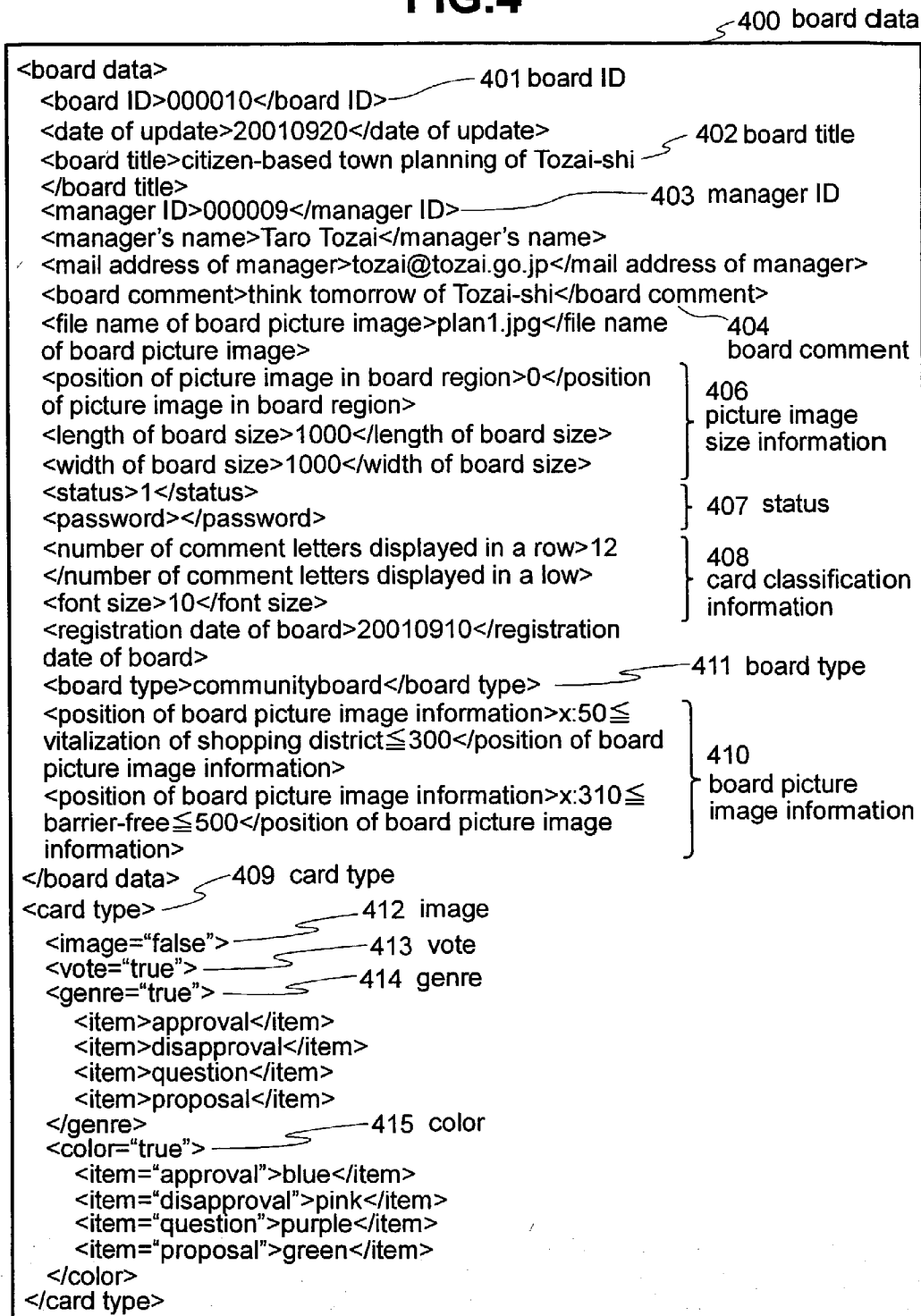
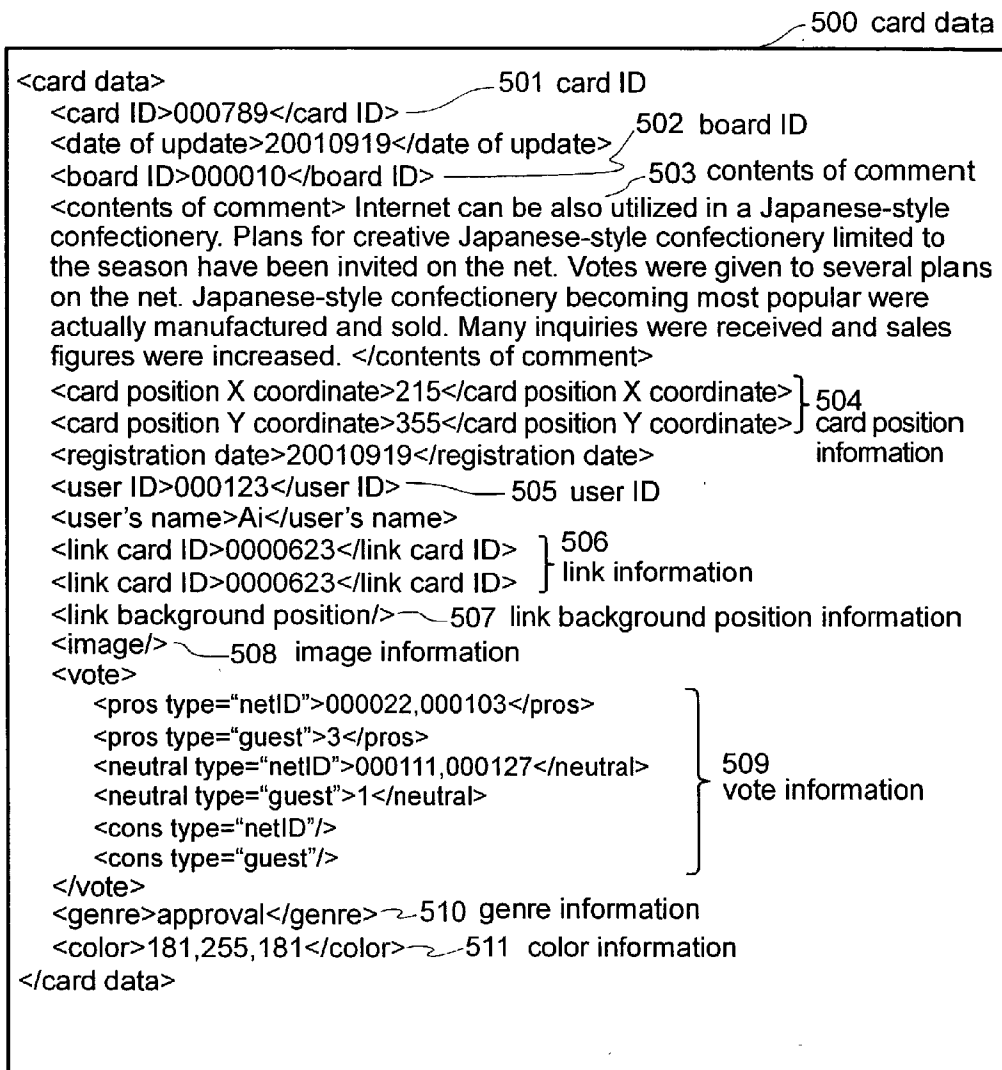


FIG.5

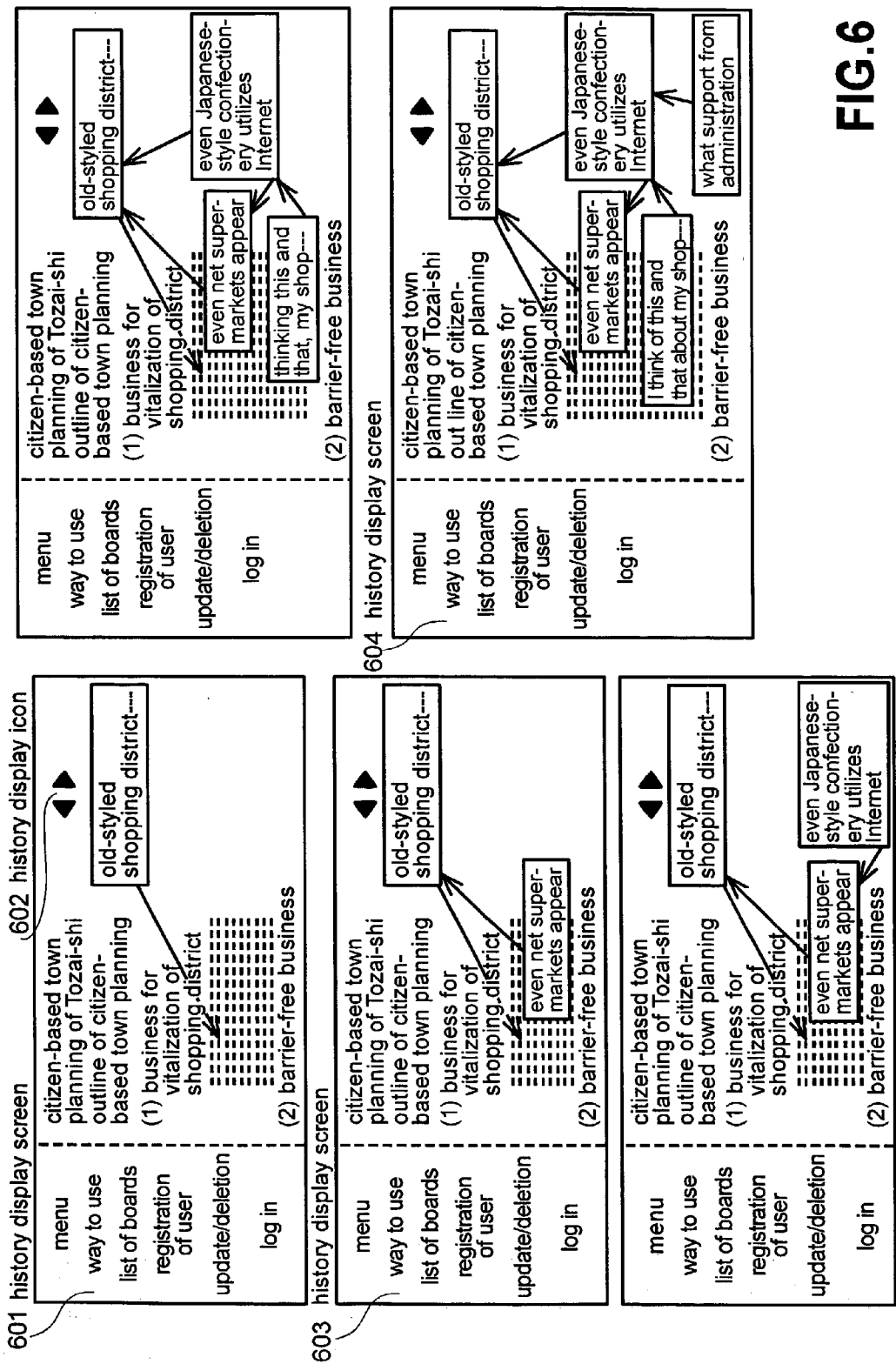


FIG.6

FIG. 7

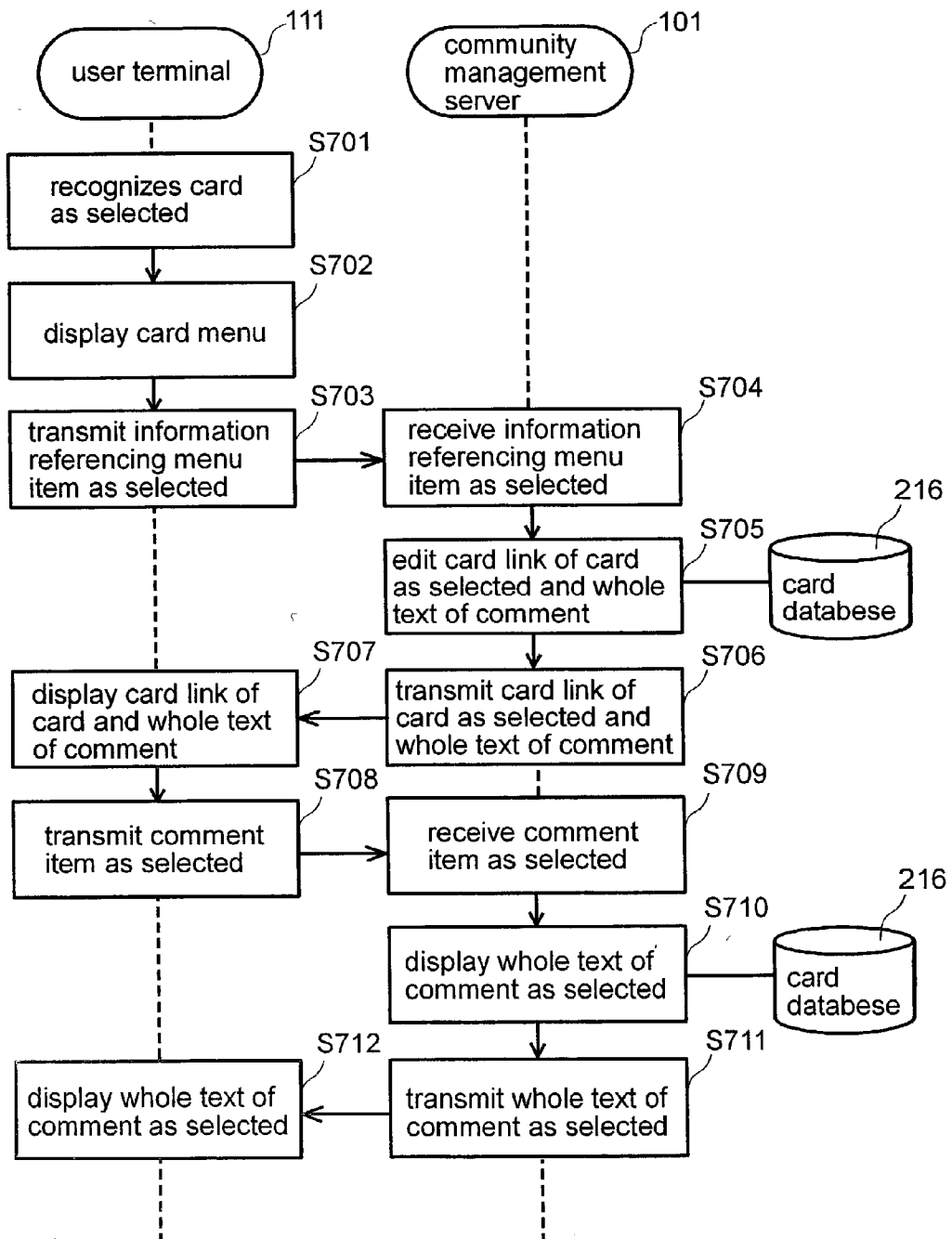


FIG.8

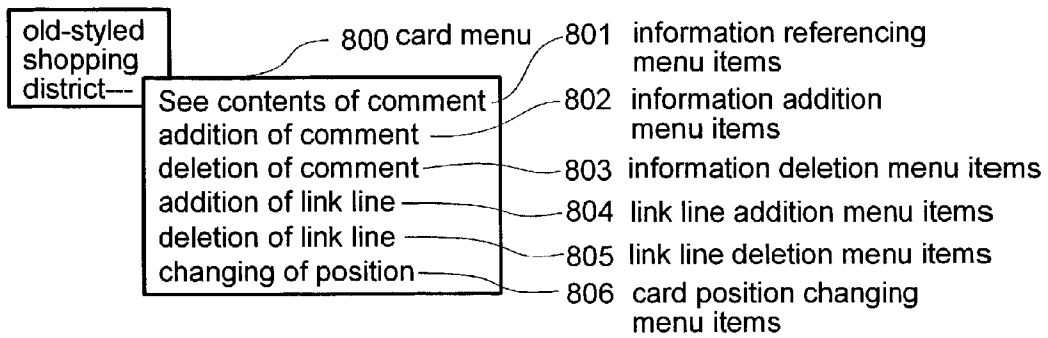


FIG.9

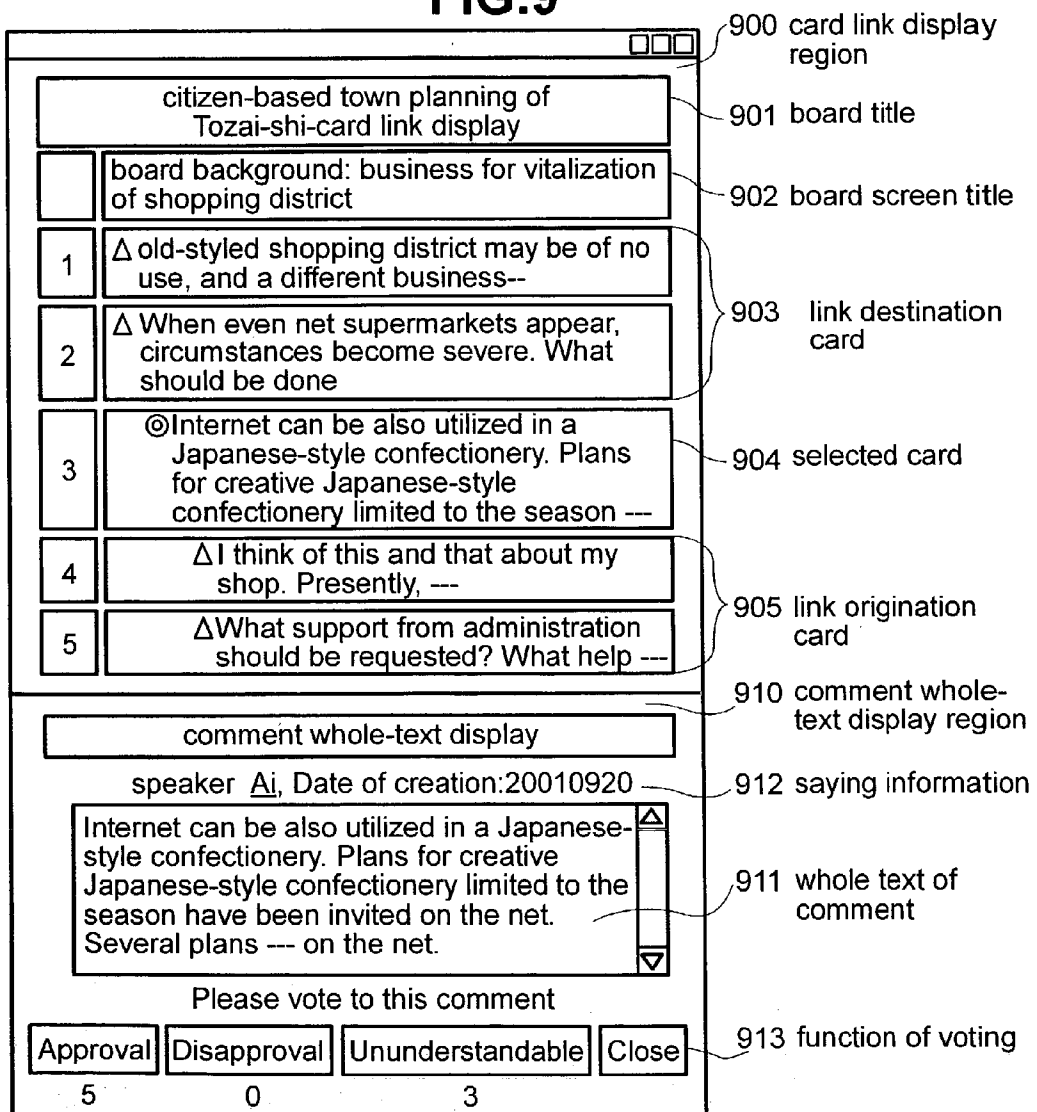


FIG.10

citizen-based town planning of Tozai-shi-card link display	
	board background: business for Vitalization of shopping district
1	△ old-styled shopping district may be of no use, and a different business--
2	△ When even net supermarkets appear, circumstances become severe. What should be done
3	◎ Internet can be also utilized in a Japanese-style confectionery. Plans for creative Japanese-style confectionery limited to the season ---
4	△ I think of this and that about my shop. Presently, ---
5	

speaker information
speaker's name: Ai
e-mail address: ai@abcd.com
A word comment: I run Japanese-style confectionery at 2-chome. Your favor is expected.
URL : www.wagashi-aiko.co.jp

