

In response to the signing of the UK's accession to CPTPP

JEITA and techUK welcome the signing of the UK's CPTPP accession. 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 recent uncertain world situation and increasing global division and protectionism have caused economic stagnation worldwide and slowed international trade. At times like these, we need to restate our fundamental belief in free, fair, and open trade. The UK is the first country outside the original 11 participating countries to become new members since the CPTPP came into effect in 2018. We firmly believe that the accession of the UK, the world's 5th largest economy, 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 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 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 advanced discipline for free data flow, the so-called "TPP 3 Principles" as well as "Non-discrimination of digital products" and "Moratorium on Customs Duties on Electronic Transmissions" which contribute to improving the business environment of IT, semiconductor, and software companies. These are essential in realizing a world where data can flow freely across national borders and create more advanced services. The UK's endorsement of these principles is of great benefit to all CPTPP member

countries, and at the same time serves as a model for other countries and regions.

The joining of the UK, a G7 member, will be a big positive for future CPTPP promotions. The CPTPP is a powerful front that substantially supports the maintenance and strengthening of the free trade system, and it remains important to work on expanding the CPTPP.

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 ratification in every member country.

Keiji Kojima
Chairman
Japan Electronics and
Information Technology Industries
Association

Sheila Flavell CBE
President
techUK