Global High-Tech Industry Calls for Ambitious Expansion of Information Technology Agreement

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High-tech industry associations from around the world strongly support advancing an ambitious new tariff-reduction initiative to significantly expand product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), which is one of the most meaningful and successful trade agreements in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

From 1996 to 2008, total ITA product trade has increased more than 10 percent annually, from $1.2 trillion to $4.0 trillion. In the process, the ITA has helped drive innovation, accelerate productivity, increase employment, lower consumer prices, and bridge communities across the globe in ways unimagined 15 years ago.

Yet while the high-tech sector has exploded with new and improved products since the ITA came into force, the product scope of the agreement has never been expanded. The time has come to take the next big step in promoting trade in high-tech products.

ITA expansion would yield immediate and substantial benefits, removing tariffs on a vast array of tech products not currently covered by the agreement. In addition, it would go far towards eliminating uncertainty that arises as convergence in the tech industry continues to advance. With
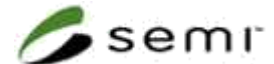
dramatic innovations underway that often bring many technology functions into one product, questions of convergence will only multiply.

We are deeply committed to working with our governments to move quickly to advance this initiative, which will expand trade, stimulate growth, increase jobs, spur innovation, and promote prosperity around the world.

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The Association of Thai ICT Industry (ATCI, Thailand) - Camara de Industrias de Costa Rica (CICR, Costa Rica) - Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA, Japan) - Communications and Information Network Association of Japan (CIAJ, Japan) - Computer Society of Kenya (Kenya) - Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA, USA) - Consumer Electronics Association (CEA, USA) - Costa Rican-American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham, Costa Rica) - Electro-Federation Canada (Canada) - European-American Business Council (EABC, USA) - The Federation of Korean Information Industries (FKII, Korea) - Guatemalan Software Commission (SOFEX, Guatemala) - The Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association (HKEIA, Hong Kong) - Hong Kong Information Technology Federation (HKITF, Hong Kong) - ICT Associations of Jordan (int@j, Jordan) - ICT Chamber of Commerce – MASIT (MASIT, Macedonia) - IKT-Norge (Norway) - Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC, Canada) - Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN, Nigeria) - Information Technology Industry Council (ITI, USA) - Intellect (United Kingdom) - IT Association of the Philippines (ITAP, Philippines) - Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (JBMIA, Japan) - Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA, Japan) - Japan Information Technology Services Industry Association (JISA, Japan) - American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Malaysia, Malaysia) - National Association of Manufacturers (NAM, USA) - National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA, USA) - Semiconductor Equipment & Materials International (SEMI, USA) - Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA, USA) - Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA, USA) - Taipei Computer Association (TCA, Taiwan) - Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA, Taiwan) - TechAmerica (USA) - Technology CEO Council (TCC, USA) - Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA, USA) - United States Council for International Business (USCIB, USA) - United States Information Technology Office (USITO, USA) - World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA, USA)

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