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## In response to the UK's accession to CPTPP

JEITA and techUK welcome UK's CPTPP accession agreement. We sincerely appreciate the tremendous efforts made by the governments of Japan, the UK, and other CPTPP member countries to achieve this successful outcome.

The pandemic, regional conflicts and increasing global division and protectionism have caused economic stagnation around the world and slowed down international trade. Along with the decline in goods trade, the services industry has been greatly affected by the impact of movement restrictions in each country. It is at times like these that we need to restate our fundamental belief in free, fair, and open trade. Under these circumstances, we firmly believe the UK's accession will give impetus to the expansion of the free trade zone, which is characterized by high standards of rules for investment, services, and trade. The UK joining the CPTPP will increase total GDP from \$11.7 trillion to \$14.8 trillion and its share of global GDP from 12% to 15%. The benefits of the UK joining the CPTPP are not just material, they are also strategic. The UK's accession solidifies its commitment to its allies in the Indo-Pacific.

Furthermore, the CPTPP countries are at the forefront of innovative digital trade policy, and the UK's accession into the bloc will ensure that member countries will continue to jointly push the boundaries of what is possible in digital trade. In particular, the chapter on electronic commerce of the CPTPP includes the "Free cross-border transfer of information," "Prohibition of requesting the installation of servers, etc. within one's own country," and "Prohibition of requesting disclosure and transfer of source code," also known as the "TPP 3 Principles." These are essential elements in realizing a world in which data can flow freely across national borders and create more advanced services. The UK's endorsement of this principle is of great benefit to all CPTPP member countries, and at the same time serves as a model for other countries and regions.

Japan and the UK have a long history of cooperation in the IT sector. We are convinced that the UK's accession to the CPTPP will further strengthen the mutual relationship between our two countries, including the promotion of cooperation in research and development, international regulation, the promotion of innovation, and the further expansion of collaboration between companies.

We would like to ask the governments of Japan, the UK, and other CPTPP member countries to continue their efforts to reach early signing and ratification in every member country.

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