



Members of the World Electronics Forum Call for Swift, Tariff-Eliminating Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement

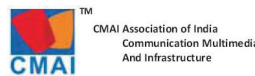
Members of the global high-tech industry held an Interim Meeting of the World Electronics Forum (WEF) at the 2012 International CES (CES) and called for immediate action to support tariff cutting expansion of product coverage for the Information technology Agreement (ITA). The ITA is one of the most commercially significant and successful trade agreements of the World Trade Organization (WTO).



Following the APEC Leaders Declaration in which Ministers agreed to playing a leadership role in launching negotiations to expand the product coverage and membership of the WTO Information Technology Agreement, high-tech industry leaders from around the world committed to working with their governments and industry to launch negotiations on an expanded, tariff-elimination ITA. From 1996 to 2008, total ITA product trade increased more than 10 percent annually, from \$1.2 trillion to \$4.0 trillion. The ITA has helped to drive innovation, lower consumer prices and further integrate the global industry. Initial analysis predicts that expanded coverage of the ITA could completely remove tariffs on at least an additional \$800 billion in information and communications technology (ICT) trade globally.



ITA expansion would yield immediate and substantial benefits, removing tariffs on a vast array of tech products not currently covered by the agreement. We are deeply committed to working with our governments and the global ICT industry to move quickly to advance this important negotiation which will expand trade, foster innovation and increase jobs around the world.



Communication Multimedia and Infrastructure Association of India (CMAI), Communications and Information Network Association of Japan (CIAJ), Consumer Electronics and Technologies Industry Association (CETIA), Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), Electro-Federation Canada Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association (HKEIA), Intellect UK, Japan Electronics & Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA), Korean Electronics Association (KEA), Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI), Shenzhen Electronics Industries Association, Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA). Retailer support: CompuMe (Egypt)