G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa
Joint Press Conference
(April 30, 2016)

(Secretariat) Ladies and gentlemen, we would like to start the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa, Joint Press Conference. I will be serving as the moderator. My name is Ogawa, I am director of Public Relations office at the MIC. This press conference will be simultaneously translated in five languages, so if you wish to speak Japanese, English, French, German, and Italian may be used. These five languages may be used, but the moderator will speak in Japanese.

To start with, let me explain the proceedings for this press conference. First of all, we will hear from the Chair of the meeting, Minister Takaichi, on the outcomes of the discussions. This will be followed by comments from the various countries on the outcomes and impressions of the meeting after which we will be entertaining questions from the reporters in the audience.

To start with, Minister Takaichi will report on the results of the Ministers' Meeting. Please.

(Minister Takaichi) Hello, ladies and gentlemen, the 2-day G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa, has ended in success. A G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting had not been held for 21 years, but ministers were able to deepen discussions on the latest ICT developments from a broad perspective. I thank the representatives of the G7 and others for their contribution and the representatives held Japan highly for the fact that we held a Ministers' Meeting focused on ICT.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the representatives of the G7, the European Commission, as well as the two observer agencies, the ITU and OECD for their proactive input and contributions. This meeting was held just when the internet had become an indispensable platform for the world and many began to point out the challenges of ICT and cyberspace both domestically and internationally. Against this backdrop, the G7 has decided to aim to bring an additional 1.5 billion people online by 2020.

The G7 also confirmed the importance of ensuring the free flow of information on the internet and of working together to address challenges relating to cyberspace. This is a very significant development.

Through our discussions, the G7 nations, which share common basic values, agreed to adopt three outcome documents: A charter, a joint declaration, and an annex to the declaration entitled 'G7 Opportunities for Collaboration.' We now face a historic opportunity to transition to a digitally-connected world where all people and things can be connected anytime anywhere. We were able to capture that opportunity and compile a charter that sets out the mid to long-term objectives and basic principles toward the realization of a digitally-connected world in the next 10 to 15 years. I believe this is truly epoch-making.

The joint declaration, on the other hand, is a strategy for action to achieve the "Digitally-Connected World" as envisioned in the charter. The action strategy covers four areas: One, bridging the digital divide and improving access to ICT; two, cybersecurity, privacy protection, and promoting the free flow of information; three, facilitating innovation in IoT, AI, and other new ICTs; four, using ICT to address global challenges such as healthcare, aging, the empowerment of women, and disaster risk reduction.

For each of these four areas, national initiatives promoted by each G7 member will be identified and shared so that G7 nations can participate in each other's national initiatives and strengthen collaboration and cooperation with international agencies as well. The annex to the joint declaration entitled G7 opportunities for collaboration was adopted for this purpose.

Japan will also work actively to bridge the digital divide by developing quality infrastructure; two, to enhance cybersecurity by collaborating with competent organizations overseas and by developing common evaluation metrics for cybersecurity; three, to promote innovation through collaboration with IoT-related organizations overseas and through the development of research and development guidelines for artificial intelligence; and four, to share the results of R&D on communication robot to help address aging. We expect that the strategic and proactive use of ICT in various sectors will contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Let me turn now to my impressions of the meeting as Chair. First, we welcome the emergence of new ICT such as IoT, Big Data, and AI. It is important to promote innovation and maximize its benefits for the prosperity of humankind. Concerning AI, it is said that its functionality will some day match human intelligence, and we believe it will bring about revolutionary change to our society and economy. We should bring together the wisdom of the G7 and the wider world to ensure that the AI contributes to human prosperity.

G7 should lead the effort and work together with the OECD and ITU and other international organizations to assess AI's impact to economy and society and to develop AI development principles. This debate should be participated by industry, government, and academia. Now, this meeting was held in Takamatsu, Kagawa. We were able to form a common view that ICT contributes to regional vitalization.

