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TOPICS

Outcomes of the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa

The G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa was held over two days, April 29-30, 2016. It was the first time in about 20 years for an ICT Ministers' Meeting to be held by the G7.
During the meeting, there was vigorous discussion on such topics as promoting economic growth and ensuring cybersecurity in a society where Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other emerging ICTs are becoming widespread. As a result, we successfully adopted three outcome documents, the Charter, the Joint Declaration and the G7 Opportunities for Collaboration (annexed to the Joint Declaration), which summarized the fundamental principles and action plans for achieving "the Digitally Connected World" where all the people and things are connected globally. The G7, which shares fundamental values such as freedom and democracy, issued a message of unity to the world.

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Main points of discussion at the Minister's Meeting

Discussions were held over four sessions: (1) Innovation and economic growth brought by emerging ICTs; (2) The free flow of information and cybersecurity; (3) Using ICTs to address global challenges and opportunities; and (4) International cooperation and collaboration. The following are the main points from each session.

(1) Innovation and economic growth brought by emerging ICTs
•For the purpose of creating innovation with IoT and other emerging ICTs, we agreed to advance international collaboration for promoting IoT through public-private initiatives.
•Japan proposed to conduct a study on the social and economic impacts of networked AI through collaboration, including international organizations, and to link this with discussion on possible principles in development of networked AI.

(2) The free flow of information and cybersecurity
•Except for cases with legitimate public policy objectives, we agreed to oppose data localization requirements (domestic installations such as server equipment for providing ICT services)that are likely to hinder the free flow of information.

(3) Using ICTs to address global challenges and opportunities
•We agreed to seek to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online globally by 2020, through multi-stakeholder efforts.
•We agreed to contribute to realizing "the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" by promoting use of ICTs in areas where the G7 has advanced expertise, such as the ageing society and disaster risk reduction.

(4) International cooperation and collaboration
• We agreed to enhance cooperation and collaboration among the G7 members, and adopted the Charter and the Joint Declaration as outcome documents that summarize the fundamental principles and action plan for this purpose.
• Also we gathered specific initiatives of each G7 member and formulated the G7 Opportunities for Collaboration (annexed to the Joint Declaration) in order to promote mutual cooperation and collaboration involving international organizations.

(Reference) Attendees at the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting in Takamatsu, Kagawa
○G7
Japan: Sanae TAKAICHI, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications;
Motoo HAYASHI, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry;
Keiichi KOSHIMIZU, Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs and Communications

Italy: Antonello GIACOMELLI, State Secretary for Economic Development
Canada: Éric DAGENAIS, Assistant Deputy Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
US: Pascal FAURE, Director General for Enterprise, Ministry of the Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector
UK: Catherine A. NOVELLI, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, Department of State
Germany: Matthias MACHNIG, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
EU: Andrus ANSIP, Vice-President of the European Commission

○Observers
International Telecommunication Union (ITU): Houlin ZHAO, ITU Secretary-General Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Andrew W. WYCKOFF, Director for Science, Technology and Innovation

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Major Events Associated with the G7 ICT Ministers' Meeting

We held some associated events on the occasion of the G7 ICT Minister's Meeting. Among them, the outcomes of the G7 ICT Students' Summit and the G7 ICT Multi-Stakeholders' Conference were reported to the Meeting.

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1. G7 ICT Students' Summit
The G7 ICT Students' Summit was held in December 2015. Similar to the G7 Summit, the students participated from the G7 with the addition of Sweden as an EU member state. The participants exchanged views on the theme of "ICT and Young People, Today and the Future of the Human Race."
-For more details, refer to the following
http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7ict/english/sict.html

2. G7 ICT Multi-Stakeholders' Conference
This Conference was held in parallel with the Ministers' Meeting. The purpose of the Conference is that the ICT experts from the private sector (i.e. businesses and academia etc.) will discuss ICT-related issues based on each session's theme and put forward a proposal. The outcome was reported to the Ministers' Meeting.

- For more details, refer to the following
http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7ict/english/msc.html

3. ICT Exhibition
MIC has been studying the adoption of ICT throughout the society both for "the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games" and for Japan's sustainable growth after the 2020 Games. We are thinking that the 2020 Games is a great opportunity for disseminating Japan's state-of-art technology to the world and to tourists.
We, therefore, held the ICT exhibition as one of the associated events with the Minister's Meeting in cooperation with related companies and organizations.
- For more details, refer to the following
http://www.soumu.go.jp/joho_kokusai/g7ict/english/exhibition.html