1001
speaker information
display region

FIG.11

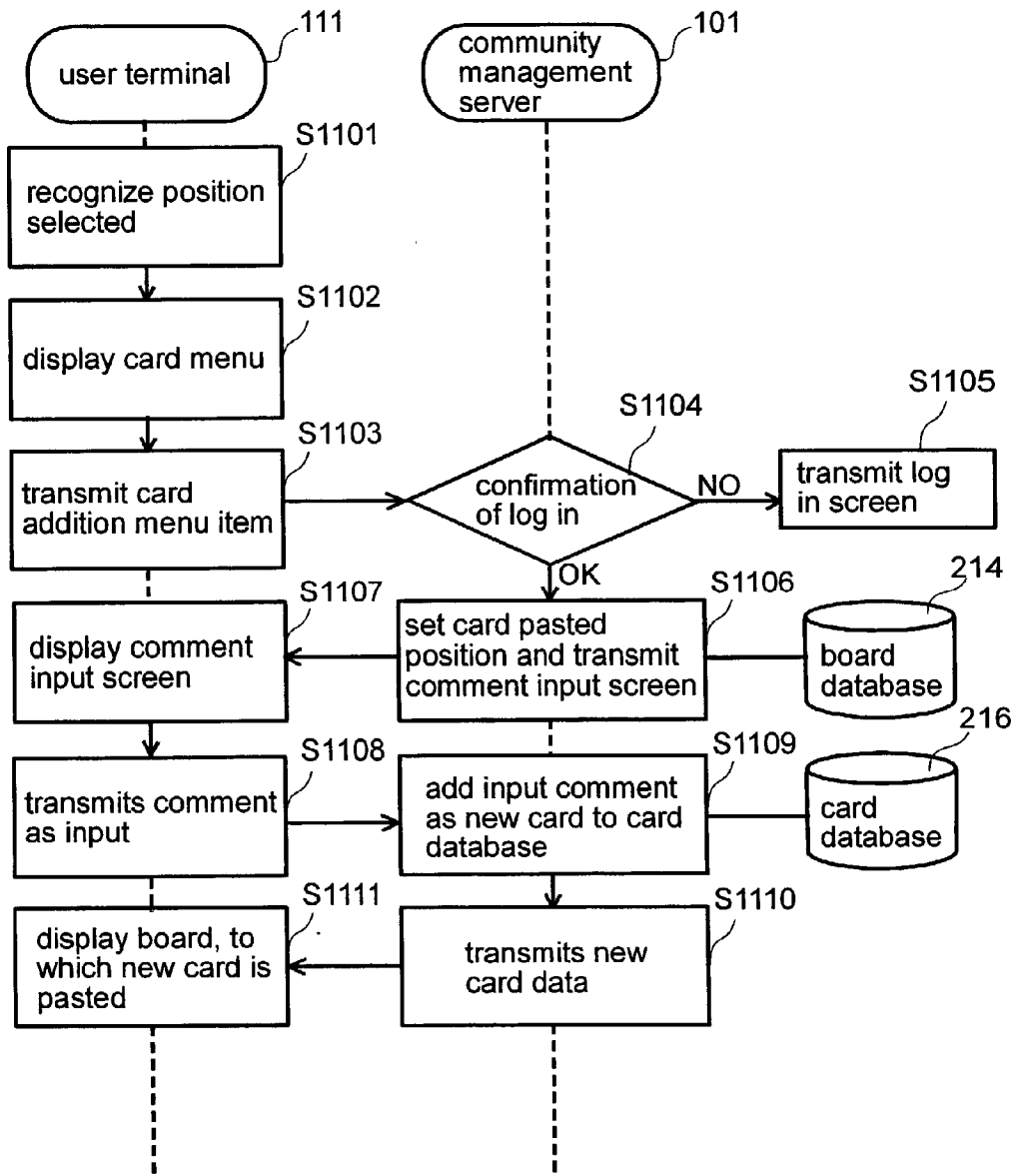


FIG.12

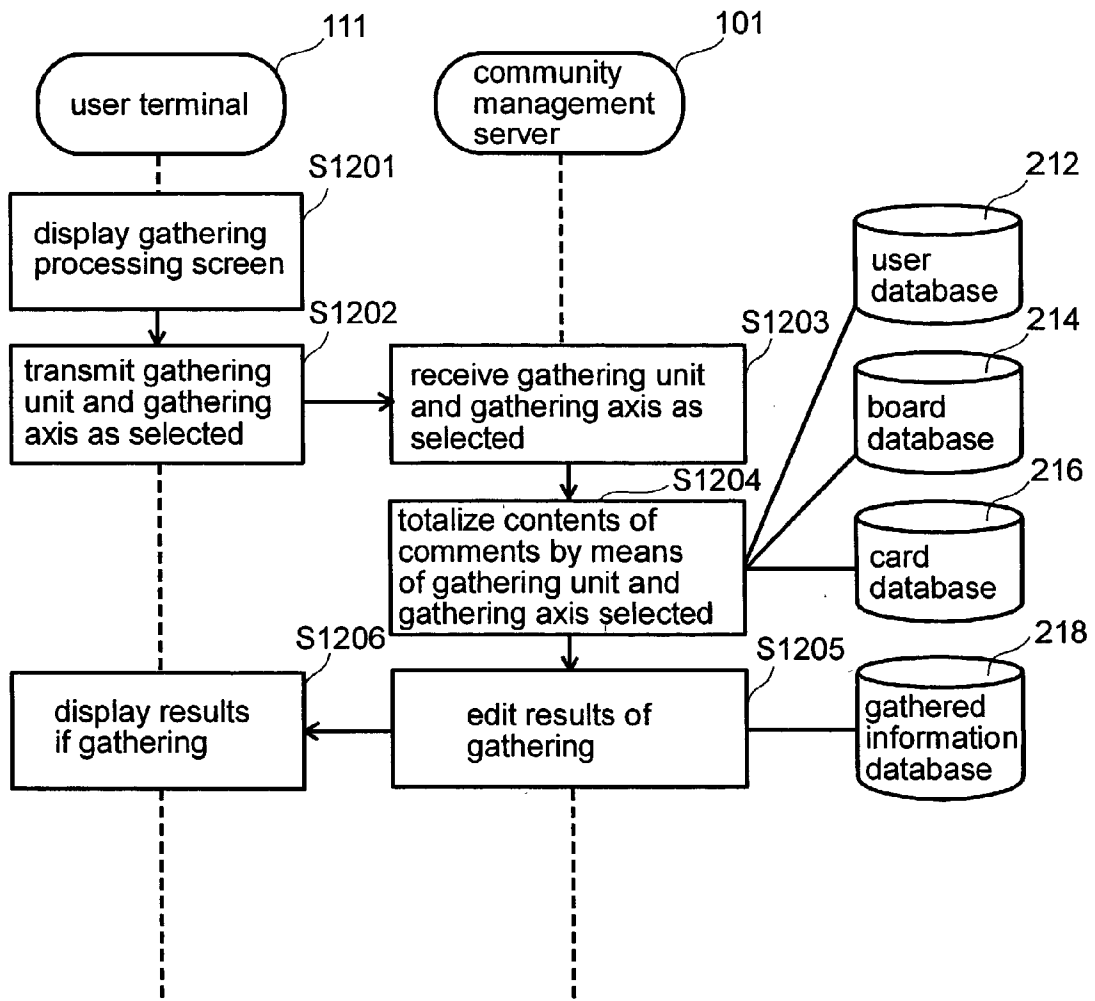


FIG.13

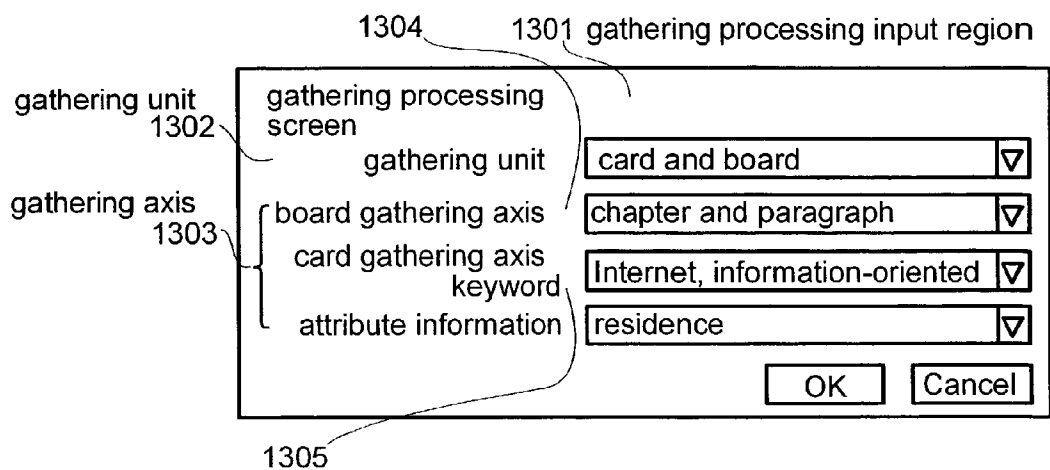


FIG.14

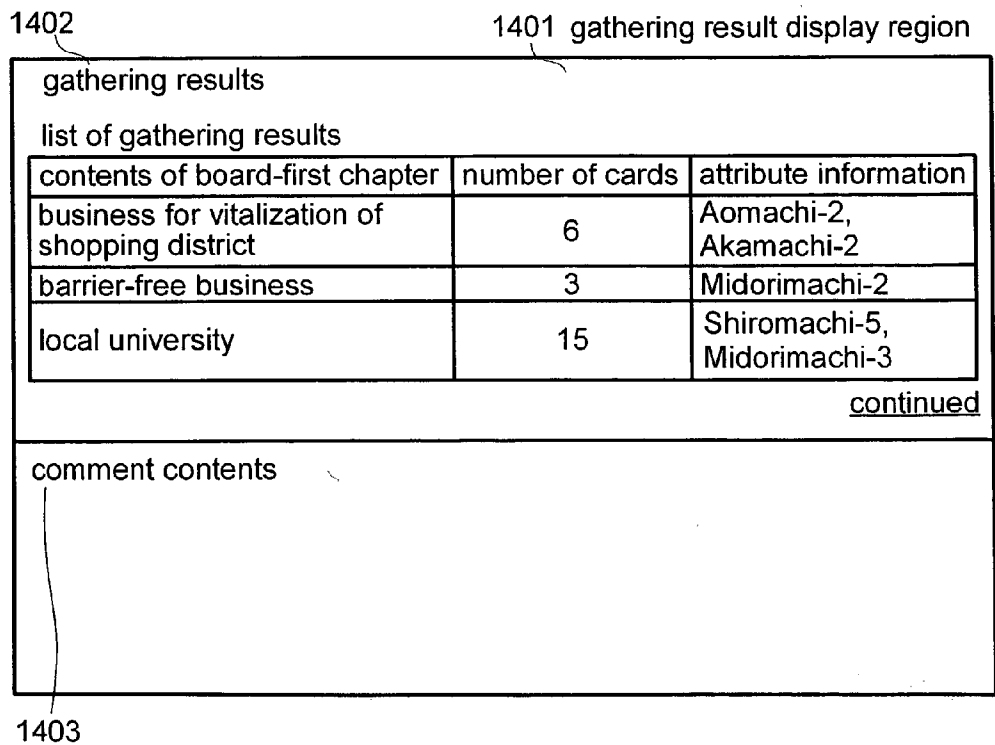


FIG.15

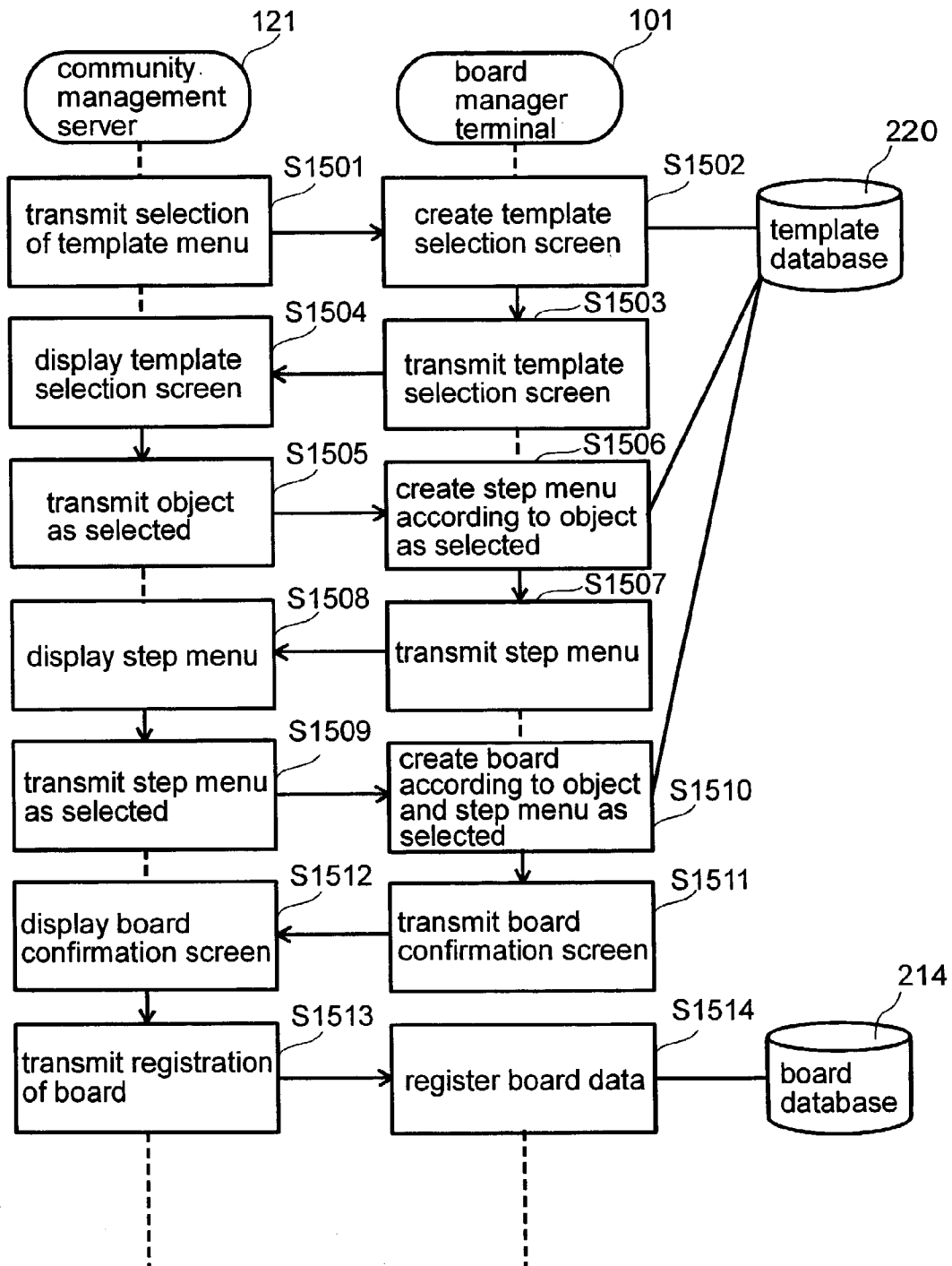


FIG.16

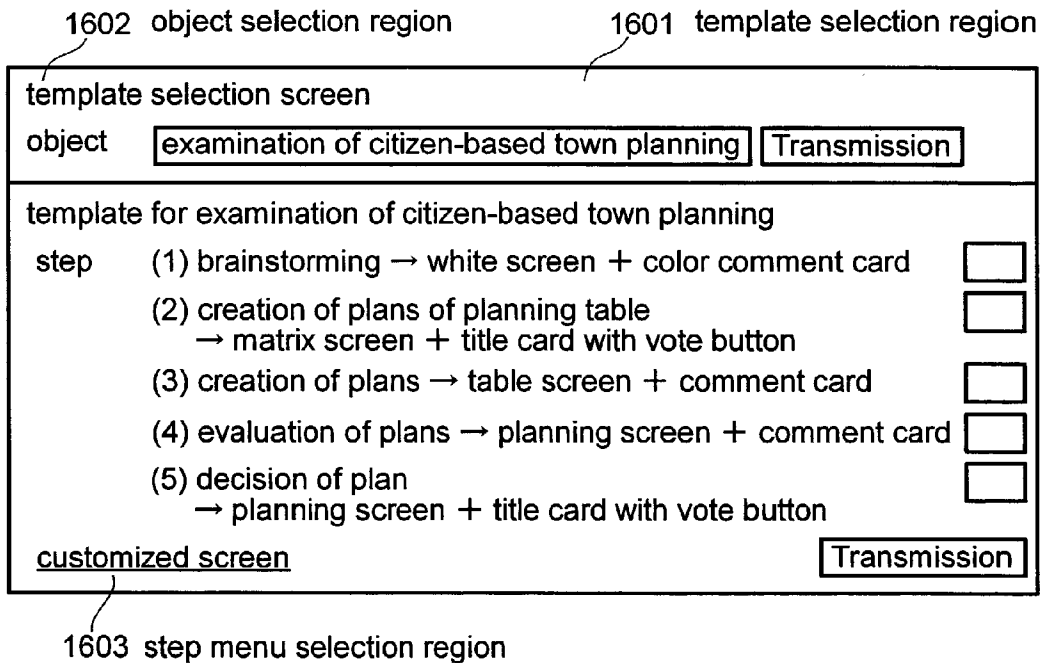


FIG.17

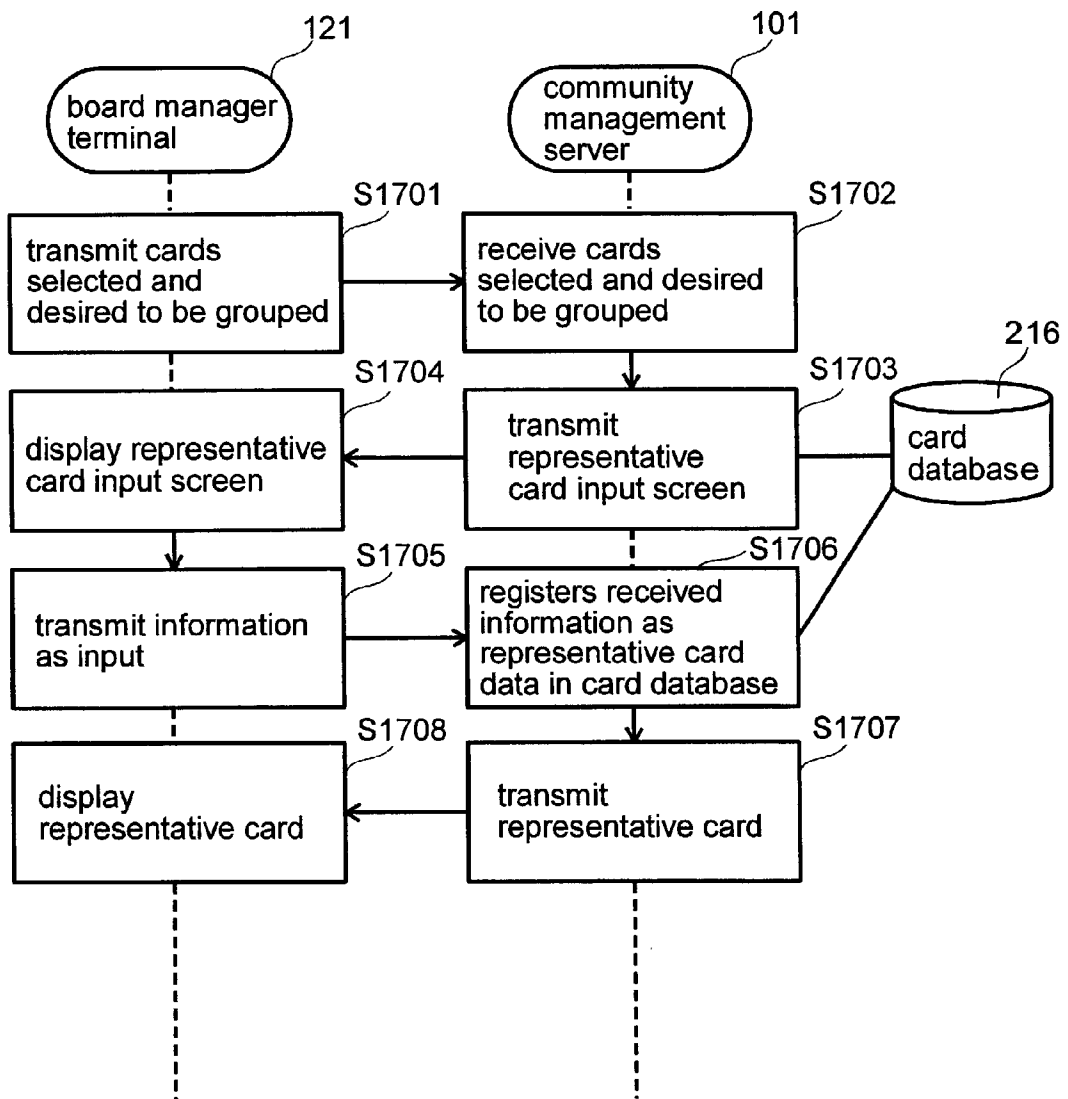


FIG.18

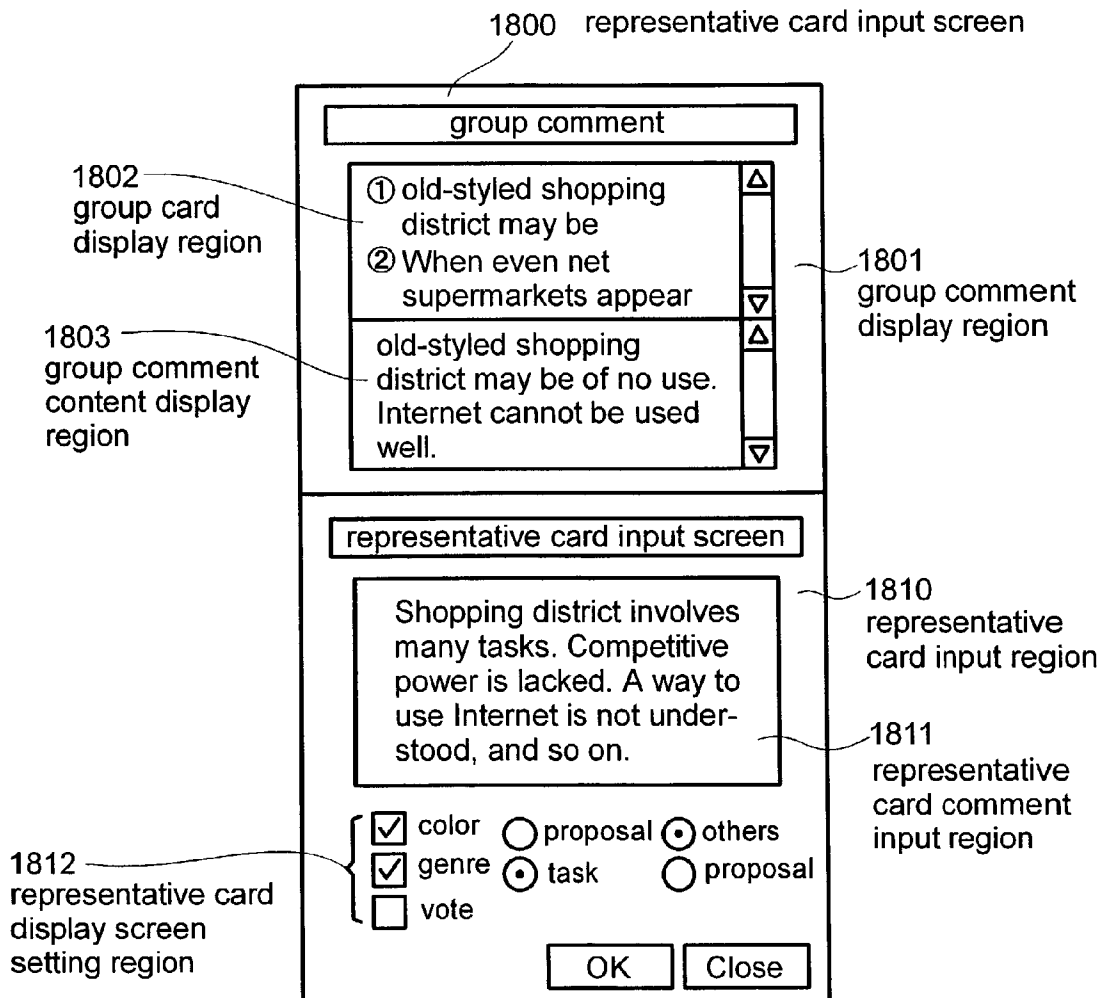
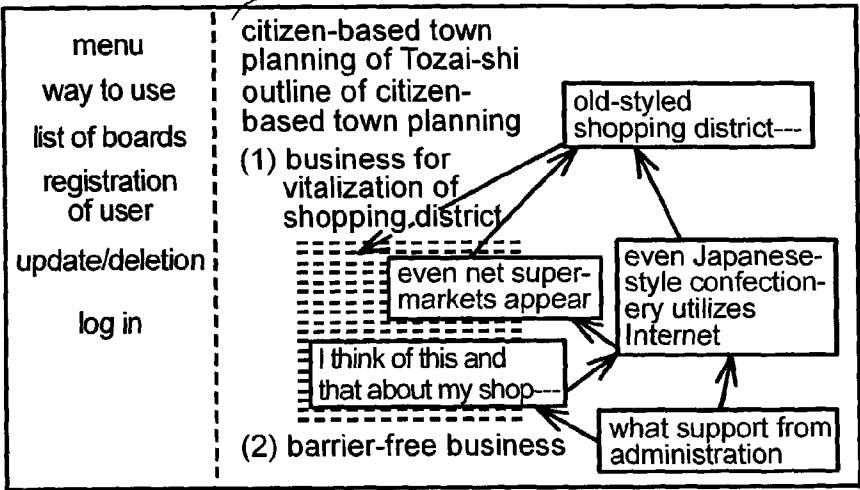
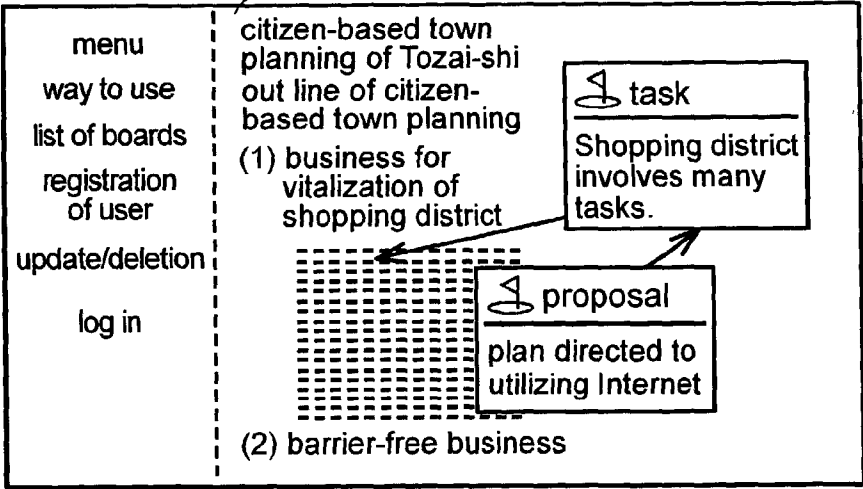


FIG.19

1900 fundamental card display screen image



1901 representative card display screen image



1903 card type icon

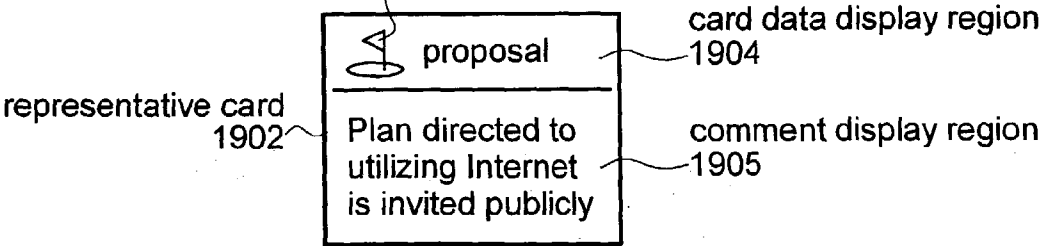


FIG.20

	board type	community board	☒	2001	
	board title	citizen-based town planning for Nanboku-shi			
	a word comment	citizen-based town planning for vitalizing the district is contemplated. Many opinions are expected.		2005	
			☐	2006	
	board size (width)	1000		2007	
	board size (height)	1000		2008	
	number of letters of a comment displayed in a line	12		2009	
2010	font size of card	10	☐	2012	
2011	font size of comment input /display	standard	☐	2013	
	selection of function of card	☒ with image		2014	
		☒ with function of vote		2015	
		☒ indication of genre of card	1) question		
			2) reply		
			3) proposal		
			4) opinion		
			5) others		
		☒ indication of color of card	1) approval		2023
			blue ☐		
			2) disapproval		2024
	pink ☐				
	3) question			2025	
	green ☐				
	4) reply			2026	
	yellow ☐				
		5) others		2027	
		purple ☐			
	manager ID	000001		2028	
	manager's name	manager		2029	
	mail address of manager	ai@tokio.ne.jp		2030	
	setting of members	qualified member	☐	2031	
	password			2032	
	display position of background picture image	upwardly leftward	☐	2034	
	file name of background picture image		reference	2036	

2033 2035

Register Reset

FIG.21

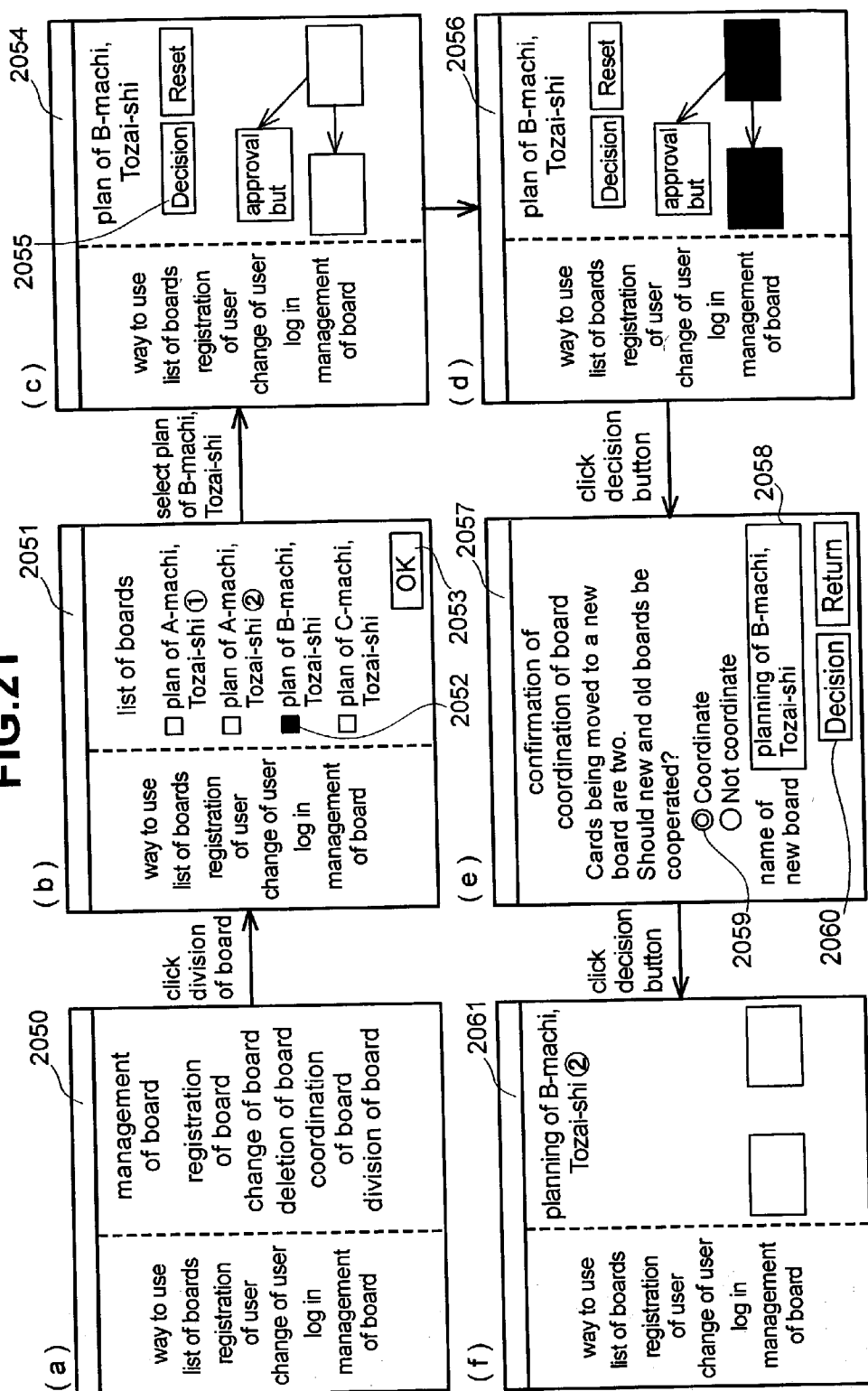


FIG.22

2070

selection of board

Please select a board and input a title of coordinated group

special edition of A-machi

object of change	manager's name	board ID	title
☒	Manager A	000237	town planning of A-machi
☒	Manager A	000236	map of A-machi
☒	Manager A	000235	calender of A-machi

2071

2072

2075

☒ Please input a manager ID and a board ID when boards of other managers should be added to a list

manager ID	board ID
manager ID	board ID
manager ID	board ID
manager ID	board ID
manager ID	board ID

2076

2077

2078

OK

FIG.23

selection of board

Please select a board and click OK button.

group title

special edition of A-machi

manager's name	board ID	title
manager A	000237	town planning of A-machi
manager A	000236	map of A-machi
manager A	000235	calender of A-machi

OK

Return

2079

FIG.24

special edition of A-machi

map of A-machi

-- coordinated board--
town planning of A-machi
map of A-machi
calender of A-machi

2074

FIG.25

selection of board

Please select a board and input a title of coordinated group

convenient map of Tozai-shi

object of change	manager's name	board ID	title