Second, we must maximize the benefits that new ICT brings about. For that to happen, government, industry, academia, and users, that is, multi-stakeholders must collaborate and contribute their wisdom. Critically important is the free flow of information in order to secure an open internet environment. Concerning this open internet environment, there is a debate around safety and security, namely, ensuring cybersecurity and protecting privacy. G7 needs to jointly work on cybersecurity and privacy protection in order to ensure a safe and secure internet environment.

Third, so that all people can utilize ICT and create new value, we need to work on human resource development, including providing programming education.

Fourth, bridging that digital divide especially in developing countries is important. G7 needs to take a concerted action to contribute to this cause. Last September, the 2030 agenda was adopted at the UN. It was agreed that ICT is extremely effective in solving the pressing global issues faced by humankind. This is a very significant agreement that we reached. With ICT, we can realize sustainable and inclusive economic growth at a global scale. Japan will actively promote such initiatives and would like to report the achievements to next year's ICT Ministers' Meeting.

Now, I believe G7's common views have been duly reflected in the outcome documents. They serve as the guiding principles for G7's activities going forward. We would like to also collaborate with international organizations to push those initiatives forward. I would also like to input the outcomes of this meeting so that they may be deliberated by our leaders in the summit meeting to be held on the 26th and the 27th of May in Ise-Shima.

Now, in holding this meeting, we have been helped by so many people, participants from the ICT multi-stakeholders' conference, a parallel session by industry, government, and academia provided valuable input to the Ministers' Meeting. Also, Kagawa Prefecture and Takamatsu City offered their full support from the preparation stage to the end. I thank them deeply. That is all from myself. Thank you.

(Secretariat) Thank you Minister Takaichi. Now, I would like to call up on the heads of delegation of each country and the organization to comment, and if you can, please do convey your impressions of Kagawa Prefecture and Takamatsu. Starting with His Excellency Minister Edward Vaizey from the UK, please.

(H.E. Minister Vaizey) I would like to thank the Minister and the Japanese government for hosting this meeting. It's been a very enjoyable and very interesting meeting and a chance for us all to exchange views and participate fully. I think it's very significant that this is the first G7 meeting to discuss ICT for some 20 years, and it has put ICT firmly on the G7 agenda. I think the document that has been agreed is a practical document with some very realistic goals, and it provides us and the United Kingdom government along with our G7 partners the opportunity to take forward the agenda to wider forums, forward to the G20, to the UN, to the IGF with some real proposals.

We, in the United Kingdom, have concentrated on opportunities for collaboration with our G7 partners and also, in particular, with Japan. I would echo the Minister's comments on the Internet of Things. This is a great opportunity. It is sometimes called the next wave of the internet, and we will see 20 billion devices connected by the end of the decade. It's imperative that we get the security right around this and that we ensure that we can work with our partners to ensure that the internet of things is secure and safe as it rolls out.

I think I would also welcome the commitment in the charter to the multi-stakeholder approach towards governing the internet. I think we all understand that governments cannot supervise the revolution that is being brought about by digital without partnering both with business and with civic society. We also welcome the commitment to open markets and the free flow of information, recognition of the use of data and the need to protect citizen's data as well.

We look forward to further collaboration in particular on issues where the UK is concentrating, for example, research into 5G, research into the Internet of Things and its impact on Smart Cities, and also that we protect initiative to ensure that we can protect people online and also our agenda for inclusivity and connectivity is well represented in the charter. We want to see real progress towards the goals set in the charter to get 1.5 billion people online, but we also want to ensure that as connectivity rolls out, people are not excluded, and people who may not have participated fully in the digital revolution are brought along with it.

In the UK, we plan to publish a digital strategy in the next few months, and we fully expect the very in depth and intelligent discussions we've had at the G7 to be reflected in our digital strategy when it is published. Thank you very much indeed Madam Minister for hosting such a successful conference. It is a real step change I think in engagement and collaboration between the G7 nations. It could not have happened without the commitment and passionate enthusiasm of the minister and the Japanese government, and for that we thank you very much.

