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Global Industry Calls for Swift and Ambitious Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement

Industry associations from around the world strongly support the ambitious tariff-elimination initiative to significantly expand product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), which is one of the most commercially successful trade agreements in the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The ITA has helped to drive innovation, accelerate productivity, increase employment, lower consumer prices, and bridge communities across the globe in ways unimagined 16 years ago when the ITA was established. Product expansion of the ITA, as well as expansion of geographic scope of the agreement would yield immediate and substantial benefits, removing tariffs on a vast array of tech products not currently covered.

We welcome the momentum negotiators in Geneva have achieved in their monthly meetings to develop a strong list of products to be considered for ITA coverage. And we applaud APEC trade ministers for recently reaffirming APEC's support for an expanded agreement, calling for the outcome of negotiations to be "commercially significant" and completed by "the middle of the year."

A window has opened to conclude the talks by late summer of this year. Given that not a single product line has been added to the ITA since it was born 16 years ago, we must seize the moment to achieve this trade win for our economies and the global economy, and bring greater relevance to the work of the WTO. We may not get another opportunity to significantly expand the ITA for many years.

We therefore call on ITA members to build on the current momentum, aim high for an ambitious, commercially significant outcome, and complete their negotiations to expand this critically important agreement by mid-2013.

We continue to be deeply committed to working closely with our governments to achieve a swift and ambitious outcome that will expand trade, stimulate growth, increase jobs, spur innovation, and promote prosperity around the world.

Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed, USA) - American Chamber of Commerce of El Salvador (AmCham El Salvador, El Salvador) - American Chamber of Commerce in India (AmCham India, India) - American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (AmCham Thailand, Thailand) - American Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (AmCham Vietnam, Vietnam) - Association of Electronic Industries in Singapore (AEIS, Singapore) - Association of Thai ICT Industry (ATCI, Thailand) - Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA, Australia) - Brazilian Association of IT Companies (ASSEPRO, Brazil) - BSA | The Software Alliance (BSA, USA) - Camara de Industrias de Costa Rica (CICR, Costa Rica) - Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA, Japan) - Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME, Canada) - China Semiconductor Industry Association (CSIA, China) - Colombian Software and IT Industry Federation (FEDESOFT, Colombia) - Communications and Information Network Association of Japan (CIAJ, Japan) - Communications and Manufacturing Association of India (CMAI, India) - Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA, USA) - Computer Society of Kenya (Kenya) - Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA, USA) - Consumer Electronics Association (CEA, USA) - Costa Rican Chamber of Information and Communications Technologies (CAMTIC, Costa Rica) - Consumer Electronics Retailers Coalition (CERC, USA) - Consumer Electronics Technology Industry Association (CETIA, USA) - Costa Rican-American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham Costa Rica, Costa Rica) - DIGITALEUROPE (DIGITALEUROPE, EU) - Egyptian Information Telecom, Electronics and S/W Alliance (Eitesal, Egypt) - Electro-Federation Canada (EFC, Canada) - The European Engineering Industries Association (ORGALIME, EU) - European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA, EU) - Entertainment Software Association (ESA, USA) - Entertainment Software Association of Canada (ESAC, Canada) - Federation of Hellenic ICT Enterprises (SEPE, Greece) - The Federation of Korean Information Industries (FKII, Korea) - Guatemalan Software Commission (SOFEX, Guatemala) - Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association (HKEIA, Hong Kong) - Hong Kong Information Technology Federation (HKITF, Hong Kong) - Ibero American Federation of IT Associations (ALETI, Latin America) - ICT Associations of Jordan (int@j, Jordan) - ICT Chamber of Commerce - MASIT (MASIT, Macedonia) - IKT-Norge (Norway) - INFOBALT (Lithuania) - Infocomm Technology Association of the Philippines (ITAP, Philippines) - Information & Computer Technologies Industry Association (APKIT, Russia) - Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC, Canada) - Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN, Nigeria) - Information Technology Industry Council (ITI, USA) - Intellect (United Kingdom) - Interactive Games & Entertainment Association (iGEA, Australia and New Zealand) - Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE, EU) - Israel Association of Electronics and Software Industries (IAESI, Israel) - Japan Business Council in Europe (JBCE, Japan-EU) - Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (JBMIA, Japan) - The Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA, Japan) - Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA, Japan) - Japan Information Technology Services Industry Association (JISA, Japan) - Korea Electronic Association (KEA, Korea) - Korea Semiconductor Industry Association (KSIA, Korea) - National Association of Manufacturers (NAM, USA) - National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA, USA) - National ICT and Multimedia Association of Malaysia (PIKOM, Malaysia) - National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP, Philippines) - PRBA-The Rechargeable Battery Association (USA) - Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines (SEIPI, Philippines) - Semiconductor Equipment & Materials International (SEMI, USA) - Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA, USA) - Singapore Semiconductor Industry Association (SSIA, Singapore) - Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA, USA) - Taipei Computer Association (TCA, Taiwan) - Taiwan Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association (TEEMA, Taiwan) - Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association (TSIA, Taiwan) - TechAmerica (TCC, USA) - Technology CEO Council (TCC, USA) - Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA, USA) - Transatlantic Business Council (TBC, USA-EU) - United States Council for International Business (USCIB, USA) - United States Chamber of Commerce - United States Information Technology Office (USITO, USA) - Vietnam Electronics Industries Association (VEIA, Vietnam) - World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA, USA) - World Semiconductor Council (WSC)

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