☒	manager A	000237	town planning of A-machi
☒	manager A	000236	map of A-machi
☒	manager A	000235	calender of A-machi

● Please input a manager ID and a board ID when boards of other managers should be added to a list

manager ID

manager ID

manager ID

manager ID

manager ID

board ID

board ID

board ID

board ID

board ID

OK

2076
2077
2078

FIG.26

selection of board

Please select a board and click OK button.

group title convenient map of Tozai-shi

manager's name	board ID	title
manager A	000237	town planning of A-machi
manager A	000236	map of A-machi
manager A	000235	calender of A-machi
manager B	000231	town planning of B-machi
manager B	000223	map of B-machi
manager B	000220	calender of B-machi
manager Taro	000217	town planning of Tozai-shi
manager Taro	000216	support for parenting

OK
Return

2079

FIG.27

convenient map of Tozai-shi 2080

— coordinated board —

▽

town planning of A-machi
 map of A-machi
 calender of A-machi
 town planning of B-machi

map of B-machi

 calender of B-machi
 town planning of Tozai-shi
 support for parenting

2081

FIG.28

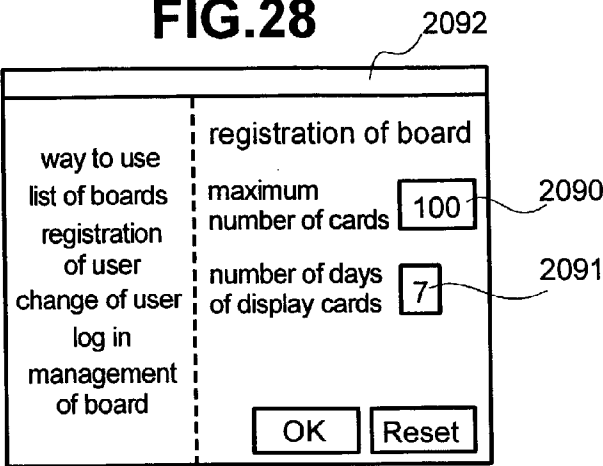


FIG.29

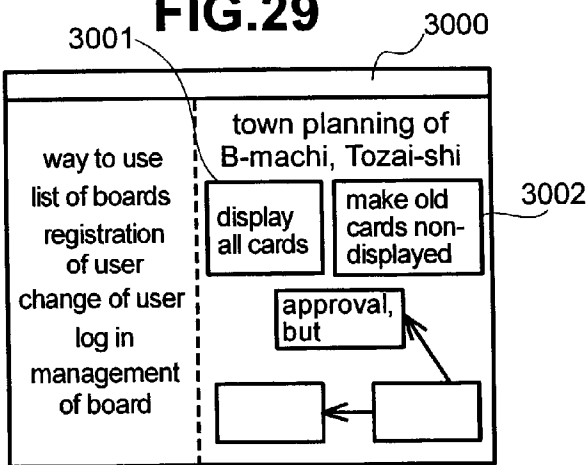


FIG.30

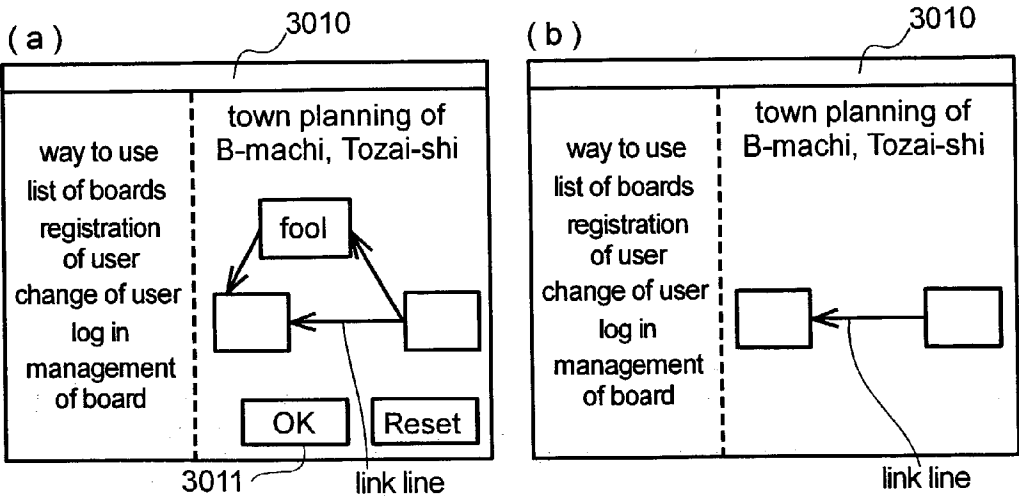


FIG.31

3049

registration of user

name 3050

nickname 3051

☐ open name to the public

☒ open nickname to the public 3052

residence 3053

temporary password 3054

contact address 3055

(telephone number) ☒ open 3056

(FAX) ☒ open 3057

(e-mail address) ☒ open 3058

a word of comment 3059

comment ☒ open 3060

URL

boards, of which mail notice assignment is desired

☐ K-machi information map

☐ map of national delicious food pride

☐ Aozora-machi block association★everybody's notice

☐ Teacher's NET

☐ [inside recipe] shrimp stew

☒ map in a region facing Aozora station

☐ classification of refuse

☐ [recipe] shrimp stew

☒ town planning of Tozai-shi

☒ support for parenting

FIG.32

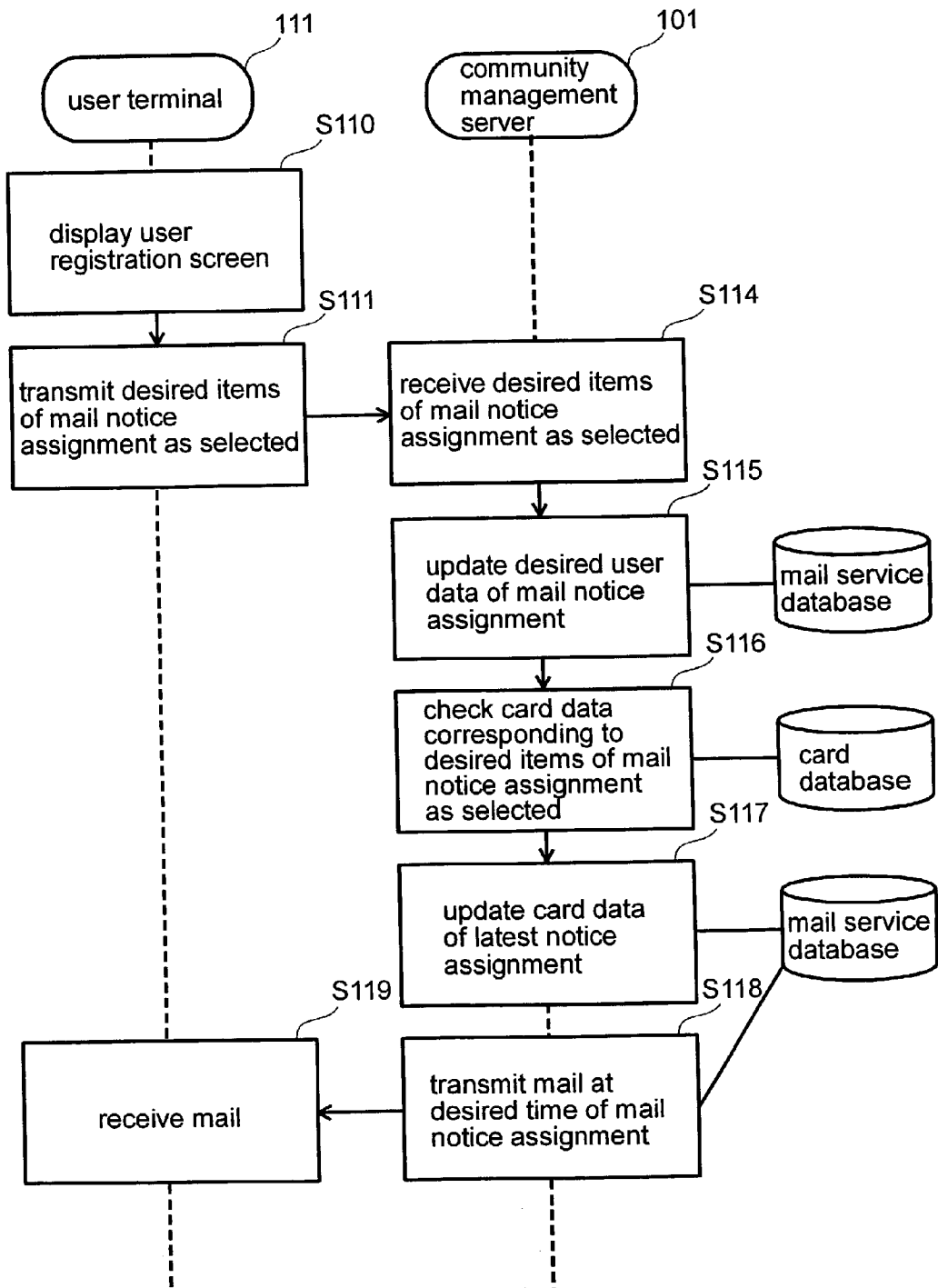


FIG.33

1200

```
<calender data>
  <calendar ID>000222</calendar ID> 1201
  <type>communitycalendar</type> 1202
  <status>2</status> 1203
  <calender registration date>2002/03/27</calendar registration date> 1204
  <calender title>Tozai calendar</calendar title> 1205
  <manager ID>000009</manager ID> 1206
  <manager's name>Taro Tozai</manager's name> 1207
  <manager's mail address>tozai@tozai.go.jp</manager's mail address> 1208
  <calender comment>think tomorrow of Tozai-shi</calendar comment>
  <password>sb</password> 1209
  <card type>text</card type> 1211
  <calender update date>2002/03/27</calendar update date> 1212
  <setting of color="true">
    <"word-of-mouth communication" color of icon>pink</"word-of-
    mouth communication" color of icon>
    <"sale information" color of icon>purple</"sale information" color
    of icon>
    <"notice for residents" color of icon>yellow</"notice for residents"
    color of icon>
    <"notice for businessmen" color of icon>green</"notice for
    businessmen" color of icon>
  </setting of color>
  </setting of icon>
</calender data>
```