I would also like to thank the local prefecture, Takamatsu, Kagawa Prefecture, for hosting us as well because obviously it's a great opportunity for me as a British minister who has visited Tokyo before to have the chance to come to this beautiful part of Japan and to see realistically how the connectivity agenda is helping all parts of Japan as well as Tokyo.

(Secretariat) Thank you. From the EU, Vice President, His Excellency Mr. Ansip.

(H.E. Mr. Ansip) I would like to thank you cordially Mr. Takaichi and all the people who organized this G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting here in Takamatsu. We spent two really productive days here in Takamatsu, and we discussed about many, many really important issues and I would like to say I would like to agree with all what was said by Minister Takaichi and Minister Vaizey.

I would like to underline the importance just of two important issues. This is free flow of data and access to the internet. In the European Union, now we are working to build up digital single market in the European Union and one of those aims, according to digital single market strategy, is to create an environment where data can flow freely and safely, securely across the European Union, but we have to do more. We have to create an environment where data can flow freely and securely between all the G7 countries. G7 countries are like-minded countries, and like-minded countries have to create that kind of environment. Access to the internet is a real important issue.

As we know today, just a little bit more than 3 billion people they have access to the internet, but around 4 billion people don't have access to the internet. We set an ambitious aim to bring 1.5 billion new internet users online by 2020. This is a really ambitious aim, but we have to do that, because we all know there is a strong correlation between the access to the internet, between broadband access, and economic growth. According to McKinsey, for example, 10% more broadband is equal to 1.4% of GDP.

We have to do more for developing countries to provide them access to the internet, but there are so many topics where we had to cooperate among those G7 member states. Let's say, data ownership, we have to discuss about those issues. We have to discuss about qualifications, about the integration of industry digitization strategies in our countries. We have to talk about standards. There are so many issues where we had to cooperate, and I myself, I am looking forward to have a very fruitful cooperation between G7 countries in future.

Once again, thank you very much for this really warm hospitality. I am looking forward to have next fruitful meeting in Italy. Thank you.

(Secretariat) Thank you very much. Then, may we ask Under Secretary of State, His Excellency Mr. Giacomelli.

(H.E. Mr. Giacomelli) Thank you very much for giving me the floor. I would also like to thank Minister Takaichi and the Japanese government from the bottom of my heart. I would like to thank them for their decision to put ICT and the digital world on the agenda of the G7. That was a very courageous decision, but it turns out to be the right decision. You have shown far-sightedness.

We would like to thank you for your hospitality, and we would like to thank you for your friendship and for providing this very relaxing atmosphere for our work. I would also like to express my gratitude to the City of Takamatsu and the Prefecture of Kagawa who have organized everything here on this spot. I believe that this G7 is an excellent starting point because it brings together all the governments which can act as drivers for the development of the ICTs at an international level.

This G7 is charting a course along which we can promote ICTs and which helps us cooperate at an international level in order to address all the necessary political issues. We have to talk with one voice when it comes to internet governance, when it comes to the multi-stakeholder approach. We have to share responsibility and this is not something that only governments must do, but also businesses. We have to promote global connectivity. We have to expand internet. To put it in other words, we must see the internet as a universal human right.

It's necessary not just because of what the internet stands for when it comes to the development of a nation's economy, but also because being able to connect to the internet forms the basis for an efficient use of resources for welfare and for the promotion of human rights. We have to overcome barriers and work together. After these very fruitful discussions after these 2 days, we know what we have to do. We have our work cut out for us.

We have to come up with answers to the questions at hand. We have to do this at a political level. We have to promote common standards. We must push our hands with harmonization. We must make it possible to transform internet into a global vision for everyone. The next summit will take place in Italy, and we are very grateful to the Japanese government which will act as a consultant and provide input for the next meeting in Italy.

