

WTO/ITA Expansion Symposium

Date and Time: 3 October 2012 14:30-17:00

Venue: CEATEC (Makuhari Messe, Chiba)
2F Convention Hall B, International Conference Hall

- JEITA organized an international symposium for WTO/ITA Expansion during the CEATEC Japan 2012.

- Mr. Toru Nakayama, Deputy Director General, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau, METI gave an opening remarks. Then a message from Mr. Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the WTO was introduced. In his message, he expressed his gratitude for organizing this ITA symposium and stated that the active participation and push from the IT business communities is indispensable to ensure its success.

- Keynote Speeches

Dr. Ryoji Chubachi, JEITA Chairman, explained the importance of ICT products and expressed his expectations for the ITA expansion. Also Ms. Naoko Munakata, Director-General, Multilateral Trade System Department, METI, explained the efforts of the negotiations and the future strategy.

- Speeches

Mr. Satoshi Inomata, Director, International Input-Output Analysis Studies Group, Development Studies Center, IDE-JETRO, spoke about the trade in value-added on the theme of “From trade in goods to trade in tasks”.

- Panel Discussion

Mr. John Higgins, Director General, DIGITALEUROPE from the EU, Mr. John Neuffer, Vice President for Global Policy, ITI from the U.S. and Mr. Mitch Chihara, JEITA Trade Policy Committee Chair from Japan participated the panel and they strongly urged to promote the ITA expansion. Finally, the moderator, Mr. Hidekazu Hasegawa, Executive Senior Vice President, JEITA, announced the release of Joint Paper (see attached) prepared by the EU, the U.S. and Japan as a conclusion of this symposium.



- On 12 October, JEITA Chairman Dr. Chubachi directly handed the Joint Paper to WTO Director-General Mr. Lamy who was visiting Japan.





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Joint Paper

High-tech industry groups from around the world participated in the WTO/ITA Expansion Symposium held during CEATEC Japan 2012 and affirmed the following:

1. We applaud the launch of WTO/ITA expansion negotiations and welcome the ongoing work in Geneva.
2. We especially welcomed APEC's re-affirmation of support for WTO/ITA expansion of product coverage and membership in Vladivostok recently and applaud the call to action by the leaders of the 21 APEC economies at that meeting, urging APEC economies to "work in earnest in order to swiftly achieve a good outcome of the negotiations."
3. By promoting the unimpeded distribution of ICT products, the WTO/ITA has helped build an advanced information society, improve myriad conveniences in our daily lives, and spur growth and innovation in the global economy.
4. Unfortunately, many new and innovative products that generate huge benefits to our societies are not covered by the WTO/ITA because product scope of the agreement has not been expanded for the past 15 years.
5. Increasing ITA membership will also be important to further advancing the information society and boosting the world economy.
6. We, high-tech industry groups attending this symposium, will extend full cooperation to the talks in Geneva and to our governments toward the swift and meaningful conclusion of the WTO/ITA expansion negotiations. We strongly urge those negotiations be successfully completed within a year.

DIGITALEUROPE

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

Japan Electronic and Information Technology Association (JEITA)