1213 {

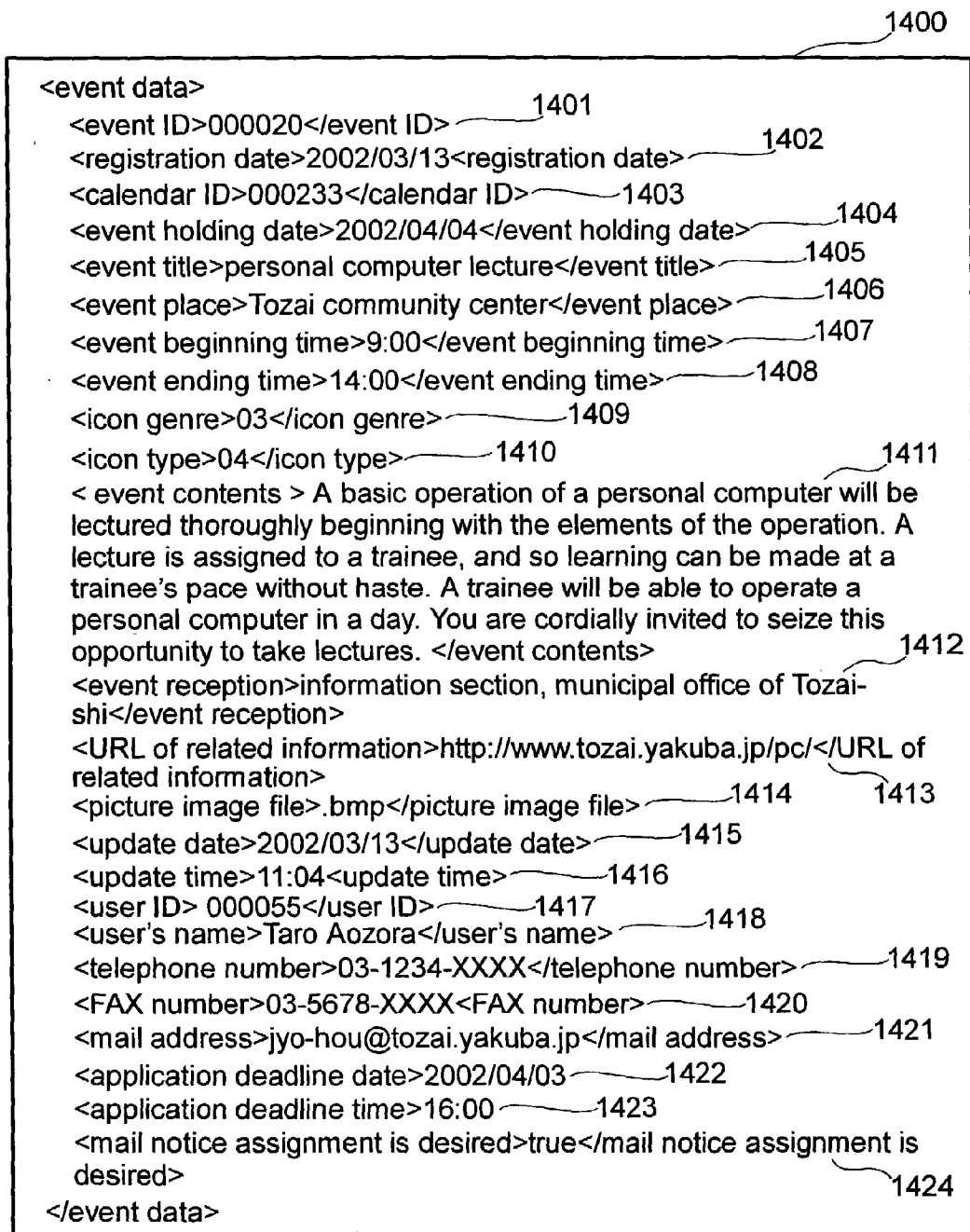
FIG.34

FIG.35

1500

```
<user data>
  <user ID>000055</user ID> 1501
  <update date>2002/03/03</update date> 1502
  <password>aozora</password> 1503
  <user's name>Hajime Aozora</user's name> 1504
  <nickname>Hajime</nickname> 1505
  <residence >1-1-1, Nanboku-shi, Tozai-ken </residence > 1506
  <telephone number>03-1234-XXXX</telephone number> 1507
  <FAX number>03-5678-XXXX</FAX number> 1508
  <mail address>jyo-hou@tozai.yakuba.jp</mail address> 1509
  <a word comment>town planning comfortable to live in is aimed at.
  Your favors are invited.</a word comment> 1510
  <registration date>2002/03/03</registration date> 1511
  <authority>user</authority> 1512
  <opening of a word comment to the public>true</opening of a word
  comment to the public> 1513
  <opening of name to the public>true</opening of name to the public> 1514
  <opening of nickname to the public>false</opening of nickname to
  the public> 1515
  <opening of telephone number to the public>true</opening of
  telephone number to the public> 1516
  <opening of FAX number to the public>true </opening of FAX number
  to the public> 1517
  <opening of mail address to the public>true</opening of mail address
  to the public> 1518
  <URL>www.aozora.co.jp</URL> 1519
  <setting of mail notice assignment>true</setting of mail notice
  assignment> 1520
</user data>
```

FIG.36

1521

```
<mail service data>
  <user information>
    <user ID>000055</user ID> 1522
    <mail address>jyo-hou@tozai.yakuba.jp</mail address> 1523
    <mail desire board ID>000222</mail desire board ID> 1524
      <mail notice assignment settled event>000020</mail notice
        assignment settled event> 1525
    <mail desire board ID>000190</mail desire board ID> 1526
      <mail notice assignment settled event>000010</mail notice
        assignment settled event> 1527
    <genre type>0101</genre type> 1528
    <genre type>0102</genre type> 1529
    <genre type>0405</genre type> 1530
    <notice assignment time>pm</notice assignment time> 1531
    <notice assignment unit>week</notice assignment unit> 1532
  <user information>
</mail service data>
```

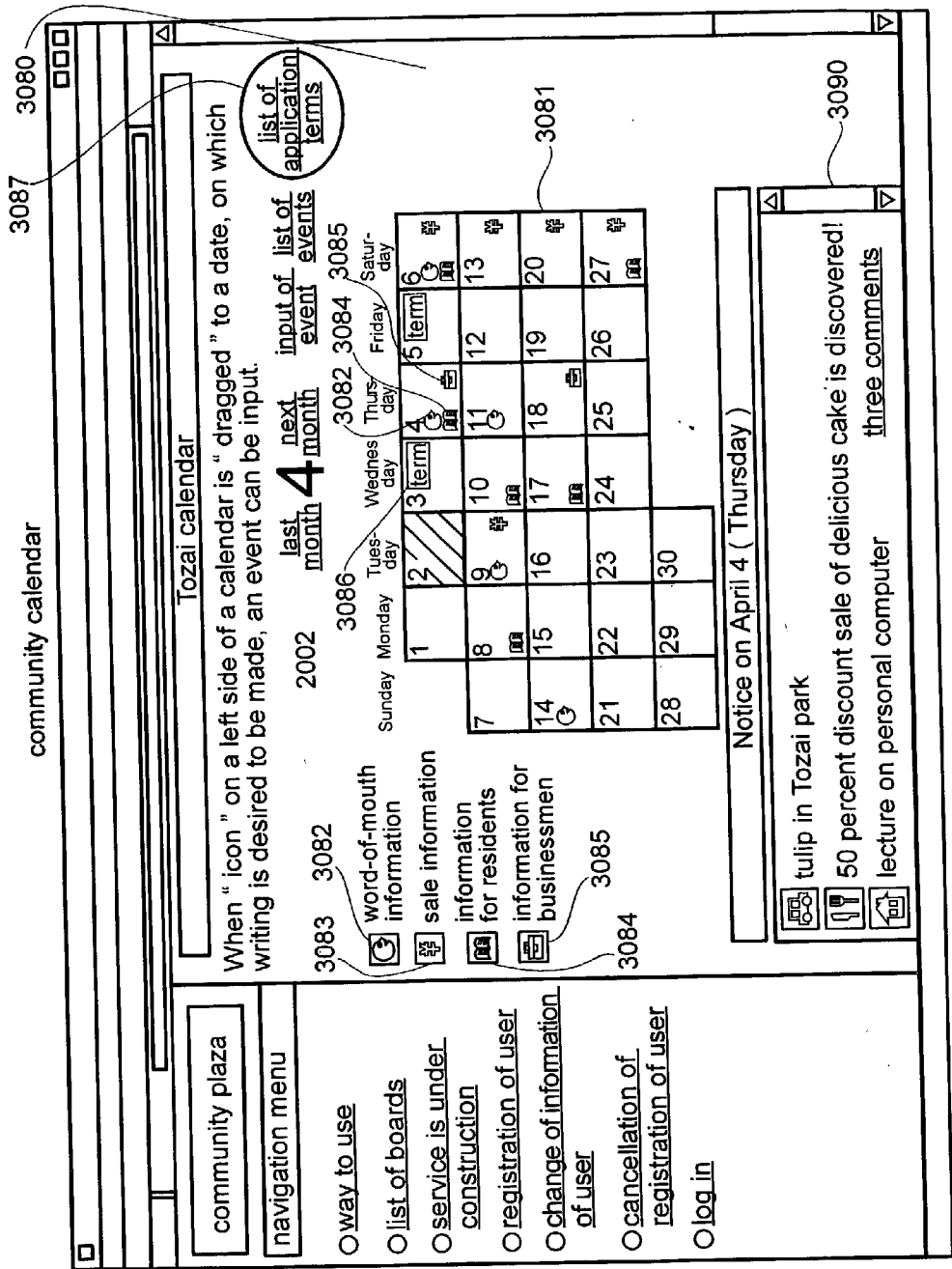


FIG.37

FIG.38

3088

event window

list of event application terms

3089

contact address					
No.	deadline date	holding date	event title	sponsor	TEL FAX Mail
1	2002/04/03	2002/04/04	lecture room of personal computer	Taro Aozora	03-1234-XXXX 03-5678-XXXX jyo-hou@touzai.yakuba.jp
2	2002/04/03	2002/04/04	lecture of personal handicrafts	Hanako Ekimae	03-1234-XXXX 03-5678-XXXX eki@mae.xx.jp
3	2002/04/05	2002/04/06	lecture room of parenting	Mama Shinmai	03-1234-XXXX 03-5678-XXXX shin@maimama.xx.jp
4	2002/04/06	2002/04/06	lecture room of personal computer	Taro Aozora	03-1234-XXXX 03-5678-XXXX jyo-hou@touzai.yakuba.jp

FIG.39

3091

comment page

sender Mama Shinmai date of transmission 2002/04/05 time of transmission 18:50
The lecture was very easy to under stand. The lecture explained bodily, and I got over allergy to personal computers when came back. I wants to take a course next time.

sender Manabu Hibi date of transmission 2002/04/01 time of transmission 14:30
I am thinking of installing Word, and Excel into a PC, which I purchased recently. Would you teach me a way to install in a lecture?

sender Hanako Ekimae date of transmission 2002/04/01 time of transmission 12:00
I purchased a personal computer but have difficulty in understanding a way to use it. I want to take a course at all events and to be able to use it. I look to you for guidance.

FIG.40

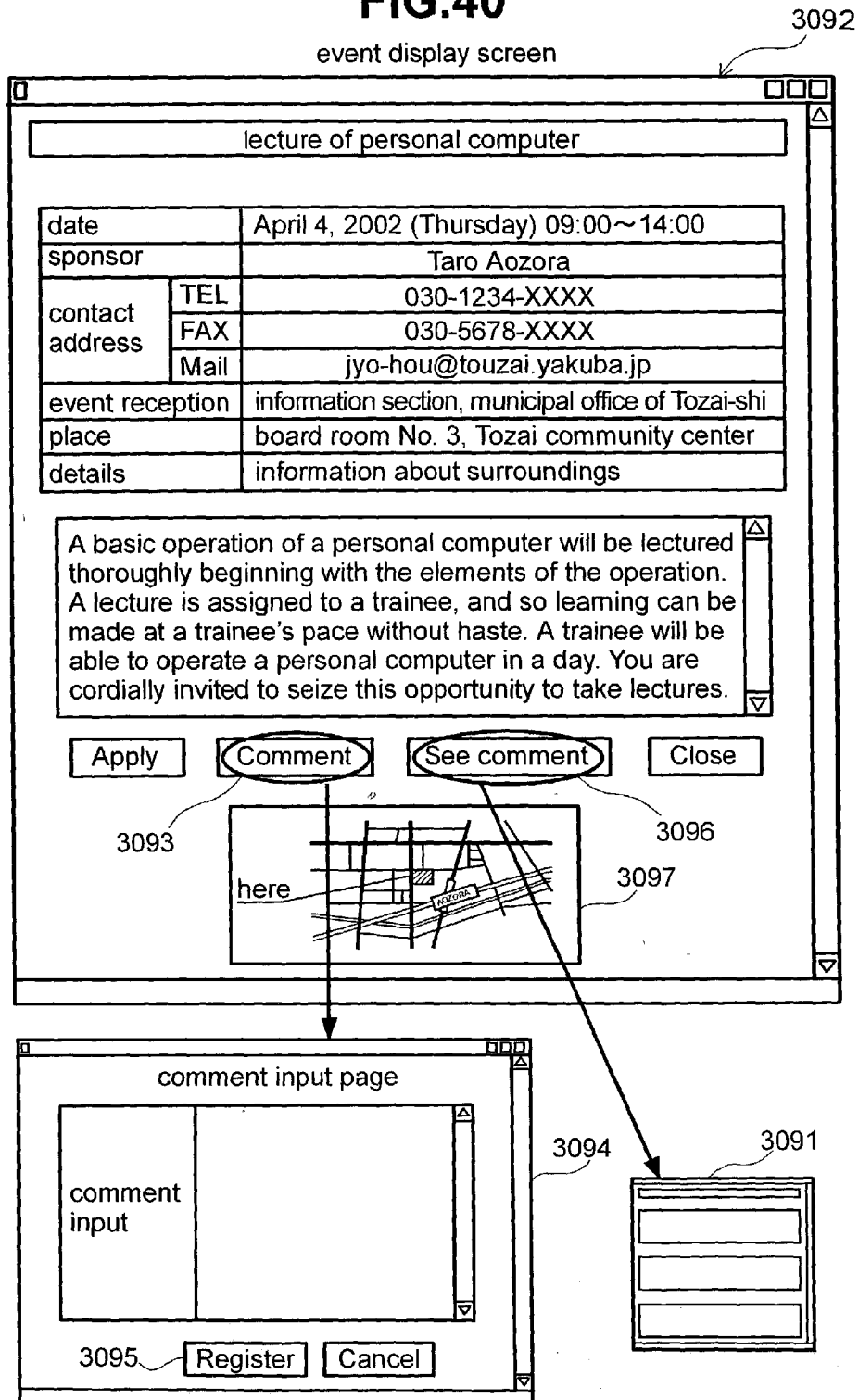


FIG.41

3098

event input

date	2002 ▾ year 4 ▾ month 4 ▾ day
4005 time	9 ▾ : 00 ▾ ~ 14 ▾ : 00 ▾
4001 title	lecture on personal computer
3099 genre	information for residents ▾
4000 life scene	live ▾
4002 contents	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> A basic operation of a personal computer will be lectured thoroughly beginning with the elements of the operation. A lecture is assigned to a trainee, and so learning can be made at a trainee's pace without haste. A trainee will be able to operate a personal computer in a day. You are cordially invited to seize this opportunity to take lectures. </div>
4003 reception	information section, municipal office of Tozai-shi
4004 place	board room No. 3, Tozai community center
4007 map	☒ paste link on URL http://www.tozai.yakuba.jp : ¥ map ¥ tozai ¥ komin reference
4006 application term of event	☒ set 2002 ▾ year 4 ▾ month 3 ▾ day 16 ▾ : 00 ▾ ☐ not set
mail notice assignment to user	☒ desire ☐ not desire

4008

FIG.42

4010

registration of user

name

3050

nickname

3051

☒ open name to the public
☐ open nickname to the public

residence

3052

temporary password

3053

contact address

3054

(telephone number)

☒ open to the public

(FAX)

☒ open to the public

(e-mail address)

☒ open to the public

3056

a word comment

3057

comment

☒ open to the public

URL

3058

board, to which mail notice assignment is desired

☐ town planning of Tozai-shi

☐ map in a region facing Aozora station

☐ notice of Aozora-machi block association

calender, of which mail notice assignment is desired

☐ town A calendar of Tozai-shi

☐ town B calendar of Tozai-shi

☐ calendar of C-machi block association

OK

Reset

setting of details of mail notice assignment

time zone, in which mail notice assignment is desired

☐ before noon

☐ afternoon

☐ night

notice assignment unit

☐ that day

☐ after three days

☐ this week

genre

word-of-mouth information

(☐ play

☐ eat

☐ buy

☐ work

☐ live)

sale information

(☐ play

☐ eat

☐ buy

☐ work

☐ live)

information for residents

(☐ play

☐ eat

☐ buy

☐ work

☐ live)

information for businessmen

(☐ play

☐ eat

☐ buy

☐ work

☐ live)

3060

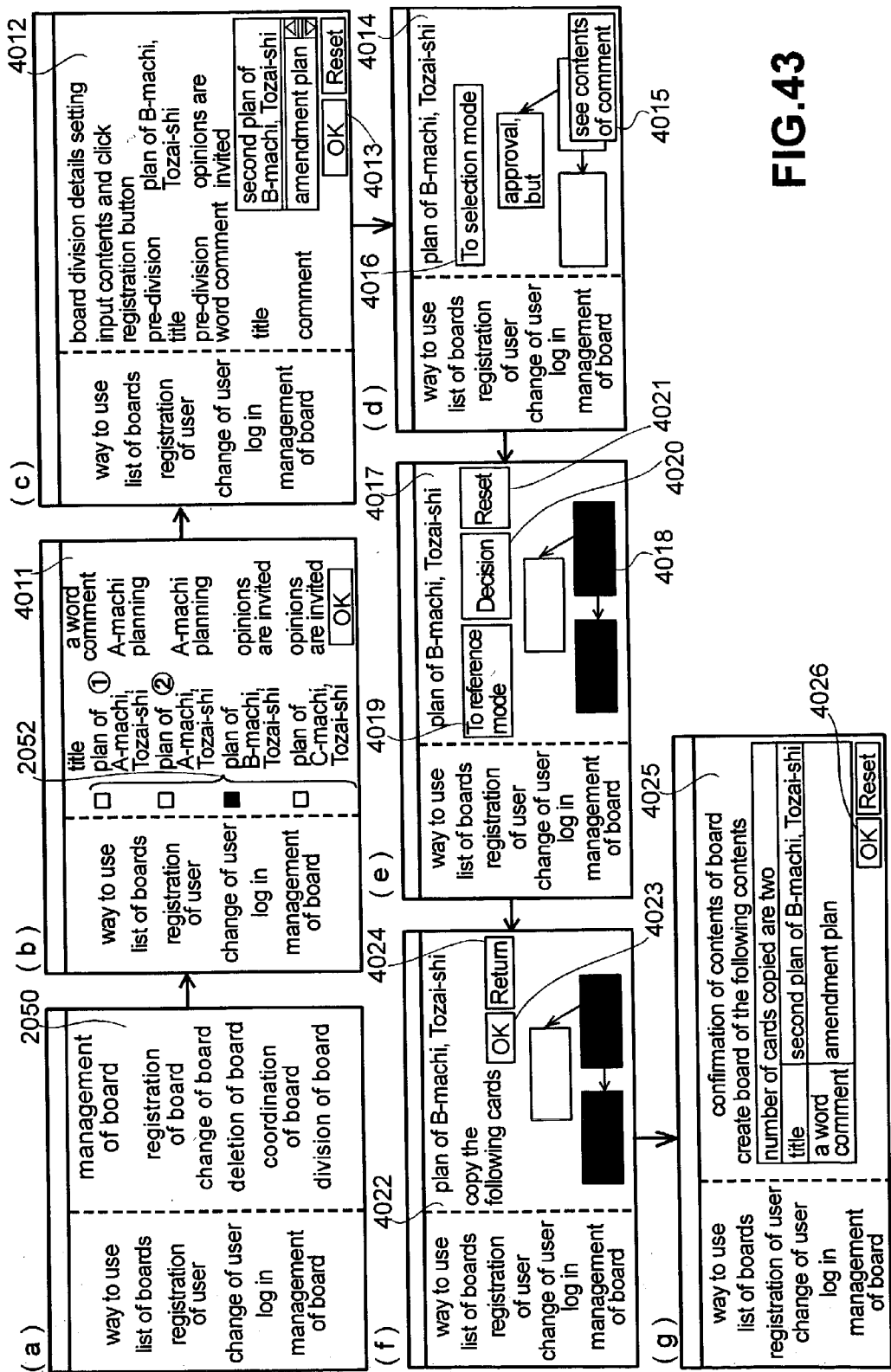


FIG.43

FIG.44

```
<board-group-information>
<boardgroup id="000021">
<groupTitle>special edition of A-machi</groupTitle> 4030 coordinated group ID
<description/> 4032 coordinated group word comment 4031 title of coordinated group
<boardTitle boardID="000004">plan of A-machi</boardTitle>
<boardTitle boardID="000190">A-machi map</boardTitle> 4033 coordinated group board
<boardTitle boardID="000191">A-machi calendar</boardTitle>
</boardgroup>
</board-group-information>
```

METHOD FOR COMMUNICATION

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention relates to a method for communication in a network, a communication system making use of the method for communication, a program for the communication system, and a recording medium, on which the program for the communication system is recorded and which is capable of computer reading.

[0002] In recent years, while servicing of network infrastructure and circulation of PC/mobile terminals have prevailed, people making use of a communication system on a network has been increasing. Existing communication systems include mail, mailing list, bulletin board, chat, and teleconference, and such systems are utilized to generate various communities with networks as a medium, which constitute sources of various activities.

[0003] Among these movements, a technique for dissolving a struggle against participation in a communication in a network and communication has been being important. The struggle against participation in a communication in a community in a network includes:

[0004] (1) An amount of saying is too much, and so it is difficult to read messages well.

[0005] (2) A thread of conversation (thread of a plurality of subjects) is complex and difficult to understand ("Networking Community" by Kenichi Ikeda, 1997 Publishing Department of Tokyo University).

[0006] As a measure for solving the above matter, there are a bulletin board system and a discussion managing method described in, for example, JP-A-9-231040 (referred below to as prior example 1). In this measure, a speaker selects and gives an attribute, such as assent, opposition, supplement, alternative proposal, or the like, to his saying, thus hierarchically displaying the referenced relationship of articles to make the warp and woof of discussions through e-mails easy.

[0007] Meanwhile, the KJ method is well known to use a plurality of cards to perform arrangement and analysis of information, and an idea support tool based on the KJ method has been realized. We have investigated and studied an accumulation type communication system (page 156 to 157, proceedings of the 18th conference of Nippon Perception Scientific Association, referred below to as prior example 2) with the use of metaphor composed of cards and boards constituting a base therefor. In this system, a board forming a base for edition, sharing and accumulation of information and cards each representative of one information are used such that an attendee in a community can describe information, which he wants to say, on a card and stick the card in an optional position on the board through a network.