Of course, we are looking forward to cooperating with all the governments and all the organizations involved in order to work out what needs to be done. We have to create a basis for future developments and make halfway as soon as we can. Thank you. Of course, I would also like to thank and express my gratitude to the prefecture of Kagawa and the City of Takamatsu. You have been most kind to host this G7 meeting, and you have been excellent hosts, and the working atmosphere was excellent and has really made our work much easier.

(Secretariat) Thank you. US, Ms. Novelli please.

(Ms. Novelli) Thank you very much, and I would like to commend the vision of Minister Takaichi, the Government of Japan in organizing this ICT Ministers' Meeting, the first one after 21 years, as well as to thank the Kagawa Prefecture and the City of Takamatsu for allowing us to be here and for being such a gracious host to us. It made our work, I think, much easier to be in such a beautiful place.

We are very, very pleased with the results of this first ICT Ministers' Meeting in 21 years, and it really, I think, sets forth the path for the future for something that is critically important for all of our economies and that is how are we going to look at the future of the digital economy, if that digital economy or its own economy, it will be the fifth largest economy in the world.

This is significant for all of the G7 countries, but also for the world, and these documents that we have agreed upon sets forth principles and guidelines to underpin the future of the digital world, including promoting the free flow of information as has already been mentioned, supporting the multi-stakeholder approach to governance as has been mentioned, as well as strengthening digital connectivity for all, and we want to make sure that the benefits of the internet are brought forward to the 4 billion people who still lack those benefits today.

We are particularly pleased with the goal to bring 1.5 billion new internet users online by 2020 and to that end we, in the United States, have launched an initiative called the 'Global Connect' initiative which mirrors that same image and we are looking forward to working with our G7 counterparts as they bring forth their own initiatives and as we all work together to make sure that the benefits of the internet will be had by all and that we can look forward to everyone's support and prosperous world that is connected. Thank you.

(Secretariat) Thank you very much. Then to Germany, Mr. Machnig please.

(Mr. Machnig) Yes, thank you very much. I too would like to thank the Japanese government for the wonderful hospitality. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the City of Takamatsu and to the region. We certainly had a very welcoming atmosphere here and we would love to enjoy your hospitality until tomorrow.

In the 1970s, the G7 was founded and it was founded at the initiative of Helmut Schmidt and President Giscard d'Estaing, and the basic idea was that this organization would discuss and be a coordinator for issues that were key to the world's economy and the issues that were on the table at that time were the financial markets and other

economic issues, but today we have the issue of digitization and we all know that we have also discussed this here today that digitization is going to radically change the fundamentals of our economy, and some people even refer to it as the fourth industrial revolution.

It's not just important, but I think it's long overdue that we have taken up this topic on our agenda after over 20 years and that is why I would specifically like to thank the Japanese government for the initiative to do so. I think we should do this on an annual basis, because all governments face one problem, technological and economic changes are taking place at such a fast pace that we need to be able to keep pace with these changes and we must be able to draw the current inferences from these developments and then implement them in an appropriate way.

The charter that we have adopted here for the digital world and the principles that have been adopted are something that we need to internalize and we need to continue within future. The next time when we meet in the G7 or in the G20 context, we need to address these specific issues, and we need to go into more depth. We need to discuss further with each other. We need find solutions, and I would like to pick out a few issues here. We would need to address what kind of a competitive order we will have in the future.

What acceptance is there for digitization in society as a whole, how do we plan to solve the problem of the ownership of this data, what standards do we need so that we can ensure that we will be able to have global information flows, and what implications does this entire issue have for trade. All these issues are important issues today, and that is why it's very good that we've had 2 days here to discuss these issues that we have had 2 days to be able to define certain principles and in the coming future, we need to work on these issues in greater detail.

