

Statement by H.E. Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry
Mr. Motoo HAYASHI for the Press Conference on the conclusion
of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) Expansion

December 16, 2015
Nairobi, Kenya

Thank you. I hereby would like to announce the conclusion of negotiations on the expansion of trade in information technology products (“ITA Expansion”) on behalf of the 53 Participants.

Today, the 53 Members who are party to the ITA Expansion negotiations have reached a final agreement on the tariff elimination of 201 IT products, including staging commitments for each product. Annual trade in these 201 products is valued at approximately \$1.3 trillion per year, which accounts for approximately 10 per cent of world trade today. This value considerably exceeds the share of world trade represented by automotive products which stands at approximately 4.8 per cent. In addition, trade in these 201 products by these 53 Members represents approximately 90 per cent of total global trade in these products.

With respect to staging, the first reduction of customs duties will begin on 1 July 2016 and over 90 per cent of the 53 Members’ customs duties on a total tariff line basis will be eliminated within three years. Moreover, the complete elimination of customs duties on these 201 products for all 53 Members will be completed by 1 January, 2024.

In May 2012, the Participants launched negotiations for the expansion of the product coverage of the ITA.

The Participants have negotiated intensively for three and a half years, including at the Ministerial and Leader level, and after overcoming numerous difficulties reached an agreement on a product list in July 2015. We continued to negotiate intensively on the staging period for each product. Negotiations were continued here in Nairobi, and were finally concluded today. Today's successful conclusion is the result of the hard work, effort and contribution of all Participants and past ITA chairs, and together with all of you, I wish to