[0008] With the prior example 1, it is possible to clearly state the relationship between a particular theme and a contributed article and the relationship between contributed articles, but it is hard to clearly state the relationship between a plurality of themes and a contributed article, the n to n relationships between a plurality of contributed articles, and the course of things.

[0009] Meanwhile, with the prior example 2, the problem in the prior example 1 can be solved by using a board, which shows a prerequisite information of communication, cards, and link lines among the cards and between card/board, but only showing all the relevance among complex cards on the board and between card/board makes it difficult for a user to easily understand circumstances of communication and to search and read contents of comments, about which he is concerned. Also, with the prior example 2, accumulation every card is possible and so arrangement and analysis of contents of communication are facilitated but it cannot be said that information required for arrangement and analysis of contents of communication can be fully made use of because information in the background of the board is not made an object of information. In a communication in an optional community on a network, since a variety of members participate in the communication at any time, it can be said that it is a great task to display contents and progress of the communication in an understandable manner.

[0010] Also, in both the prior examples 1 and 2, the function of supporting a communication is constant at the beginning and the end, irrespective of the process of the communication. While the function of allowing saying as freely as possible in, for example, an initial stage of a communication is demanded, however, the function required in the course of a communication is varied such that the function of supporting aggregation of discussions in an advanced stage of a communication is demanded. The prior examples 1 and 2 cannot provide the function of supporting a communication in a stepwise manner according to the object and progress of the communication, and whether a communication can be progressed well depends upon the operation on a side of a manager. Since the operation in a field of a communication in a community on a network involves a great load, it can be said that it is an important task to provide a function of smoothly progressing a communication to support a manager in a field of a communication.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] In view of the above tasks, the invention has its main object to provide a method for communication and a communication system, by which a function is provided to display and sum up information in a manner to make contents and progress of a communication understandable and to smoothly progress a communication in a community on a network.

[0012] According to the invention, the above problem is solved by a method for communication in a communication system comprising means for making reception and transmission, generation, display and accumulation of premising information of a communication and information units making a basis of the communication through a network, and means for making reception and transmission, generation, display and accumulation of information units making contents of the communication, the method for communication making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the information units when it is instructed from a user terminal to display contents and procedure of the communication or to totalize contents of the communication, or when it is instructed from a manager terminal to provide the function of the communication corresponding to an object or stage of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction.

[0013] Here, information units making contents of the communication include cards as an example, and information units making premising information of a communication and a basis of the communication include boards as an example-.

[0014] Information of a board as an information unit comprises an identifier of a board and attribute information for specifying the function of a board such as the relationship between it and cards as shown in FIG. 4.

[0015] Also, in order to provide a communication function corresponding to an object and stage of the communication, there is provided a template conformed to the object and stage so that a manager can select and utilize the template.

[0016] Further, the invention has a feature in a computer-readable recording medium, in which programs relating to the communication system are recorded, and programs.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] FIG. 1 is a view showing a structural example of a system according to an embodiment of the invention;

[0018] FIG. 2 is a view showing a structural example of a block according to the embodiment of the invention;

[0019] FIG. 3 is a view showing a structural example of user data according to the embodiment of the invention;

[0020] FIG. 4 is a view showing a structural example of board data according to the embodiment of the invention;

[0021] FIG. 5 is a view showing a structural example of card data according to the embodiment of the invention;

[0022] FIG. 6 is a view showing an example of screens, in which a history of card pasting in the embodiment of the invention is displayed;

[0023] FIG. 7 is a flowchart showing an example of an information referencing processing procedure associated with cards in the embodiment of the invention;

[0024] FIG. 8 is a view showing an example of a card menu screen in the embodiment of the invention;

[0025] FIG. 9 is a view showing an example of display screens of a card link and a whole text of a comment in the embodiment of the invention;

[0026] FIG. 10 is a view showing an example of speaker information screens in the embodiment of the invention;

[0027] FIG. 11 is a flowchart showing an example of a card addition processing procedure in the embodiment of the invention;

[0028] FIG. 12 is a flowchart showing an example of a gathering processing procedure in the case where contents of communication are accumulated in the embodiment of the invention;

[0029] FIG. 13 is a flowchart showing an example of a gathering processing procedure in the embodiment of the invention;

[0030] FIG. 14 is a view showing an example of gathering result screens in the embodiment of the invention;

[0031] FIG. 15 is a flowchart showing a template setting processing procedure in the embodiment of the invention;

[0032] FIG. 16 is a view showing an example of template selection screens in the embodiment of the invention;

[0033] FIG. 17 is a flowchart showing a grouping setting processing procedure of the cards in the embodiment of the invention;

[0034] FIG. 18 is a view showing an example of representative card input screens in the embodiment of the invention;

[0035] FIG. 19 is a view showing an example of representative card display screens in the embodiment of the invention;

[0036] FIG. 20 is a view showing an example of registration screens used in determining specifications of a board and a card;

[0037] FIG. 21 is a view showing an example of board management screens for creation of a section board;

[0038] FIG. 22 is a view showing a lower layer screen for creation of a coordinated board;

[0039] FIG. 23 is a view showing a lower layer screen for creation of a coordinated board;

[0040] FIG. 24 is a view showing a lower layer screen for creation of a coordinated board;

[0041] FIG. 25 is a view showing a lower layer screen for creation of a coordinated board;

[0042] FIG. 26 is a view showing a lower layer screen for creation of a coordinated board;

[0043] FIG. 27 is a view showing a lower layer screen for creation of a coordinated board;

[0044] FIG. 28 is a view showing a registration screen for setting of number of cards on a coordinated board;

[0045] FIG. 29 is a view showing a registration screen for making a board easy to see by means of manually making a card or cards, which have been present for a predetermined period of time, non-displayed;

[0046] FIG. 30 is a view showing a setting screen for taking measures for flaming;

[0047] FIG. 31 is a view showing an example of registration screens for a user;

[0048] FIG. 32 is a view showing an example of a flowchart in mail notice assignment in the embodiment;

[0049] FIG. 33 is a view showing a structural example of calendar data of a community;

[0050] FIG. 34 is a view showing a structural example of event data of the community calendar according to the embodiment;

[0051] FIG. 35 is a view showing a structural example of user data for the community calendar according to the embodiment;

[0052] FIG. 36 is a view showing a structural example of mail service data for the community calendar according to the embodiment;

[0053] FIG. 37 is a view showing a screen image of the community calendar according to the embodiment;

[0054] FIG. 38 is a view showing an event window in the community calendar according to the embodiment;

[0055] FIG. 39 is a view showing a comment page according to the embodiment;

[0056] FIG. 40 is a view showing an event display screen in the community calendar according to the embodiment;

[0057] FIG. 41 is a view showing an input screen for inputting of an event;

[0058] FIG. 42 is a view showing another example of registration screens, on which a user for the board and community board according to the embodiment is registered;

[0059] FIG. 43 is a view showing another example of board management screens for creation of a section board shown in FIG. 21 in conjunction with the embodiment; and

[0060] FIG. 44 shows an example of data in the board coordination as illustrated in FIGS. 22 to 27, according to the embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0061] An explanation will be given below to an embodiment of the invention with reference to the drawings. In addition, the invention is not limited to the embodiment.

[0062] In the embodiment, an information unit in a communication will be described using a communication system on a Web, the system being of a double-layered structure composed of boards and cards. Here, the board displays information constituting a prerequisite of a communication and forms an information unit providing a base, to which cards are stuck, the card being an information unit, in which contents of a comment and information of a speaker are displayed.

[0063] In addition, while an example of the double-layered structure is explained, a three-layered structure composed of boards, cards and tags being stuck to cards may be used. Also, in the embodiment, a card is square in shape and forms an information unit displaying a text, but the shape of a card may be icon, mark, or the like, provided with visibility, and displayed contents include all multimedia data such as picture image, motion picture, sound, and the like. Also, the system is not limited to Internet and Intranet.

[0064] FIG. 1 shows a schematic configuration of a communication system according to the embodiment. The communication system according to the embodiment is made use of by a community manager 100, who manages the communication system, users 110 to 111 (referred below to simply as user 110) utilizing the communication system, and board managers 120₁ to 120_n (referred below to simply as board manager 120) managing boards of the communication system constituting a field of communication in an optional community. In addition, a community means a meeting of individuals or organizations gathering on the basis of a particular object and conditions, and, for example, a regional community indicates an aggregation of members belonging to a certain region, personnel of a self-governing body, residents, local businessmen, students, and NPO.

[0065] As shown in FIG. 1, a community management server 101, user terminals 111₁ to 111_n (referred below to

simply as user terminal 111), and board manager terminals 121₁ to 121_n (referred below to simply as board manager terminal 121) are connected to one another through a telecommunication network 130 such as Internet, Intranet and the like. In addition, a communication system sponsor different from the community manager 100 may offer a communication system to the community manager 100 with the use of a communication system management server. Also, radio transmission may be used without the medium of telecommunication network 130.

[0066] The community management server 101 is one managed by the manager 100 to perform operation and management of a communication. The community management server 101 performs edition and display of cards or boards in response to a demand from a user 110 and also manages card data, board data, and user data.

[0067] The user terminal 111 is one used by a user 110. The user 110 uses the user terminal 111 to transmit a demand for registration of a user of a communication, referencing, log in, edition of cards, or the like, to the community management server 101. A screen example 112 shown in FIG. 1 is an example of a screen image when a user 110 uses the user terminal 111 to utilize the communication system according to the embodiment. Here, while a menu is displayed on a left frame, and a board and cards are displayed on a right screen, a board and cards may be displayed on a whole screen and the menu may be displayed on a top part of the screen or on a separate screen. Here, while a list of boards is displayed on the menu and access is made to the respective boards from the list of boards, access may be made to a board directly related from a general HTML screen.

[0068] The board manager terminal 121 is one used by the board manager 120. The board manager 120 uses the board manager terminal 121 to transmit a demand for registration of a board, update and deletion of board management information, and the like, to the community management server 101. In addition, the board manager 120 maybe a user 110 at the same time and a community manager 100 at the same time.

[0069] FIG. 2 shows a block configuration of a communication system in the community management server 101 in the embodiment.

[0070] A data transmission/receipt unit 200 serves to receive demands from the user terminal 111 and the board manager terminal 121, to transmit contents of a processing meeting the demands to the user terminal 111 and the board manager terminal 121, and to perform session management at the time of log in by a user 110.

[0071] A communication control unit 210 controls a whole flow of the communication system by asking an appropriate processing unit to perform a processing in response to demands transmitted from the user terminal 111 and the board manager terminal 121 via the data transmission/receipt unit 200.

[0072] A user management unit 211 manages a user database 212, which stores a user information such as user IDs, passwords, or the like, to create a user information to register the same in the user database 212 when a demand for registration of a user is made from the user terminal 111, and to authenticate a user ID and a password, when a demand for

update or deletion of a user information is made, to update the user database 212 in the case where the user ID and the password are correct. Also, when a demand for log in is made from the user terminal 111, a user ID and a password are authenticated to deliver to the communication control unit 210 a message of log in OK and the user ID in the case of correctness and an error message in the case of incorrectness.

[0073] A board display/management unit 213 manages a board database 214, which stores board IDs, board titles, board manager IDs, or the like as board data, to cause the board database 214 to create a list of board titles, when a demand for display of a list of boards is made from the user terminal 111, to deliver the same to the communication control unit 210. Also, when a demand for referencing an individual board is made from the user terminal 111, a board screen created by means of the board database 214 is delivered to the communication control unit 210. Here, when a demand for referencing a board, which only a specific user can reference, is made, a message, which requests input of a password known to only the specific user, is delivered to the communication control unit 210, and when the password is transmitted from the user terminal 111, it is collated with data in the board database 214. In the case of correctness, a board screen created by means of the board database 214 is delivered to the communication control unit 210, and in the case of incorrectness, an error message is delivered to the communication control unit 210. In addition, a member ID may be used at the time of authentication. Also, when a demand for update or deletion of board data is made from the board manager terminal 121, a user ID and a manager ID logged in from the board database 214 are collated, and a board data management screen in the case of correctness or an error message in the case of incorrectness is delivered to the communication control unit 210.

[0074] A card edition/display/management unit 215 manages a card database 216, which stores card IDs, board IDs with cards attached, user IDs, and the like, to deliver to the communication control unit 210 a screen, in which a card or cards from the card database 216 are displayed on a board created from the board database 214 in case a demand for comment display is made from the user terminal 111. Also, when a demand for displaying contents of a comment is made from the user terminal 111, a screen displaying contents of a comment created by the card database 216 is delivered to the communication control unit 210. Also, when a demand for addition of a card is made from the user terminal 111, whether log in has been done is confirmed, and a log in screen in the case of log in being not done or a comment input screen in the case of log in being done is delivered to the communication control unit 210. Also, when a demand for deletion of a card, addition and deletion of a link, change of a card position, and the like is made, whether log in is done is confirmed, and a log in screen in the case of log in being not done is delivered to the communication control unit 210. In the case of log in being done, a user ID logged in is collated with a user ID in the card, and in the case of correctness the procedure proceeds to respective processings, in the case of incorrectness an error message being delivered to the communication control unit 210.

[0075] An information gathering/display/management unit 217 manages a gathered information database 218, which stores information of gathered results of card infor-

mation and board information. When a demand for gathering of community managers 100 and board managers 120 is made, collation of a manager ID is made, and a gathering screen in the case of correctness or an error message in the case of incorrectness is delivered to the communication control unit 210.

[0076] A template display/management unit 219 manages a template database 220, which stores template database comprising a set of board backgrounds and card functions according to an object and a stage of communication. The unit delivers a template menu to the communication control unit 210 from the template database 220 when a demand for the template menu is made from the board manager terminal 121, and a board screen created by the template database 220 to the communication control unit 210 when a demand for use of a template is made.

[0077] In addition, there is a Java (R) technique as an assemble technique for realizing the above processings on a Web browser.

[0078] "JAVA PRESS Vol. 14" (published by Gijutsu Hyoron-sha in October, 2000, pages 38 to 43) describes Servlet, JSP, and the like, as a server side JAVA (R) and a combination of them enables creating various Web pages dynamically. Also, an event control and a pulldown menu display on a Web screen are generally assembled by means of JAVA (R) applet. While the user database 212, board database 214, card database 216, gathered information database 218, and the template database 220 are means for recording respective data, they may be means for recording data in the form of file and folder.

[0079] FIG. 3 is a view showing a structural example of user data stored in the user database 212 in the embodiment. User data 300 are one describing data required for management of users and display of information about speakers in a tag form. Information interposed between user ID tags represents user ID301, and information interposed between password tags represents password 302. User ID301 and password 302 are data being input at the time of log in and required for authenticating whether a speaker is the principal when a demand for deletion of a card, addition and deletion of a link, change of a card position, and the like is made.

[0080] Also, while information regarding a speaker on a card can be said to be helpful in understanding contents of a card, disclosure of a speaker's information necessitates a speaker's consent. An example of such speaker's information is a speaker information 303. When a user 110 registers a word comment, such as name, nickname, residence, mail address, self-introduction, or the like, as a speaker information, it is selected whether the speaker information 303 should be disclosed and displayed together with contents of a card. As shown in the speaker information 303, information interposed between open tags of word comment, name, nickname and mail address represents open approval and disapproval information, and true is disclosed and false is not disclosed. In addition, the embodiment shows the case where a rule is established to make a nickname open, and a user's name being made open is stored as card data as shown in FIG. 5 described later.

[0081] FIG. 4 is a view showing a structural example of board data 400 stored in the board database 214 in the embodiment. The board data 400 are one describing data

required for management of boards and display of boards in a tag form, and are registered when the board manager 120 installs a board. Information interposed between board ID tags represents a board ID401 and specifies a board, on which a card is pasted, as shown in FIG. 5 described later. Information interposed between board title tags represents a board title 402, and information interposed between board comment tags represents a board comment 404, such as an introduction statement of a board, or the like, presented by the board manager 120, to be used in a screen of a list of boards. Information interposed between manager ID tags represents a manager ID403 to be used as authentication at the time of update and deletion of board data. Information interposed between board picture image file name tags represents a board picture image file 405, for example, JPEG file, constituting a background of a board. Information interposed between tags, such as position of a picture image in a board region, length and width of a board size, or the like, represents picture image size information 406. In addition, the board manager 120 sets a status 407 in the case where it is desired to open a board to a specific user 110. As indicated by the status 407, information interposed between status tags represents an open approval and disapproval information such that 1 indicates an option of open and 2 indicates an option of opening a board to a specific user 110. Also, a card classification information 408 is used for setting of cards used in a board, and includes size and font of letters represented on cards. Information interposed between card type tags represents a card type 409 to set a kind of card used in an associated board. For example, an image 412 represents the function of enabling pasting a picture image on a card, a vote 413 represents the function of enabling adding a voting button representative of approval or disapproval or ununderstandable to a comment whole text display region 910, a genre 414 represents the function of enabling displaying a genre of a card, and a color 415 represents the function of enabling selecting a color of a card. Also, board picture image information 410 is used at the time of card or board gathering to represent structural information of a board picture image. Also, information interposed between board type tags represents a board type 411 used in setting a kind of card. For example, a board type is selected in such a manner to set a board, in which a picture image is displayed on a board background and communication is enabled on the board background, as a community board, and a board, in which cards thereon can be displayed in a chronological order, as a community calendar.

[0082] FIG. 5 is a view showing an structural example of card data 500 stored in the card database 216 in the embodiment. The card data 500 are one describing data required for edition, display and management of cards in a tag form. Information interposed between card ID tags represents a card ID501 and specifies a card. Information interposed between board ID tags represents a board ID502 and specifies a board, on which a card is pasted, corresponding to the board ID401 of the board data 400. Information interposed between comment content tags represents comment contents 503, and a whole text of the comment contents 503 is displayed on a comment whole text display screen. Card position information 504 indicates a position of a card on a board with the use of a card position X coordinate tag and a card position Y coordinate tag. Information interposed between user ID tags specifies a card publisher by means of a user ID505 corresponding to the user ID301 in the user

data 300. Link information 506 indicates a card ID in a linkage by means of information interposed between link card IDs. In the case where link lines are plural, a plurality of link ID tags are set. Information interposed between link background position tags is link background position information 507. The embodiment takes the case of a card, in which no link line is pasted on a board background picture image, and so no link background position information 507 is displayed. In the case where a link line or lines are pasted on a board background picture image, link background position information 507 specifies a position of a background picture image for linkage by means of XY coordinates. Information interposed between image tags is image information 508. The embodiment takes the case with no picture image annexed, and so no image information 508 is displayed. In the case where annexing of a picture image is selected and a picture image is annexed to a card in the image 412 shown in FIG. 4, image information 508 specifies an annex file by means of a picture image file name. Information interposed between vote tags is vote information 509. In the embodiment, there are cited cases where log in is made with an individual ID and with a guest. A vote information 509 displays respective votes of approval, disapproval and ununderstandable by means of IDs in the case of log in with individual IDs and numbers of votes in the case of log in with guests. Information interposed between genre tags is a genre information 510. Genre information 510 specifies a genre name selected from genres set in the genre 414.

[0083] Information interposed between color tags is color information 511.

[0084] A name of a color selected from colors set in the color 415 is specified.

[0085] FIG. 6 is a view showing an example of screens, in which a progress of a communication in the embodiment is displayed. While the relationships between cards and between cards and boards are hard to understand even when displayed on a board as a whole, FIG. 6 shows an example of transitions of a screen displaying a history of card pasting, which provides one of solutions. When a right-hand icon of a history display icon 602 is clicked on a history display screen 601, a history display screen 603 is displayed. Thereafter, by successively clicking a right-hand icon of the history display icon 602, a screen sequentially makes transition up to a history display screen 604, on which all cards as pasted are displayed. Also, by clicking a left-hand icon of the history display icon 602, a screen makes transition from the history display screen 604 to the history display screen 601. Link lines connecting cards together are configured such that an arrow at a tip end of the line is directed to an existing card, on which a card pasted by a user 110 is believed to be related, so as to enable judging the progress of a communication, at a glance. Therefore, the user 110 can put a complex situation of the communication in order while following cards and the pasting order of link lines, so that it is easy to search a card, for example, a card, on which link lines gather, constituting a center of the communication. In addition, the history display icon 602 for operation of screen transition in the history may be displayed at all times as shown in FIG. 6, or a background on the history display screens 601 to 604 may be clicked to display a history display menu. While not shown in FIG. 6, a history display screen, on which no card is displayed, appears when a

left-hand icon of the history display icon **602** is clicked in a state, in which the history display screen **601** is displayed. The history display screen in this state comes to a state, in which only a single information unit being a board is displayed.

[0086] FIG. 7 is a view showing an example of an information referencing flowchart in the case of referencing a situation of a communication centering on a card as selected in the embodiment. The user terminal **111** recognizes a card selected by a user **110** (STEP S701), and displays a card menu on the recognized card (STEP S702). In addition, FIG. 8 described later shows an example of a screen image of the card menu. When an information referencing menu item selected by the user **110** is transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111** (STEP S703, STEP S704), the card edition/display/management unit **215** in the community management server **101** creates a display screen of a card link and a whole text of a comment (STEP S705) from the card database **216** to deliver the data to the communication control unit **210**, which data are transmitted to the user terminal **111** by the data transmission/receipt unit **200** (STEP S706). The user terminal **111** receives and displays the display screen of a card link and a whole text of a comment (STEP S707). In addition, FIG. 9 described later shows an example of the display screen of a card link and a whole text of a comment. Also, a comment selected in the card link by the user **110** is transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111** (STEP S708, STEP S709). The card edition/display/management unit **215** in the community management server **101** displays a whole text of the comment selected by way of the card database **216** (STEP S710) to deliver the data to the communication control unit **210**, which data are transmitted to the user terminal **111** by the data transmission/receipt unit **200** (STEP S711), and the user terminal **111** displays a whole text of the selected comment in a comment whole-text display region **910** shown in FIG. 9.

[0087] FIG. 8 is a view showing an example of a card menu screen in the embodiment. A card menu screen **800** is displayed when the user **110** clicks a card. "See contents of comment" **801** is an example of information referencing menu items. When the user **110** selects the item, selection of the information referencing menu item is transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111**, and the card edition/display/management unit **215** creates a display screen of a card link and a whole text of a comment from the card database **216** to deliver the data to the communication control unit **210**, which data are transmitted to the user terminal **111** by the data transmission/receipt unit **200**.