I am also happy that Germany and Japan have been able to sign an MoU where we will work on Industry 4.0 together, because I think we need a lot of initiatives of this sort. We have also agreed with the Italian government. Italy will take on the G7 presidency and next year in fact Germany will have the G20 presidency. We want to take up the initiatives that have evolved from this conference, and we want to feed them into the G7 process and also into the G20 process. We want to be able to contribute to have further discussions, further deliberations that will result in concrete outcomes over the next years, and these will contribute to shaping our future. This is a task that we need to take very seriously.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you once again. As I said, we consider this to be a first step and we need to build on the foundation that we have created here so that we can enhance the competitiveness of our economies so that we can overcome digital divides and so that we can create the enabling environment that will create opportunities so that the internet can be used by all. Thank you very much.

(Secretariat) France, Mr. Faure please.

(Mr. Faure) Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, I would like to express to the victims of the Kumamoto Earthquake and their families our condolences and the support of the French population which was especially moved by

this tragic and recent event. Next, I would like to thank Japan for organizing this G7 Ministers' Meeting on information and communication technology for reviving a meeting that had not been held for 20 years.

Now, those who were born 20 years ago were born into the digital world and they are the ones who will be structuring tomorrow's world, so I think it's absolutely key that G7 countries address these matters. I would also like to thank the City of Takamatsu and the Prefecture of Kagawa for their unforgettable hospitality in such a wonderful and very pleasant location. It actually reminds me a lot of the Mediterranean culture. In Southern Europe, my own region where I grew up and which is very close to my heart.

I think that this meeting in Takamatsu is a key contribution and the members of the G7 and in fact the world as a whole will be able to seize the opportunities offered by a more digital and more connected world. I think this meeting has highlighted the key role that digital technology plays in improving quality of life, economic development, and as we saw the digital transformation of businesses is a key issue in all countries. Digital technology also helps us address major global challenges like fighting climate change, natural hazards, and aging population. It is definitely a major issue.

At this conference, we have also underscored the importance of human rights and fundamental rights. These rights must be the same online as they are offline whether we are in the digital world or in the traditional world and privacy and data protection are also key issues that we discussed. At this meeting, we have adopted some key initiatives. We have decided to strengthen international cooperation between G7 countries, also with the European Union, and more generally around the world.

We must be able to involve other countries in this movement, especially when our objective is to connect an additional 1.5 billion people to the digital world. I think this meeting was particularly interesting through the involvement of international organizations like the ITU and the OECD. We have already reviewed the charter and the joint declaration which are very useful and interesting results. France is committed to implement the decisions that have been made here in Takamatsu and to increase our international cooperation with all countries with Japan, but also to continue working within the G7 next year presided by Italy and then the G20 under the German presidency next year. Thank you.

 (Secretariat) Canada, Mr. Dagenais please.

(Mr. Dagenais) Thank you. It's an honor to be speaking to you today. First of all, I would like to congratulate Japan for its leadership role as president of the G7 for 2016 and for welcoming Canada and other G7 nations to beautiful Takamatsu and hosting the ICT Ministers' meeting. Over the past 3 days, I have had the opportunity to engage in stimulating discussions with my G7 colleagues on a wide range of topics from fostering innovation and economic growth to solving global issues through ICTs.

As one of the vice chairs of the upcoming OECD Ministerial on the Digital Economy, Canada looks forward to continuing these productive discussions in the near future in fact in Cancun, Mexico, this June. Canada acknowledges the importance of innovation to economic and social growth and is developing a national agenda. This

agenda will be designed to support growth and ensure that the opportunities of the digital economy are available and shared by all. Part of this will be to close the gaps to fast and reliable internet and other digital infrastructure.

As some of my colleagues have referred to, we know that the success of the internet as an enabler of innovation and economic growth is due to its open design, its globally interconnected nature, and its inclusive system of multi-stakeholder government. Canada is committed to working with its G7 partners to preserve a robust global internet that fosters trust, innovation, and the free flow of information.

We often hear of data as being referred to as the new oil. As such we recognize the importance of global data flows and that these global data flows need to be free in order to increase growth, competitiveness, and productivity. With these benefits, of course, come the responsibility to promote effective privacy and data protection across jurisdictions by developing inter-operable policy frameworks.