[0088] In FIG. 8, "addition of comment" is an example of information addition menu items **802**. FIG. 11 described later shows an information addition flowchart, in which a card or cards are added to a board. "Deletion of comment" is an example of information deletion menu items **803**. When a user **110** selects this item, selection of information deletion menu items **803** is transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111**, and in the case where the user **110** has made log in, the user management unit **211** collates a user ID**505** of the card (see FIG. 5) with a user ID in a session information at the time of log in, which is managed by the data transmission/receipt

unit **200**, to delete the card in the case of agreement and to display an error "not allowed to make access to this comment" in the case of disagreement.

[0089] Also, an error display is made in the case where the user **110** has not made log in. In addition, when the user **110** selects the information deletion menu items **803**, a confirmation message "May this card be deleted?" may be displayed.

[0090] "Addition of link line" is an example of link line deletion menu items **805**. When the user **110** selects this item, a link line with the card being a link origination is displayed on a board.

[0091] When the user **110** makes log in to select a link destination of a card, a user ID of the user **110** and a position information of the selected link destination are transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111**, and the user management unit **211** collates a user ID**505** of the card with a user ID in the session information at the time of log in, which is managed by the data transmission/receipt unit **200**. In the case where agreement is made as a result of collation, a link information **506** in the case of a link destination being a card or a link background position information **507** in the case of a link destination being a board background information is added as a card file **500** of the card database **216** or a new card file **500** of the card database **216** by the card edition/display/management unit **215**, and a link line added is displayed on the board (see FIG. 5). Also, in the case where the user **110** has not made log in or a user ID**505** of the card is not in agreement with a user ID**301** of the user **110** in the user database **212**, an error display such as "not allowed to make access to this comment" is made.

[0092] "Deletion of link line" is an example of the link line deletion menu items **805**. When the user **110** selects this item and selects a link destination of a link line, which he wants to delete, selection of the link line deletion menu items **805** and a link destination information of the link line are transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111**, and in the case where the user **110** has made log in, the user management unit **211** collates a user ID**505** of the card with a user ID in a session information at the time of log in, which is managed by the data transmission/receipt unit **200**, to delete the link line in the case of agreement. In the case of disagreement and in the case where the user **110** has not made log in, an error display "not allowed to make access to this comment" is made.

[0093] "Changing of position" is an example of card position changing menu items **806**. When the user **110** selects this item and moves the card to a position, to which it is desired to be moved, selection of the card position changing menu items **806** and information of a position, to which the card is to be moved, are transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111**, and in the case where the user **110** has made log in, the user management unit **211** collates a user ID**505** of the card with a user ID in a session information at the time of log in, which is managed by the data transmission/receipt unit **200** to move the card to a destination of movement on the board for display in the case of agreement. In the case of disagreement and in the case where the user **110** has not made log in, an error display "not allowed to make access to this comment" is made.

[0094] In addition, as a way to move a card, a card desired to be moved may be moved to a position, to which the card is desired to be moved, by way of drag & paste, or after a card desired to be moved is clicked, a position, to which the card is desired to be moved, may be clicked to specify a position (position on XY coordinates) of a destination of movement. Also, at the time of displaying a card on a destination of movement, the card position information 504 of the card data 500 may be changed to a position information of the destination of movement or a newest card position information may be added to the card position information 504.

[0095] FIG. 9 is a view showing an example of display screens of card links and comment whole texts in the embodiment. The screen is composed of a card link display region 900 and a comment whole-text display region 910. The card link display region 900 is one, in which the relationship between a certain card and boards and between the card and other cards is displayed. When a card is selected, the relationship between the card and boards is displayed by a board title 901 indicative of a title of a board, on which, for example, the selected card 904 is pasted, and a board screen title 902 indicative of a position on aboard screen, on which the card is pasted. Also, the selected card 904 and a group of cards directly related to the selected card 904, such as a card 903 being a link destination indicative of a card, with which the selected card 904 is linked, and a card 905 being a link origination indicative of a card, with which the selected card 904 is linked, are displayed so as to be understandable at a glance. In addition, while FIG. 9 displays only cards, with which the selected card 904 is directly linked, cards indirectly linked may be also included. Also, the board title 901 and the board screen title 902 may be displayed at need. Also, while FIG. 9 displays a link destination card 903, the selected card 904, and the link origination card 905 in a first portion of contents of a comment, titles maybe displayed in the case where titles are set in comment data. Also, while FIG. 9 displays the selected card in a thick frame so as to make the same understandable at a glance, the selected card 904 may be displayed in a different color. Also, the selected card 904 may not be stationary, but the link destination card 903 may become the selected card 904 to display a link destination card and a link origination card of the link destination card 903 when the link destination card 903 is clicked. In addition, a whole text of a comment may be externally output so that whole texts of all comments can be list displayed.

[0096] A comment whole-text display region 910 is one, in which a whole text of the comment contents 503 is displayed. For example, a whole text of a comment 911 and a saying information 912 such as a speaker's name and date of saying are displayed. In addition, speaker information as shown in FIG. 10 described later may be displayed when the speaker's name is clicked. Also, while FIG. 9 displays the card link display region 900 and the comment whole-text display region 910 on the same screen, the regions may be displayed on separate screens. A function of voting 913 is an example of vote function display screens of a card, in which a vote function such as the vote information 509 shown in FIG. 5 is set. When a user 110 selects a vote button such as approval, disapproval or the like, a user ID of the user 110 and information of the selected vote button are transmitted to the community management server 101 from the user

terminal 111 in the case where the user 110 has made log in. The card edition/display/management unit 215 collates a vote information 509 of the card database 216 with the user ID, and in the case of disagreement, adds the user ID to the vote information 509 to increase and display one count below a vote button selected in the function of voting 913. In the case of agreement, no count in the function of voting 913 is increased. With such method, one person is prevented from making several votes on the same comment. In addition, a vote may be made on one card on the same board.

[0097] FIG. 10 is a view showing an example of display screens of speaker's information in the embodiment. For example, the comment whole-text display region 910 may be switched over to a speaker information display region 1001 as shown in FIG. 10 when a speaker's name in the comment whole-text display region 910 is clicked. Also, speaker information may be displayed on a separate screen.

[0098] FIG. 11 is a flowchart showing an example of information delivery flows in the case where a card is added on a screen on a board in the embodiment.

[0099] When the user terminal 111 recognizes a position selected by a user 110 (STEP S1101), a card menu 800 is displayed in the case where the selected position is a card (STEP S1102). Also, in the case, where the selected position is a board background, a menu composed of only a card menu item such as "add a card" is displayed, (STEP S1102). When the user terminal 111 transmits a card addition menu item selected by the user 110 (STEP S1103), the user management unit 211 is started up in the community management server 101 to transmit a log in screen to the user terminal 111 (STEP S1105) in the case where the user 110 has not made log in (STEP S1104). In the case where the user 110 has made log in (STEP S1104), the card edition/display/management unit 215 sets a position on a board associated with the added card on the basis of a position selected in STEP S1101 and transmits to the user terminal 111 a comment input screen created by the board database 214 (STEP S1106), and the user terminal 111 displays the comment input screen as transmitted (STEP S1107). When the user terminal 111 recognizes a registration button selected by the user 110 and transmits a comment as input (STEP S1108), the community management server 101 adds a comment, which the card edition/display/management unit 215 has received, to the card database 216 as new card data (STEP S1109) and transmits the new card data to the user terminal 111 (STEP S1110). Having received the new card data, the user terminal 111 pastes the new card on a board and displays the same (STEP S1111). In addition, transmission of an input comment to the community management server 101 and registration into the card database 216 may be made after the user terminal 111 has pasted the new card on a board and displayed the same.

[0100] FIG. 12 is a view showing an example of a gathering processing flowchart in the case where contents of communication are accumulated by means of a combination of cards and a board in the embodiment. The user terminal 111 displays a gathering processing screen (STEP S1201) and transmits to the community management server 101 a gathering unit and a gathering axis selected by the user 110 (STEP S1202, STEP S1203). FIG. 13 described later shows an example of gathering processing screens. Having received information of a gathering unit and a gathering

axis, the information gathering/display/management unit 217 in the community management server 101 performs gathering on the basis of information of the gathering unit and the gathering axis as selected with the use of the speaker information 303 in the user database 212, the board picture image information 410 in the board database 214, the card position information 504 in the card database 216, and the like (STEP S1204). Subsequently, the information gathering/display/management unit 217 stores results of gathering in the gathered information database 218 and then transmits the same to the user terminal 111 (STEP S1205), and the user terminal 111 displays the results of gathering (STEP S1206). FIG. 14 described later shows an example of gathering result screens.

[0101] FIG. 13 shows an example of gathering processing screens in the embodiment. A user 110 sets a gathering unit 1302 and a gathering axis 1303 shown in, for example, FIG. 13, in a gathering processing input region 1301. The gathering unit 1302 means an information unit of an object, such as cards, boards, or the like, being totalized, and sets which information unit should be used for a gathering unit, or which combination of information units should be used. The gathering axis 1303 includes gathering axes, such as a board gathering axis 1304, card gathering axis 1305, or the like, every information unit. The board gathering axis 1304 is associated with the board picture image information 410 representative of XY information of a board picture image structure. While FIG. 13 shows the case where a board picture image selects “chapter and paragraph” as an example of documents, selection items, such as “table item” in the case where aboard picture image is matrix, “position information” in the case where a board picture image is a map, are possible. The card gathering axis 1305 is associated with information in the card data 500. While FIG. 13 shows the case where keywords and attribute information of a speaker constitute selection items, update date information, link information, or the like may be used.

[0102] FIG. 14 is a view showing an example of gathering result screens in the embodiment. A gathering result 1402 and comment contents 1403 contained in the gathering result are displayed in a gathering result display region 1401 on the basis of the gathering processing input information as shown in FIG. 13. While FIG. 14 shows an example of gathering results in the case of setting as shown in FIG. 13, the gathering results may be displayed in graph or on a board background.

[0103] FIG. 15 is a view showing an example of a flowchart, in which a combination (referred below to as template) of a card and a board providing a communication function conformed to an object and a stage of a communication in the embodiment is set. When the board manager terminal 121 transmits selection of a template menu made by the board manager 120 to the community management server 101 (STEP S1501), the template display/management unit 219 in the community management server 101 creates a template selection screen through the template database 220 to transmit the same (STEP S1502, STEP S1503). When the board manager terminal 121 displays a template selection screen as received (STEP S1504) and transmits an object selected by the board manager 120 (STEP S1505), the template display/management unit 219 in the community management server 101 creates a step menu through the template database 220 according to the object transmitted

from the board manager terminal 121 to transmit the same to the board manager terminal 121 (STEP S1506, STEP S1507). FIG. 16 described later shows an example of template selection screens. When the board manager terminal 121 displays a step menu as transmitted (STEP S1508) and transmits a step menu item selected by the board manager 120 to the community management server 101 (STEP S1509), the template display/management unit 219 in the community management server 101 creates a board through the template database 220 according to the object and step menu item as selected (STEP S1510) and transmits a board confirmation screen to the board manager terminal 121 (STEP S1511). The board manager terminal 121 displays the board confirmation screen (STEP S1512) and transmits a board registration information input by the board manager 120 and a demand for board registration, as selected to the community management server 101 (STEP S1513), and the board display/management unit 213 in the community management server 101 registers a board information in the board database 214 (STEP S1514).

[0104] FIG. 16 shows an example of template selection screens in the embodiment. A template selection region 1601 is composed of an object selection region 1602, in which an object of a communication is selected, and a step menu selection region 1603, in which a step in a communication is selected. The step menu selection region 1603 displays a step menu corresponding to an object selected in the object selection region 1602. FIG. 16 shows an example in the case where an object “examination of citizen-based town planning” is selected. Also, the template database 220 stores the board picture image file 405 and the card classification information 408, which are selected in the selection menu in the object selection region 1602, the selection menu and step menu in the step menu selection region 1603. In addition, a customized screen may be set to enable the board manager 120 to customize a template on the basis of a step menu.

[0105] FIG. 17 shows an example of processing flowcharts in the case where a plurality of cards are grouped in the embodiment. It is useful to group a plurality of related cards as a function of displaying contents of a communication for better understanding. FIG. 17 shows a processing flowchart in the case where the board manager 120 coordinates cards on a management object board to create a representative card. When cards, which are selected by the board manager 120 and desired to be grouped, are transmitted to the community management server 101 by the board manager terminal 121, the card edition/display/management unit 215 in the community management server 101 transmits a representative card input screen to the board manager terminal 121 (STEP S1701, STEP S1702, STEP S1703). The board manager terminal 121 displays the representative card input screen and transmits information, such as a comment input by the board manager 120, to the community management server 101 (STEP S1704, STEP S1705). The community management server 101 registers the received information as representative card data in the card database 216, and then transmits the created representative card to the board manager terminal 121, which in turn displays the representative card (STEP S1706, STEP S1707, STEP S1708).

[0106] FIG. 18 shows an example of representative card input screens in the embodiment. A representative card input screen 1800 is composed of a group comment display region

1801 and a representative card input region **1810**. The group comment display region **1801** includes a group card display region **1802** displaying headers of plural cards desired to be grouped, and a group comment display region **1803** displaying comment contents of cards selected in the group card display region **1802**. Also, the representative card input region **1810** includes a representative card comment input region **1811**, in which a comment of a representative card is input, and a representative card display screen setting region **1812**, in which a way to display color and genre of a representative card is set.

[0107] FIG. 19 shows an example of representative card display screens in the embodiment. A fundamental card display screen image **1900** is a screen image prior to creation of a representative card, and a representative card display screen image **1901** is a screen image after cards in the fundamental card display screen image **1900** are coordinated to create a representative card. Since it is better to understand at a glance that a representative card is different from other cards, a representative card and other cards may be made different in size and color from each other as in the representative card display screen image **1901**. Also, cards being grouped may be understood at a glance by displaying cards grouped behind a representative card in an overlapping manner. A representative card **1902** is composed of a card type icon **1903**, such as a “flag” icon representative of a representative card, the card type icon being representative of a card type, a card data display region **1904** representative of a genre of card contents and a speaker, and a comment display region **1905** representative of card contents. In addition, in the case where it is desired to display a whole text of a comment in a representative card, the card menu **800** as shown in FIG. 8 is used. Also, a screen representative of contents of a representative card is a display screen as shown in FIG. 9 to display the group comment display region **1801** shown in FIG. 18 in place of the card link display region **900**. In addition, cards other than a representative card are also displayed in a configuration composed of a card type icon **1903**, a card data display region **1904**, and a comment display region **1905**, and kinds of cards may be discriminated only by the card type icon **1903**.

[0108] FIG. 20 shows an example of board registration screens of the board manager **120** used in determining a board and specifications of the card. A board registration screen **2001** is stored in the board database **214** and called from the board database **214** by the board manager terminal **121**. Provided on a left side of the board registration screen **2001** are various setting items, such as “board type”, “board title”, “a word comment”, “board size (width)”, “board size (height)”, “number of letters of a comment displayed in a line”, “font size of card”, “font size of comment input/display”, “selection of function of card”, “manager ID”, “manager’s name”, “mail address of manager”, “setting of members”, “password”, “display position of background picture image”, “file name of background picture image”, or the like, and provided on a right side of the respective items are input boxes for inputting of registered matters, and check boxes.

[0109] In FIG. 20, when a selection button **2003** in a selection box **2002** sideways the item “board type” is clicked, a community board, a private board, and the like are displayed in a pulldown menu. Here, the board type **411** in the board data **400** depicted in FIG. 4 is selected, and thus

a community board is selected. When letters are input into an input box **2004** displayed sideways the item “board title”, letters registered make a board title. Since a title named “citizen-based town planning for Nanboku-shi” is input in the example shown, the title “citizen-based town planning for Nanboku-shi” makes a board title. Likewise, when letters are input into an input box **2005** displayed sideways the item “a word comment”, a string as input makes a comment of the board manager **120**. Provided sideways the input box **2005** is a scroll button **2006** for confirmation of comment contents. When numerals are input into input boxes **2007**, **2008** displayed sideways the items “board size (width)” and “board size (height)”, dimensions of length and width of the board are determined.

[0110] When numerals are input into an input box **2009** displayed sideways the item “number of letters of a comment displayed in a line”, a maximum number of letters is determined. When font sizes are determined by means of selection buttons **2012**, **2013** provided in input boxes **2010**, **2011** displayed sideways the items “font size of card” and “font size of comment input/display”, font size for a card on a board and font size at the time of input of a comment, respectively, are registered.

[0111] The item “selection of function of card” includes items “with image”, “indication of genre of card”, and “indication of color of card”, and when a check box **2014** displayed sideways the item “with image” is made ON, pasting of an image on a card is made possible.

[0112] Likewise, when a check box **2015** displayed sideways the item “with function of vote” is made ON, a vote function by attributes (categories) such as approval, disapproval or the like is made effective. When check boxes **2016**, **2017** displayed sideways the items “indication of genre of card” and “indication of color of card” are made ON, indication of genre of card and indication of color of card are made effective.

[0113] A genre of a card is displayed sideways the item “indication of genre of card”. In this example, items “question”, “reply”, “proposal”, “opinion”, and “others” make a genre of a card being created. Provided below the items “approval”, “disapproval”, “question”, “reply”, and “others” displayed on respective cards are selection boxes **2018**, **2019**, **2020**, **2021**, and **2022** for determining colors of these cards. Colors of cards are determined by scroll buttons **2023**, **2024**, **2025**, **2026**, and **2027** prepared sideways the respective selection boxes **2018** to **2022**.

[0114] Also, while blue, pink, green, yellow, and purple are displayed in the illustrated example, they may be replaced by other colors. While colors displayed in the selection boxes **2018**, **2019**, **2020**, **2021**, and **2022** are beforehand prepared in the illustrated example, other colors may do as far as clear distinction can be made.

[0115] When letters and numerals, respectively, are input into input boxes **2027**, **2028**, **2029**, **2030**, **2031**, and **2032** sideways the respective items “manager ID”, “manager’s name”, “mail address of manager”, “setting of members”, and “password”, manager, ID, manager’s name, mail address of manager, setting of members, and password in the board manager **120** are registered. In addition, for example, in the case where open is made in the setting of members, the status **401** in the board data **400** shown in FIG. 4 makes **1**, and in the case where qualified member is set, the status **407** makes **2**.

[0116] When a selection button 2034 sideways the item “display position of background picture image” is clicked, a display position of background picture image is registered. In the illustrated example, “upwardly leftward” is selected, and so a background picture image is displayed upwardly leftward on a screen.

[0117] When a file name by way of letters and characters is input into an input box sideways the item “file name of background picture image”, a file of the same name as that registered in the board manager terminal 121 is selected as a background picture image and registered as a background picture image on a board. Also, when a reference button 2036 displayed sideways an input box 2035 is clicked in the item “file name of background picture image”, a dialogue box (not shown) is opened and so a list of all file names in the board manager terminal 121 is displayed. When one file is selected among the list of file names, it is displayed as a background picture image in a board.

[0118] In addition, while documents, figures such as maps, and various photographs are used in the picture image file and stored in the board database 214, files of picture images suffice to be files required for a communication through boards and cards. Also, items produced in the operation of a communication are suitably added to the registration screen. In this manner, when necessary matters are input on the board registration screen 2001 shown in FIG. 20 and “register” is selected, information as input is transmitted to the community management server 101 from the board manager terminal 121, and the board display/management unit 213 allots the board ID401 (see FIG. 4) to the information to register the same as a new board in the board database 214. In addition, information registered on the board registration screen 2001 may be capable of being corrected after registration.

[0119] While setting on the board registration screen 2001 permits registration of boards and display conditions of cards and registration of expressive power and the discriminative quality of cards, there are some cases where a board and cards, and cards themselves overlap one another complexly to become hard to see when cards of a number exceeding a limited number are pasted on one board. Here, such problem can be dissolved by creating a section board, in which only a card required for continuation of a communication is copied on a board having the same background, and using the section board to replace a card being presently used.

[0120] FIG. 21 shows an example of board management screens for creation of a section board. When a board management screen 2050 is displayed with the use of the board manager terminal 121 (FIG. 21A) and an item “board division” on the board management screen 2050 is clicked, the screen is switched over to a board list 2051 by the board display/management unit 213 (FIG. 21B).

[0121] When a check box 2052 prepared on a left side of items representative of “contents of board” is made ON and an OK button 2053 is clicked in the board list 2051, a screen with cards pasted on a pre-division board 2054 is displayed as shown in FIG. 21C. When a necessary card is clicked on this screen to be selected, the card selected by the clicking is changed in color to be visually discriminated from other cards as shown in FIG. 21D. In this state, when a decision button 2055 displayed overlappingly on an upper screen

portion of an pre-copy board is clicked, a board cooperation confirmation screen 2057 is created (FIG. 21E). For a final confirmation, the board cooperation confirmation screen 2057 displays the number of cards being displayed, and a message as to whether a board 2061 should be used in cooperation with the ex-division board. In the illustrated example, there are displayed confirmation messages “cards being moved to anew board (board after division) are two”, and “should new and old boards (pre-division board, post-division board) be cooperated?”, selection items “cooperation” and non-cooperation are displayed, and an input box 2058, by which a name of a new board is input into the board 2061 for storage in the board database 214, is displayed.

[0122] Here, when a name is input into an input box 2058, a check box sideways the item “cooperation” is made ON, and a decision button 2060 prepared in a lower portion of the screen is clicked, a section board 2061 having the same background as that of the pre-division board and having pasted thereon only cards necessary for the progress of a communication is created to be stored in the board database 214 (FIG. 21F). At this time, since the section board 2061 is used in place of the pre-division board, the status 407 (see FIG. 4) in the board data 400 including planning of B-cho, Tozai-shi and being a pre-copy may be made non-open, or the board manager 120 may set the status 407 to non-open.

[0123] Such being done, the number of cards on a board is reduced, so that the relationships between boards and information of cards and between cards are clearly grasped and a smooth operation of a communication is made.

[0124] In addition, while FIG. 21 illustrates a configuration, in which necessary cards are indicated from a present board and copied onto the section board 2061, a section board may be created by making unnecessary cards non-displayed on the section board 2061 after all cards on the present board have been copied onto the section board 2061.

[0125] In this case, in order to make unnecessary cards non-displayed on the section board 2061, it is conceivable to mask (paint out) unnecessary cards or to retreat them into other database. Also, while necessary file or files are copied from the pre-division board in the creation of the section board 2061, the board may be divided to display a new board having backgrounds different from the pre-division board. In addition, when a card is to be non-displayed, check boxes for making cards non-displayed may be provided on a list of all cards to switch between display and non-display by making the check boxes ON and OFF. Also, while a card selected is automatically changed in color for discrimination between the card selected and other cards, discrimination may be made by thickening frame lines of the card selected, changing a pattern and color of frame lines, or marking the card selected. Also, while the section board 2061 is ordinarily created when the board manager 120 inspects a board and a multiplicity of cards are added to the board, it is desirable that the section board 2061 be automatically created in the situation, in which the board manager 120 cannot make inspection or cards are added in a short time due to activation of a communication caused by cards.

[0126] In such case, when the number of cards in a pre-copy board is estimated and an estimated value exceeds a predetermined value, a predetermined number of cards among cards finally pasted on a parent card on a board may be pasted on the section board 2061 by way of copying or

movements to be used. In addition, the number of cards being copied or moved to the section board **2061** from a pre-copy board will be empirically determined.

[0127] Meanwhile, in examining the nature and operation of a communication, there are some cases where a plurality of boards are aligned to present a theme; and it is desirable to represent a theme by aligning boards related to one another. Such being done, a theme in a communication can be in some cases represented by a plurality of boards created by the board manager **120**, and not only necessary data but also organic, related information can be in some cases collected. Also, it can be said that the user **110** easily uses such a setting that a related board can be referenced without making a search.

[0128] FIGS. 22 to 27 show an example of registration screens, which enable coordinating a plurality of boards and referencing them. Board coordination information registered by these registration screens is stored in the board database **214**.

[0129] When coordination of board in the board management menu **2050** in FIG. 21A is clicked, a registration screen shown in FIG. 22 is displayed. In FIG. 22, provided in an upper portion of the registration screen is an input box **2070** for registration of a plurality of boards as a coordinated group, and provided in a task bar **2071** below the input box **2070** are items "object of change", "manager's name", "board ID", and "title". When a check box **2072** on a left side of manager's name is made ON and an OK button **2078** is selected, a confirmation screen shown in FIG. 23 is displayed, manager's name, board ID, and title are decided, and a confirmation button **2079** is displayed in a lower portion of the screen. In the screen shown in FIG. 23, "special edition of A-machi" makes a group title. In this state, when the confirmation button **2079** (OK button in the illustrated example) in the lower portion of the screen is selected, the board management menu **2050** shown in FIG. 21 is displayed. As shown in FIG. 24, when the user **110** selects and displays a board of town planning of A-machi, or map of A-machi, or calendar of A-machi, a pull-down menu **2074** is displayed on an upper portion of the board. For example, in the case where a board of town planning of A-machi is displayed, when the user **110** selects map of A-machi in the pull-down menu **2074**, selection of map of A-machi is transmitted to the community management server **101** from the user terminal **111**, and the board display/management unit **213** and the card edition/display/management unit **215** display a board of map of A-machi by way of the board database **214** and the card database **216**.

[0130] In the screen example, a coordinated board of the coordinated group "special edition of A-machi" is constituted by "town planning of A-machi", "map of A-machi", and "calendar of A-machi" displayed on the dialogue box **2074**. In addition, while FIG. 24 shows an example, in which a coordinated board can be selected in the pull-down menu, a display layout in a coordinated board may be tandem, or cross-compound, or an arrangement of respective boards may be denoted by X coordinates and Y coordinates to display boards on the same screen.

[0131] As shown in FIG. 25, in the case where boards created by a plurality of board managers **120** should be coordinated, a radio button **2075** on a left side of the manager IDs in a lower portion of the screen is made ON,

boards desired to be coordinated are selected, a manager ID is input into an input box **2076** of a manager (board manager **120**) displayed in tandem in the lower portion of the screen, and a board ID is input into an input box **2077**. In this state, when a confirmation button (OK button in the illustrated example) **2078** displayed downwardly rightward on the screen is clicked, a confirmation screen shown in FIG. 26 is displayed to list boards of the plurality of board managers **120** set on the previous screen as a coordinated board. In the case where this list is in order, a confirmation button (OK button in the illustrated example) **2079** displayed downwardly rightward on the screen is clicked, and then information of this coordinated board is registered. When the user **110** selects and displays any one of boards displayed in title shown in FIG. 26, a pull-down menu **2080** shown in FIG. 27 is displayed in an upper portion of the board. When a scroll button **2081** is clicked in this pull-down menu, names of all boards displayed in title shown in FIG. 26 are displayed. A way to use the boards is the same as that illustrated in FIG. 24.

[0132] When a coordinated group is created in this manner, respective boards in the coordinated group are put under management of the board display/management unit **213** and are displayed on screens of the respective terminals **121**, **111** by the board display/management unit **213**.

[0133] In addition, the coordinated group may be changed or deleted. In the case where change is desired, a coordinated group desired to be changed is selected, and deletion or addition of boards thus listed is made. Also, one board may belong to a plurality of coordinated groups. In the case where a screen of a board belonging to a plurality of coordinated groups is desired to be displayed, the pull-down menus **2074**, **2080** displayed in an upper portion of a board may be displayed in plural.

[0134] FIG. 28 shows a registration screen for setting of number of cards on a board. More specifically, in a communication system with boards and cards, since a display area in a board is limited and a display area in a single card is also limited, it becomes difficult to recognize contents of cards in lower layers, link lines between cards, and information in boards when the number of cards pasted on a board exceeds a limited number.

[0135] Here, a maximum number of cards per board are limited as shown in FIG. 28. In FIG. 28, an input box **2090** is provided laterally of an item "maximum number of cards", and a maximum number (**100** in the illustrated example) of cards is registered in the input box **2090**. In addition, a reset button for cancellation of registration is also provided. Also, on the registration screen **2092**, an input box **2091** is provided laterally of "number of days of displaying cards" to enable registering the number of days of displaying cards. Information input on the registration screen **2092** is registered in the board database **214**, and the card edition/display/management unit **215** references information in the board database **214** to automatically make cards in excess of a maximum number of cards and cards in excess of a number of days of displaying cards, byway of the card database **216**, non-displayed on a board, thereby preventing drop of visibility of cards and boards caused by an increase in cards pasted on a board. Of course, cards being made non-displayed can be displayed at need.

[0136] In addition, in the case where an attribute (approval, disapproval) is given to respective cards to make

cards discriminable by way of such attribute, a check box or the like may be used to switch over between display and non-display by attribute.

[0137] FIG. 29 shows a screen image 3000 of a board, for which a maximum number of cards and a number of days of displaying cards are set in FIG. 28. When the user 110 selects a "display all cards" button, a card having been non-displayed according to the setting in FIG. 28 can be displayed, and when a "make old cards non-displayed" 3002 is selected, a card can be non-displayed according to the setting in FIG. 28. In addition, the number of cards being displayed may be set not to exceed the maximum number of cards even in the case where the "display all cards" button 3001 is selected. Also, it may be able to use a function of displaying only a card or cards linked with a board background, a function of displaying only a card or cards of a specific genre or color, a function of displaying only a card or cards in a specific link group, or the like.

[0138] FIG. 30 is a view showing screen images at the time of taking measures for flaming. When a card or cards displaying abuse and defame remain pasted, a communication or the quality of the communication is degraded. Here, the board manager 120 sets a function capable of deleting a card or cards displaying abuse and defame, as measures for flaming.

[0139] The board manager 120 logs in a setting screen 3010 with a manager ID. In the setting screen, a board and cards constituting a field of a communication are displayed as they are.

[0140] Here, when a card, which includes abuse and defame and is desired to be deleted, is indicated by clicking and a confirmation button (OK button in the illustrated example) displayed in the lower portion of the screen is clicked, the indicated card and link lines are made non-displayed as shown in FIG. 30B.

[0141] In addition, in the case where a card including abuse and defame is incorporated in a plurality of cards connected to one another by link lines, link lines are pasted on related cards after the card and link lines are made non-displayed. Link lines may be automatically pasted on front and back cards on the basis of a file, in which information of connection of cards is recorded.

[0142] Also, a card or cards may not be non-displayed but may be masked or made a small icon so as to make comment contents ununderstandable or a comment or comments (deleted because of problematic contents) of the board manager 120 may be displayed to overlap a card or cards, which are desired to be non-displayed. Also, the board manager 120 may make setting so as to enable deletion of all cards and use the comment deletion menu items 803 of FIG. 8 to enable deletion of a card or cards including abuse and defame. Further, a menu for deletion of cards may be provided on the board management menu, which is displayed when the board manager 120 makes log in, so that when the board manager 120 clicks card deletion and indicates a board including a card or cards desired to be deleted, the board is displayed and at the same time a user 110 cannot read the board.

[0143] FIG. 31 shows an example of registration screens for a user 110.

[0144] A registration screen 3049 for a user 110 is displayed when the user 110 makes use and registration.

[0145] Provided on the registration screen 3049 for a user 110 are items for inputting of notice assignment, such as "name", "nickname", "contact address ("residence", "telephone number" (TEL), "FAX", "e-mail address")", "password (temporary password)", "a word comment", or the like, of the user 110, and registration matters for specification of the user 110 and items for registration of mail notice assignment. Input boxes 3050 to 3058 for inputting of corresponding data are provided laterally of the respective items.

[0146] Also, while not shown, provided on the registration screen 3049 is a registration screen for desired items for registration of the date and hour of mail notice assignment service and contents of mail notice assignment service. While desired items can be displayed on the registration screen 3049 as illustrated in FIG. 38 described later, they may be provided on a group screen called from the registration screen. In either case, check boxes are made ON and desired items are registered.

[0147] Set in desired items in mail notice assignment are an item for registration of the date and hour of mail notice assignment, an item for notice assignment of a desired board and a desired card or cards, and an item for notice assignment of changes in contents of a desired board, or a desired card or cards, or members.

[0148] Set as the item for notice assignment of changes in contents of a board are items for all card notice assignment of cards added after a point of time when mail notice assignment is registered, specified notice assignment of only added cards related to a specific card, and notice assignment of member information of update of communication members in a specific communication.

[0149] When the user 110 makes a check box 3059 on a left side of a desired board name ON after registration of registration matters in the input boxes 3050 to 3058 for mail notice assignment and clicks a "confirmation" button 3060 provided in a lower portion of the registration screen 3049 in that state, a user registration content confirmation screen (not shown) is displayed, and when a confirmation button (not shown) on the user registration content confirmation screen is clicked, registration matters are transmitted to the community management server 101.

[0150] Registration data for mail notice assignment, transmitted from the user 110 are stored, as data of desired mail notice assignment of the user, in a mail dedicated database (not shown), such as the board database 214, a mail server, or the like, to be put under the control of the board display/management unit 213.

[0151] The board display/management unit 213 references the data of desired mail notice assignment to make notice assignment of mails. In the illustrated example, boards named "map in a region facing Aozora station", "town planning of Tozai-shi", and "support for parenting" are selected, and in this case notice assignment of contents of the boards named "map in a region facing Aozora station", "town planning of Tozai-shi", and "support for parenting" is made. In this case, notice assignment of all cards regarding "map in a region facing Aozora station", "town planning of Tozai-shi", and "support for parenting" as items of notice

assignment desired by the user **110** is made at the date and hour desired by the user **110** when the above all card notice assignment is registered, and notice assignment of only added cards regarding “map in a region facing Aozora station”, “town planning of Tozai-shi”, and “support for parenting” is made when the user **110** desires specified notice assignment. In this case, when the user **110** desires notice assignment of specific cards, for example, additional cards regarding a question genre of “town planning of Tozai-shi”, notice assignment of only the additional cards is made. When the user indicates specific boards and desires notice assignment of comments of new subscribers’ names and introduction of members, notice assignment of only new subscribers’ names and comments is made. Since an amount of data for specified notice assignment is small as compared with all card notice assignment, communication load can be reduced. In addition, notice assignment data for all card notice assignment and specified notice assignment may be displayed on a personal unit board of a user **110** as a private field, and the user **110** may be able to reference the personal unit board. Also, data for mail notice assignment may be stored as personal unit data of the user **110** in a mail server (not shown) in the form of a private mail box and notice assignment of a mail may be made upon instruction from the user **110**. Such being done, communication load can be reduced more than mail notice assignment at all times.

[0152] In the above specified notice assignment, in the case where it is desirable to additionally transmit new subscribers for a specific board and items therefor are selected, a registration screen-for the above mail notice assignment may display input boxes for inputting of a member ID and a password for collation of membership for the board to permit registration of a member ID and a password, and to cause the board display/management unit **213** to make collation of a member ID and a password, thereby preventing leakage of data from the specific board. Further, portable terminals may be able to make access to a communication of a board and cards. In this case, a screen of a portable terminal displays a list screen of board titles and card lists of respective boards as a lower layer screen of the list screen, and contents of a card or cards are displayed in text upon selection of a card or cards. In addition, a portable terminal may cause a search engine in the communication system to indicate context of boards and cards to retrieve strings in boards and cards, and notice assignment of a comment or comments in the retrieved card or cards may be made to the portable terminal. Also, in the case of adding a card or cards to a specific card retrieved in a portable terminal, data describing a comment or comments with respect to data of boards and cards, of which notice assignment has been made from the communication system, are replied, but it is difficult to display all the boards on a screen of the portable terminal. Therefore, in such case, additional card or cards from a portable terminal are pasted in a position indicated by the board display/management unit **213**. In addition, a paste area is beforehand determined so as not to interfere with pasting of other cards by means of the user terminal **111**.

[0153] FIG. 32 is a view showing an example of a flowchart in mail notice assignment in the embodiment. When a user **110** clicks a user registration menu for registration of a user, the registration screen **3049** is transmitted to the user terminal **111** from the community management server **101** to be displayed on a screen of the user terminal

111 (STEP S110). The user **110** inputs matters for specification of the user **110**, such as name, nickname, residence, mail address, password, contact address, a word comment, or the like, of the user **110**, into input boxes **3050** to **3058** on the registration screen **3049**, makes a check box **3059** laterally of a desired board name ON, and further selects either of the items, that is, all card notice assignment and specified notice assignment, with the use of a check box. When a transmission button (not shown) is clicked in this state, registration data registered on the registration screen **3049** are transmitted to database of the mail service via the community management server **101** (STEP S111).

[0154] When the community management server **101** receives a demand for the service of mail notice assignment from the user terminal **111** (STEP S114), it references the data of desired mail notice assignment to update contents of notice assignment service (STEP S115). Subsequently, the data of desired mail notice assignment transmitted from the user terminal **111** are used to retrieve boards and cards, so that data of a corresponding board and cards are stored in the mail server to update the data (STEP S117).

[0155] The mail server transmits data of boards and cards to an appointed mail address of the user **110** at the date and hour transmitted from the community management server **101** (STEP S118), and the user terminal **111** receives data of desired contents from the mail server at the date and hour desired by the user **110** (STEP S119).

[0156] FIG. 33 is a view showing a structural example of calendar data of a community calendar selected by the board type **411** in the board data **400** shown in FIG. 4. Calendar data **1200** are data in a tag type required for board management and board display, and registered when the board manager **120** installs a board. Information interposed between calendar ID tags represents a calendar ID **1201** and specifies a board, on which icon is pasted. Information interposed between type tags represents a title **1202** of a calendar as-aboard, and information interposed between status tags represents an open approval and disapproval information **1203** such that “1” indicates an option of open and “2” indicates an option of opening a board to a specific user **110**. Information interposed between calendar registration date tags represents a date **1204**, at which the board manager **120** registers a community calendar, the date being represented in the Christian era. Information interposed between calendar title tags represents a title **1205** of a calendar. Information interposed between manager ID tags represents a manager ID **1206** to be used for authentication at the time of update and deletion of board data. Information interposed between manager name tags represents a manager’s name **1207**. Information interposed between manager mail-address tags represents a manager’s mail address **1208**, and information interposed between calendar comment tags represents a board comment **1209** such as a board introduction statement written by the board manager **120**. Information interposed between password tags represents a password **1210** required for referencing the calendar, and used for limitation of a specific user **110** through communication of the password **1210** to the user **110**. Information interposed between type tags represents a card type **1211** being a card display type, and information interposed between calendar update tags represents a date **1212**, at which registration

information of a community calendar is changed by the board manager **120**, the date being represented in the Christian era.

[0157] Information interposed between color setting tags represents setting information **1213** for color of the icon.

[0158] FIG. 34 is a view showing a structural example of event data **1400** of the community calendar. Event data **1400** describe data required for edition, display and management of cards, in a tag type. Information interposed between event ID tags represents an event ID **1401** to specify an event. Information interposed between registration date tags represents information **1402** for specifying a registration date of event data, and information interposed between calendar ID tags represents information **1403** for specifying a community calendar. Information interposed between event holding date tags represents registration date information **1404** for registration of holding date of an event, and information interposed between event title tags represents an event title **1405**. Information interposed between event place tags, information interposed between event beginning time tags, information interposed between event ending time tags, respectively, represent an event place **1406**, a beginning time **1407**, at which an event performed in the event place begins, and an ending time **1408** of an event. Information interposed between icon genres and information interposed between icon types, respectively, represent an icon genre **1409** and an icon type **1410** illustrated in FIG. 39 described later.

[0159] Information interposed between event content tags represents event contents **1411** illustrated in FIG. 40 described later to display a comment on a whole-text display screen. Information interposed between event reception tags represents a reception **1412** for holding an event, information interposed between URL tags of related information represents a URL **1413** related to an event, information interposed between picture-image file tags represents a picture image file **1414** displayed on an event window, and information interposed between update date tags represents an update date **1415** of an event. Also, information interposed between update time tags represents an update time **1416** of event information, information interposed between user ID tags represents a user ID **1417**, information interposed between user name tags represents a user name **1418**, information interposed between telephone number tags represents a telephone number **1419**, information interposed between FAX tags represents a FAX **1420**, and information interposed between mail address tags represents a mail address **1421**, these specifying a sponsor of an event. Information interposed between application deadline date tags represents an application deadline date **1422** for an event, information interposed between application deadline time tags represents an application deadline time **1423** on an application deadline date, and information interposed between desired mail notice assignment tags represents information **1424** as to whether mail notice assignment should be made, "true" meaning that mail notice assignment is desirable.

[0160] FIG. 35 is a view showing a structural example of user data for a community calendar. User data **1500** describe data required for user management and display of speaker's information, in a tag type. Information interposed between user ID tags represents a user ID **1501**, and information interposed between update date tags represents an update

date **1502** of event data. Information interposed between password tags represents a user's password **1503**. User ID **1501** and password **1503** are input data required at the time of log in. Information interposed between user's name tags, information interposed between nickname tags, information interposed between residence tags, information interposed between telephone number tags, information interposed between FAX number tags, and information interposed between mail address tags, respectively, represent a user's name **1504**, nickname **1505**, residence **1506**, telephone number **1507**, FAX number **1508**, and a mail address **1509**, which constitute information for specifying, a user. Information interposed between word comment tags represents comment contents **1510**, and information interposed between registration date tags represents a registration date **1511**, at which registration of a user is made.

[0161] Authority tags represent an authority **1512** for log in, a user **110** being capable of log in with a user authority and a manager **120** being capable of log in with a manager authority. Information **1513** to **1508** interposed between opening tags of a word comment, opening tags of a name, opening tags of a nickname, opening tags of a telephone number, opening tags of a FAX number, and opening tags of a mail address, respectively, represent information for determination of whether opening to the public is made with consent of the person himself, true indicating an option of opening to the public, and false indicating an option of non-opening to the public.

[0162] Also, information interposed between URL tags represents a URL **1519** on Internet, and information interposed between mail notice assignment setting tags represents information **1520** as to whether mail notice assignment is desired, true indicating an option of desire, and false indicating an option of non-desire.

[0163] FIG. 36 is a view showing a structural example of mail service data for the community calendar in the embodiment. Mail service data **1521** are user information to be stored in the user database **212** and controlled by the user management unit **211**. Information interposed between user ID tags and information interposed between mail address tags, respectively, represent a user ID **1522**, and a mail address **1523** of a user. Information interposed between mail desire board ID tags represents ID (mail desire board ID **1524**, mail desire board ID **1526**) of a board, for which mail notice assignment is desired.

[0164] Information interposed between mail notice assignment settled tags represents an event ID (mail notice assignment settled event ID **1525**, mail notice assignment settled event ID **1527**) of a latest event among events, for which mail notice assignment is settled. Information interposed between genre type tags represents a genre type **1528**, and information interposed between notice assignment time tags and between notice assignment unit tags, respectively, represent a notice assignment time **1531** and a notice assignment unit **1532** of a mail, that is, a time interval of notice assignment.

[0165] FIG. 37 shows a screen image of a community calendar, FIG. 38 showing a window displaying a list of event application terms in the community calendar, FIG. 39 being a view showing a comment page, FIG. 40 showing an event display screen in the community calendar, and FIG. 41 showing an input screen for inputting of an event.

[0166] In a calendar making a background of a board 3080 in FIG. 37, a calendar of the month corresponding to date setting in the community management server 101 and beginning with Sunday is drawn and displayed by applet, and a month of a day referenced by the board display/management unit 213 is displayed centrally of an upper portion of a screen. Icons for displaying daily events are pasted on day cells in the calendar on the board 3080. Icons constitute configurations of cards, which a user or a board manager 120 having made log into the community calendar with the use of the user terminal 111 and the board manager terminal 121 paste on the board 3080. The icons are beforehand prepared on the board 3080 in order to facilitate understanding of an object and use and to make an information genre understandable at a glance. Prepared in this embodiment are word-of-mouth information 3082 composed of a deformed human face, sale information 3083 composed of a deformed Y mark, information 3084 for residents, composed of a deformed account book, an icon 3085 for businessmen, composed of a deformed back, and a term icon 3086 indicative of an event application term. When an icon selected from the icons 3082 to 3085 is dragged & dropped on a day cell in the calendar 3081, the community management server 101 opens an event input screen related thereto.