We realize that this issue requires effective international cooperation, and this is why we congratulate Japan on including this important item in the G7 discussions, discussions that hadn't been held on this topic in this forum for 21 years as others have pointed out. While there has been significant progress towards building an inclusive information society, we know that connectivity remains a key challenge, and earlier this month Canada endorsed the Global Connect initiative and its principles with the goal of connecting an additional 1.5 billion people to the internet.

The initiative is well aligned with Canada's focus on helping individuals and communities in the developing world reap the benefits of information technology. We must continue to work together with stakeholders and partners to address digital divides and ensure that all individuals can reap the benefits of connectivity in this world.

Thank you again to our Japanese hosts including the Kagawa Prefecture. I had spent some time with Governor Hamada. I would like to thank him as well. He is a very gracious host and to my G7 colleagues. Canada looks forward to our continued collaboration with our colleagues on this topic. Thank you.

(Secretariat) Thank you very much. We would now like to take questions. The time is limited. Please be succinct in asking the questions. Please raise your hand if you have a question. Please.

(NHK) I'm Kinoshita from NHK. To Minister Takaichi. At the outset you mentioned that in this ICT Ministers' Meeting, what is the one major outcome that you want to emphasize from this meeting, and for that, what kind of leadership is going to Japan exert in promoting that.

(Minister Takaichi) For the G7, this is the first ICT meeting in 21 years. That has been mentioned by the heads of delegations of each of the participating countries and I think we are very honored that they appreciate the fact that we organized this for the first time in 21 years. During the 21 years, the Ministers' Meeting had not been held, but it has been decided that it's going to be held again in Italy next year and then it's going to be the G20 in Germany, so the achievements or the outcomes of this meeting,

they will carry on and further develop. We were able to develop that kind of a path toward the future and that is what pleases me greatly.

In the world of ICT, security in the open internet environment is an issue, maintaining safety and security, and we also have new ICT like IoT and AI, so the impact to society and economy is something that's being deliberated in various sectors. We have the G7, the leaders of the world coming together to bring together the wisdom to create strategy of action and that has been compiled as an outcome document and that pleases me so. Mr. Machnig from Germany said that it's a first step and he is correct. The outcome document itself is just the first step of our activities, so concrete actions should be promoted based on those documents and lead the world. That is the mission of the G7, I believe.

Now, what about the concrete initiatives by Japan? Let me talk about two things; first about AI. AI's functionality will someday match that of human intelligence, that's what people say, and it's going to introduce a revolutionary change to our economy and society, and the G7 and the wider world has to bring together their wisdom so that it works to the advantage of human prosperity, so Japan, Germany, and OECD taking the leading role to assess the impact of AI to society and economy and we are also developing or discussing the development guidelines for AI.

Now next about cybersecurity. Network vulnerabilities should be objectively measured, so that kind of a measurement criteria should be developed. NICT is operating NICTER and so we introduced that project and I recommended each of the participating countries to take part, and there should be collaboration amongst IoT promotion organizations and the development of communication robots. Those are areas where we should have international collaboration to promote the activities, and the outcome or the achievements will be reported to the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting to be held in Italy. We will make sure that we have concrete achievements to report.

(Secretariat) Thank you very much. Any other questions.

(Kyodo News) I'm Ida from Japanese news agency, Kyodo News. I have questions for the UK Minister and EC Vice President. First, to Minister Vaizey, I would like to ask your view on how to ensure harmony between artificial intelligence and human beings. Japanese internal affairs, communications Minister Takaichi presented at the G7 ICT Minister's Meeting eight basic rules Japan believes is important for developing AI. What is your opinion regarding setting up international basic rules for developing AI?