[0167] FIG. 40 shows an event display screen 3092 representative of an event display screen, and FIG. 41 shows an example of event input screens. When information is written onto an event input screen 3098 and an OK button 4008 is clicked, the written information is stored as information of the card in the card database 216 through the community management server 101. As illustrated in the user data 1500 shown in FIG. 35, when opening of user data to the public is accepted by the person himself, contents of the user data make common information, and when not accepted, the user data makes private information.

[0168] In FIG. 37, when a user (the user 110 or the board manager 120) having made log into the community calendar clicks an application term list 3087 of events displayed upwardly rightward on the board 3080, an event window related thereto is opened. FIG. 38 shows the event window. In the illustrated example, a list is beforehand registered on the event window 3088 such that a list 3089, in which application terms are set, is displayed to represent a deadline date, holding date, event title, sponsor, and a contact address (telephone number (TEL), FAX, e-mail address). In FIG. 38, when an event title is clicked, details of the event are displayed on a separate window related thereto. FIG. 40 shows details of the event.

[0169] In FIG. 38, mail addresses (Mail) are interlocked with mailers in the board manager terminal 121 and the user terminal 111, so that when a mail address is clicked, a mailer is started.

[0170] In an example shown in FIG. 37, when returning to the the community calendar the term icon 3086 for events in cells of days of the week in the calendar 3081 is clicked, events having an application term on the day are related to one another so as to be displayed in a list of application terms shown in FIG. 38. In this example, when the event term icon 3086 pasted on April 3 in the calendar 3081 is clicked, only events having an application term on April 3 are listed. Also, when a display portion of the number of comments (portion, in which three of comments is displayed

the illustrated example) displayed laterally rightward in an event card 3090 displayed in a lower portion of the calendar 3081 is clicked, a comment page 3091 is displayed as shown in FIG. 39. The comment page 3091 exemplarily displays speakers, days of saying, saying time, and contents of saying.

[0171] As shown in FIG. 40, an event display screen 3092 displaying events is configured in this example such that contents of an event can be modified corresponding to a genre of the event, for example, a column of a sponsor can be changed into a column of a speaker in the case where a genre of the event is word-of-mouth information. Also, the event display screen 3092 displays a holding date, a whole text of contents of an event, and a picture image as attached. In the case of a genre except word-of-mouth information, a contact address, event reception, place, and details are displayed.

[0172] A registration button (button, on which "comment" is displayed in the illustrated example) 3093 displayed in a lower portion of the event display screen 3092 is related to a comment input page 3094, and the comment input page 3094 is related to the event window 3093. When the registration button 3093 is clicked on the event display screen 3092, a comment input page 3094 appears. When a comment is input into the comment input page 3094 and a registration button 3095 is pushed, registration of the comment is terminated. In FIG. 40, when a comment display button (button, on which "see a comment" is displayed in the illustrated example) 3096 is pushed, the community management server 101 calls a comment page 3091 from the card database 216 to cause comments to be displayed in sequence of date.

[0173] Accordingly, boards and icons (cards) according to the embodiment constitute fields of communication or privacy commonly owned by the board manager 120 and the user 110, and information recorded in relation to respective icons constitutes private or common information.

[0174] Input matters onto the event input screen 3098 include, as shown in FIG. 41, date, in which an event begins, opening time, ending time, title, genre, life scene, contents of an event, event reception, holding place, map, application term, and approval or denial of mail notice assignment. In FIG. 37, in the case where icons 3082, 3083, 3084, 3085 by genre are dragged onto an intended day cell on the calendar 3081 to appoint a day, the day is displayed as an appointed date on the event input screen 3098 and a genre of an icon as selected is displayed in a genre cell. In addition, date and genre may be changed on the event input screen 3098. A life scene 4000 is selected from ones prepared in a scroll box, and title, contents, reception, and place, respectively, are input into input boxes 4001, 4002, 4003, 4004 for accumulation of information. In this case, a time 4005 maybe set every predetermined time, for example, fifteen minutes, for the convenience of input. In addition, in the case of pasting of map information 3097 (see FIG. 40), a URL for pasting of link can be indicated as an item in map 4007. Application term 4006 of an event is set by inputting of that date. This setting causes a term icon 3086 to be displayed in a day of input. For mail notice assignment to the user 110, it is possible to input whether notice assignment of the event should be made to the user 110, who desires mail notice assignment at the time of generation of an event. In addition,

input of event on the screen shown in FIG. 37 may be clicked to display the event input screen 3098. In this case, a cell of date and a cell of genre are displayed in a state, in which input has not yet been made.

[0175] FIG. 42 is a view showing another example of registration screens 4010, on which a user 110 for the board and community board is registered. In addition, in FIG. 42, the same constituents as those shown in FIG. 31 are denoted by the same reference numerals, and an explanation therefor will be omitted.

[0176] Set as input boxes on the registration screen 4010 are "name"3050, "nickname"3051, "residence"3052, "password" (including a temporary password) 3053, contact address ("telephone number"3054, "FAX"3055, "e-mail address"3056), "a word comment"3057, "URL" (Universal Resource Locator) 3058, and the like. When a change is caused by update after setting, for example, a card or cards are added to a board (for example, a map in a region facing Aozora station) checked on the registration screen, notice assignment of contents of the card or cards is made according to contents of a desire for mail notice assignment as illustrated with reference to FIGS. 31 and 32. This is the same with the community calendar.

[0177] In this example, for details of setting of mail notice assignment, a check box for setting of details of mail notice assignment is made ON, in the case where mail notice assignment is desired, to enable selecting time zone of notice assignment from before noon, afternoon, and night, and then notice assignment of a mail or mails is made in that time zone. When notice assignment unit is indicated, notice assignment can be made in a lump for that day, or three days, or a week. Also, genres for word-of-mouth information, sale information, information for residents, and information for businessmen for the sake of desiring only an event in a specific genre and life scene as selected are classified into five genres, that is, play, eat, buy, work, and live, so that notice assignment of a comment in contents as classified is made.

[0178] FIG. 43 is a view showing another example of board management screens for creation of a section board shown in FIG. 21. In addition, in FIG. 43, the same constituents as those shown in FIG. 21 are denoted by the same reference numerals, and an explanation therefor will be omitted.

[0179] When one of check boxes 2052 on a left side of items representative of contents of boards such as board title, a word comment, or the like is made ON on a board list 4011 and an OK button 2053 is clicked, a board division details-setting screen 4012 for registration of title of a section board, a word comment, or the like is displayed. FIGS. 43B and 43C show the case where a town planning of B-machi, Tozai-shi is selected as a pre-division board and a second town planning of B-machi, Tozai-shi is set as a post-division board. When a title and a word comment are input on the board division details setting screen 4012 and an OK button 4013 is clicked, a reference mode screen 4014 is displayed, in which contents of cards in the pre-division board can be referenced in order to select a card or cards displayed on the post-division board. FIG. 43D shows the case where a board and cards in the town planning of B-machi, Tozai-shi are displayed. When a card is clicked on the reference mode screen 4014, a pulldown menu item 4015 capable of refer-

encing contents of a card is displayed, and when the pull-down menu item 4015 is clicked, a comment whole text display screen as shown in FIG. 9 is displayed. When a "to selection mode" button 4616 is clicked, a selection mode screen 4017 affording selection of a card or cards displayed on the post-division board is displayed. When a card or cards are clicked on the selection mode screen 4017, the selected cards can be specified owing to a change in color as in a card 4018. Also, color is returned to an original when the selected cards are again clicked, and thus the cards are returned to a state of non-selection. When it is desired to confirm contents of a card or cards again, a "to reference mode" button 4019 is clicked, and then a reference mode screen 4014 is displayed. At this time, the card or cards selected on the selection mode screen 4017 are displayed in a state of changed color also on the reference mode screen 4014. Also, when a reset button 4021 is clicked, all the selected cards are put in a state of non-selection. When a decision button 4020 is clicked after a card or cards, which are desired to be displayed on the post-division board, are selected, a confirmation screen 4022, on which only cards selected are displayed, is displayed. When a "return" button 4024 is clicked on the confirmation screen 4022, the screen is returned to the selection mode screen 4017, and when an OK button 4023 is clicked, a board division contents confirmation screen 4025 for confirmation of contents of board division is displayed. When an OK button 4026 is clicked on the board division contents confirmation screen 4025, information of a section board created is transmitted to the community management server 101 to be stored in the board database 214 by the board display/management unit 213.

[0180] FIG. 44 shows an example of data in the board coordination as illustrated in FIGS. 22 to 27. Data such as IDs of coordinated groups may be added to the board data 400 to permit management of board coordination data every board, or to permit independent management of board coordination data as shown in FIG. 44. A coordinated group ID4030 makes information for specifying groups of board coordination, and a coordinated group title 4031 is a title of a coordinated group input in FIGS. 22 and 25. In the case where a word comment for introduction of a coordinated group is input, it is described in a coordinated group word comment 4032. A coordinated group board 4033 includes IDs and titles of respective boards listed in the pulldown menus 2074, 2080 (see FIGS. 24 and 27) displayed in a board upper portion.

[0181] A method for communication and a system therefor according to the invention are summarized in the following manner. According to the invention, in a method for communication and an apparatus, in which the user terminal 111 is connected to a network and cards (information unit), are pasted on a base (information unit) called a communication board displayed on a screen of the user terminal 111 to have various information in common and to accumulate these information, link lines with an arrow are pasted on cards to display a progression, so that even a person participating in the course of a communication can easily grasp a procedure and contents of the communication. In addition, the user terminal 111, the board manager terminal 121, and the community management server 101 are composed of known computers having the function of communication, and a screen of the user terminal 111, a screen of the board

manager terminal **121**, and a screen of the community management server **101** mean screens of displays (not shown) connected to them.

[0182] For example, in the case of creating boards representing information “about a town ○○” by way of letters and picture images to collect and accumulate information such as criticisms, wishes, or the like with respect to the town, cards “○○”, “xx”, and “ΔΔ” are first pasted on a board. Subsequently, a manager or a third person having seen the board creates cards for questions and answers with respect to the cards “○○”, “xx”, and “ΔΔ” to paste the same on the board. In the case where a board manager **120**, that is, a side of creating the board, has a need of making an answer in view of senders and contents of a card, the board manager **120** pastes a card for questions and opinions, on the card. In the case where a multiplicity of themes through a multiplicity of cards are noticed, also in the case where a multiplicity of cards are pasted as additional related cards on a particular card, contents of cards (parent cards) of respective themes and cards for demanding questions and answers with respect to the themes become hard to read, and interrelationships become indefinite and difficult to make out. Hereupon, cards presenting themes and related cards are visually discriminated by clearing attributes of cards and pasting link lines on the cards presenting themes and cards for opinions and questions to make their relevance definite. Then link lines from additional cards are pasted on cards making origins of communication, that is, cards presenting themes to make the cards themselves a series of information. Also, an arrow directed toward a card created just before, from a newly created card is attached to a link line to clear a parentage, thereby enabling grasping the progressing procedure of a communication at a glance. More specifically, cards are connected to one another by link lines ← and related to one another such that when a card presenting a theme is “xx”, “xx”←“□□ for xx”←“◇◇ for □□”←“◆◆ for ◇◇”←“○○ for ◆◆”. Also, link lines are pasted on and started from a card, from which progress of proceedings is originated, and indicated locations on picture images or texts in a board background displayed on the board, a location, from which proceedings are originated, is shown, and a card presenting a theme and cards for questions and answers are discriminated to be visually recognized. Of course, link lines from a single card can be pasted on a plurality of cards to have them definitely related to one another.

[0183] Such being done, even when a plurality of cards presenting themes and a plurality of cards for questions and answers are pasted on a board, and even when respective cards are arranged randomly relative to a board, interrelationships are made definite. Also, cards pasted on a board are simply stacked and displayed on the board to be movable to optional locations, and link lines for connection of cards to one another and of texts on a board to cards presenting themes can appearingly extend and contract accompanying movements of cards, so that respective cards can be rearranged and made easy to see. In this case, since cards presenting other themes and cards linked therewith only get in the way, they suffice to be collected and brought toward corners of the board.

[0184] Such being done, while an area of a board can be made effective use of as a field for development of discussion with respect to one theme, it is necessary for the sake of understanding attributes and contents of cards at a glance

to decrease a display area of a card relative to a display through increasing a display area of the display, or a board, or the resolution of the display.

[0185] However, measures of exchanging a display or changing the resolution of a display cause a great burden on sides of the board manager **120** and users, and so are not preferable. Hereupon, cards displayed on a board are limited to a predetermined number, and the number of cards pasted on a board is limited. The limited number is made constant irrespective of a display size of displays and the resolution and capacity of displays so that the board manager **120** and participants have information of the same quality and the same number in common. Also, in the case where cards exceed the limited number, a board having the same background as that of the board is created, and cards of a required number for continuation of the communication are pasted on the former board to create a coordinated board, which in turn replaces the present board. Only necessary files are pasted on the coordinated board, which is not put into any complex state by cards, so that it becomes possible to smoothly continue the communication. As a result, a manager and participants in a conference have the same information in common to be able to progress the conference without depending upon display areas and resolution of displays.

[0186] Also, there are some cases where a user **110** cannot be expected to constantly participate in a communication at all times, and he wants to know contents of the communication from his destination and to participate in the communication. In such cases, a communication system transmits data of boards and cards to a portable telephone and participation in the communication is made from a portable terminal. Since a screen in a portable terminal, in particular, a portable telephone is limited, it is not possible to correctly determine a card position relative to a board. In such a case, an area for pasting of a card transmitted from a portable side is ensured on the communication board to solve such problem.

[0187] Also, in the case where a card or cards are added, or when new subscribers increase, it is desirable to make notice assignment of the matter to a user **110** as a service, but notice assignment of all data from the communication system to the user terminal **111** is directly made to increase communication load on the both to require a substantial time. Hereupon, according to the embodiment, a mail server making a private field for the user **110** is created to be able to store and update boards and cards of the communication system, and notice assignment of changes in the communication is made from the mail server to the user **110** at a desired date to achieve reduction of communication load.

[0188] Also, a calendar made use of on sides of the board manager **120** and the user **110** can be made one for a communication system, but a simple calendar does not adapt itself to the communication system according to the invention.

[0189] Hereupon, a board capable of displaying cards in time series order, for example, on a calendar is created and icons as cards are pasted on day columns on the board. Since the icons are related so as to open windows displaying letters and picture images when dragged, the entire communication can have information in common when the user **110** stores information of texts and picture images in relation to the icons. Also, since the icons are classified into a plurality of

genres to cause accumulation of information by genre, the calendar can be made high in usefulness. Of course, when notice assignment of data in the calendar is made to the user **110** in cooperation with mail notice assignment in the manner described above, the calendar can be further increased in value.

[0190] In addition, programs for realizing the function of making reception and transmission, generation, and accumulation of the premising information of the communication and information units making a basis of the communication, the function of making reception and transmission, generation, and accumulation of information units making contents of the communication, and the function of making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the information units when it is instructed from the user terminal **111** to make displaying or accumulation of contents and procedure of the communication or provide the function of the communication corresponding to an object or stage of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction are suitably stored in fixed storage units of the community management server **101**, the user terminals **111₁** to **111_n**, and the board manager terminals **121₁** to **121_n**. Also, these programs are recorded in recording media such as flexible disk, optical disk, magnetic disk or the like.

[0191] The invention is susceptible to various changes within a scope not departing from the gist of the invention, and shall naturally cover changed inventions.

[0192] According to the invention, information units of a communication are of a multilayer structure composed of boards and cards, and are combined to be able to display or totalize the progress and contents of the communication in various manners, so that a user easily understands complex circumstances of the communication. Also, since information units such as boards, cards or the like are combined to be able to provide the function of a communication corresponding to an object and stage of the communication, it is possible to create a communication environment making participation of users easy.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for communication comprising displaying contents and progress of a communication by way of structuring information units in the communication in a plurality of layers and combining a plurality of information units between the plurality of layers.

2. A method for communication comprising accumulating contents and progress of a communication by way of structuring information units in the communication in a plurality of layers and combining a plurality of information units between the plurality of layers.

3. A method for communication comprising, providing a communication function corresponding to an object and a stage of a communication by way of structuring information units in the communication in a plurality of layers and combining a plurality of information units between the plurality of layers.

4. The method for communication according to claim 1, wherein the information units divided into the plurality of layers comprise cards having comment information in the communication and boards having information, which makes a premise of the communication.

5. The method for communication according to claim 4, wherein the boards functionally comprise a board identifier and attribute information, which specifies the function of boards.

6. The method for communication according to claim 1, wherein the information units divided into the plurality of layers comprise cards having comment information in the communication and boards having information, which makes a premise of the communication, the boards being configured to be able to display the cards in time series order.

7. The method for communication according to claim 1, wherein there are provided a communication field commonly owned by users of the communication and a peculiar, private field annexed to the field and utilized by respective users, and communication information transmitted to users is temporarily accumulated in the private field to reduce communication load on users.

8. The method for communication according to claim 1, further comprising making notice assignment of changes in the respective information units or a plurality of information units to users according to the changes.

9. The method for communication according to claim 1, wherein setting of function, division and coordinated display are made possible for respective layers in respective information units.

10. A method for communication, in which a plurality of terminals are connected to a server via a network, and a board making premise information of a communication and cards pasted on the board to represent contents of the communication are displayed on screens of the terminals so that a situation of the communication is understood through interrelationships between the board and the cards and between the cards, the method comprising displaying link lines connecting between the cards in the case where a card is linked with a card, and between a card and board background information in the case where a card is linked with the board background information.

11. The method for communication according to claim 10, wherein an arrow indicative of a location, with which a card is linked, is displayed on a tip end of a link line.

12. The method for communication according to claim 10, wherein when a card is clicked for selection, the selected card is displayed to be discriminated from other cards.

13. The method for communication according to claim 10, wherein a history display screen representative of an order, in which cards are pasted, is displayed by means of a history display icon.

14. The method for communication according to claim 10, wherein in accordance with an object of the communication, contents of a card-, and a speaker in the card, an attribute is displayed in an upper portion of the card, or with color, shape or size of the card changed.

15. A communication system comprising at least a management server for managing the communication system, at least a user terminal making use of the communication system, and at least a manager terminal for providing the management server with information regarding a communication;

the management server comprising means for making reception and transmission, generation, display and accumulation of premising information of a communication and information units making a basis of the communication, and means for making reception and

transmission, generation, display and accumulation of information units making contents of the communication;

the user terminal comprising means for making reception and transmission, and display of the information units;

the manager terminal comprising means for making setting, reception and transmission, and display of the information units; and

the management server further comprising means for making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the information units when it is instructed from the user terminal to display contents and procedure of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction.

16. A communication system comprising at least a management server for managing the communication system, at least a user terminal making use of the communication system, and at least a manager terminal providing the management server with information regarding a communication;

the management server comprising means for making reception and transmission, generation, display and accumulation of premising information of a communication and information units making a basis of the communication, and means for making reception and transmission, generation, display and accumulation of information units making contents of the communication;

the user terminal comprising means for making reception and transmission, and display of the information units;

the manager terminal comprising means for making setting, reception and transmission, and display of the information units; and

the management server further comprising means for making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the information units when it is instructed from the user terminal to totalize contents of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction.

17. A communication system comprising at least a management server for managing the communication system, at least a user terminal making use of the communication system, and at least a manager terminal providing the management server with information regarding a communication;

the management server comprising means for making reception and transmission, generation, display and accumulation of premising information of a communication and information units making a basis of the communication, and means for making reception and transmission, generation, display and accumulation of information units making contents of the communication;

the user terminal comprising means for making reception and transmission, and display of the information units;

the manager terminal comprising means for making setting, reception and transmission, and display of the information units; and

the management server further comprising means for making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the information units when it is instructed from the user terminal to provide a communication function corresponding an object and a stage of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction.

18. A communication system comprising means for storing information units in a communication as information units making a basis of the communication and information units representative of contents of the communication in a recording means, reading the information units from the recording means, and displaying contents and progress of the communication, in which the information units are assembled.

19. A communication system wherein information units in a communication are divided into information units making a basis of the communication and information units representative of contents of the communication, and comprising means for recording contents and progress of the communication, in which the information units are assembled.

20. A communication system wherein information units in a communication are structured in two layers composed of information units making a basis of the communication and information units representative of contents of the communication, and comprising means for providing a communication function corresponding to an object and a stage of the communication, by way of one information unit or a combination of two information units.

21. The method for communication according to claim 20, wherein the means for providing a communication function corresponding to an object and a stage of the communication comprises template recording means for storing plural template information corresponding to an object and a stage of the communication, and means for selecting and outputting template information from the plural template information on the basis of a selection instruction from a user terminal.

22. The communication system according to claim 15, comprising the function of permitting a plurality of participants in the communication to perform cooperative edition of information and the function of performing information management every individual, these functions working interlocking with each other.

23. A program for communication system having a computer realizing the function of making reception and transmission, generation, and accumulation of premising information of a communication and information units making a basis of the communication;

the function of making reception and transmission, generation, and accumulation of information units making contents of the communication; and

the function of making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the information units when it is instructed from a user terminal to display or accumulate contents and procedure of the communication or to provide the function of the communication corresponding to an object or stage of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction.

24. A computer-readable recording medium recording a program for a communication system, the program having a computer realizing the function of making reception and transmission, generation, and accumulation of premising

information of a communication and information units making a basis of the communication;

the function of making reception and transmission, generation, and accumulation of information units making contents of the communication; and

the function of making a processing by means of one of the information units or a combination of the informa-

tion units when it is instructed from a user terminal to display or accumulate contents and procedure of the communication or to provide the function of the communication corresponding to an object or stage of the communication, the processing corresponding to the instruction.

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