(H.E. Minister Vaizey) Should I take the question and then you ask Commission's Mr. Ansip your other question? I would just like to say that this was one of the things that I took from the G7 meeting was the Japanese government's very sensible approach in raising the issue of AI and thinking about as AI develops setting out a set of ethical principles on which we can take forward the AI research and AI applications and certainly this has been a very useful meeting for the United Kingdom government in pushing these issues of AI further up our own agenda and certainly we would like to collaborate with the Japanese government in refining these principles and working with these principles going forward.

(Kyodo News) Thank you. My question to Mr. Ansip is about the outcome of this G7 ICT meeting. How do you feel about the outcome as the representative of the region that is promoting the Digital Single Market strategy and what kind of role do you expect Japan to play to achieve the charter agreed at this meeting? Thank you.

(H.E. Mr. Ansip) Thank you. I have to describe what is digital single market strategy where we have in the European Union, so because in Japan there is single market, but in the European Union we were able to create a single market already 20 years ago. We were able to tear down those barriers dividing our member states already 20 years ago, but only in physical meaning. Digital Single Market does not exist in the European Union. Instead to have a huge market with more than 500 million healthy customers, in digital meaning we have 28 relatively small markets. DSM is about taking down barriers.

One of our aims according to digital single market strategy is also to create an environment where data can flow freely and securely across the European Union. This meeting gave a really good outcome. We would like to create an environment where those free and safe data flows will be possible also between all those G7 countries but also between G7 countries outside of the European Union and the EU member states. Free flow of data is really important.

Maybe people in Japan, they are not thinking so much about those issues, but let's take the smaller European Countries ad nauseam. In some cases, talking about a rare diagnosis if there are just three, four, or five cases per year, then about what kind of useful correlations for our people or similar patterns where for our people we can talk about we will be able to find using Big Data. We all believe very soon already today it's possible to find all kind of useful correlations from Big Data. I said it many, many times, but I would like to say it once again.

I myself I believe once lovely day somebody will call me from hospital and will say, Mr. Ansip please go immediately to the hospital, because most likely you will get stroke after 6 hours. I will be not extremely happy about this phone call, but I will be grateful anyway, and I know my health foundation will be even extremely happy, because to avoid stroke is something else than to deal with the consequences also in financial meaning, so everybody will benefit from free flow of information. It's absolutely clear.

With the United States, we were able to agree in EU-US privacy shield, and those free and safe data flows between the United States and then the Europe, they are already in place, but we have to work also with Japan to create the same environment, and it's about our companies, it's about our ordinary people. Many Japanese companies are providing services to European people, European companies.

Let's take connected car concept, for example. Some companies producing trucks, lorries are able to connect already hundreds of thousands of trucks, and they are getting information from those trucks after every second minute, and because they know where those trucks are and where they are planning to go, they are able even to create truck trains.

Those trucks are not mechanically connected, but distance between trucks is very short, and then this way they are able to save 5% to 6% of fuel. What will happen in Europe, for example, if there will be data localization when those trucks will cross borders, for example. Internet of Things, we were discussing about those issues during this G7 Ministerial Summit, but those questions, they are important globally, not just among G7 countries or inside of the European Union. My short answer is that Digital Single Market strategy, our joint declaration, and charter are compatible, and they are supporting each other. Thank you.

(Secretariat) Thank you. We are running out of time, so we would like to end this session. I am very sorry. We now close the Joint Press Conference. Thank you very much for attending.

(Minister Takaichi) Once again, thank you to all. One last comment from me, my colleagues, Mr. Vaizey, expressed his sympathies for the victims of the Kumamoto Earthquake.

All the members here in various receptions and in various opportunities have expressed their sympathies for the earthquake that occurred in Japan and also for the Great East Japan Earthquake. For both of those earthquakes, they have provided a very strong support and I thank them for their support. I think it's important that we send out a message with one voice we committed to each other that we will do that and we are going to work hard towards that aim. Finally, once again, Kagawa Prefecture, Takamatsu City, we are very thankful for all your cooperation. Thank you so much, and reporters thank you for your attendance.

[End of conference]