Global Tech Industry Calls for Another Ambitious Expansion of ITA to Address Sweeping Global Challenges

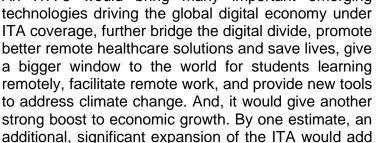Tech industry associations from around the world, representing millions of workers, strongly support another ambitious tariff-elimination initiative to significantly expand product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), which has been one of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) most successful trade agreements.

An ITA-3 would bring many important emerging technologies driving the global digital economy under ITA coverage, further bridge the digital divide, promote better remote healthcare solutions and save lives, give a bigger window to the world for students learning remotely, facilitate remote work, and provide new tools to address climate change. And, it would give another strong boost to economic growth. By one estimate, an additional, significant expansion of the ITA would add nearly $800 billion to global GDP over 10 years.

The ITA-1 and its 2015 expansion, or ITA-2, have increased employment, made innovative tech products more affordable to consumers, empowered workers, driven the digital economy, played a catalytic role in developing global value chains, increased economic growth around the world, and bridged communities across the globe in ways unimagined when the original agreement was launched 25 years ago. More immediately, technologies covered by these agreements have enabled the world to better weather global lockdowns by facilitating remote working and learning, and helping to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, including through rapid development of mRNA vaccines.
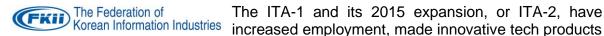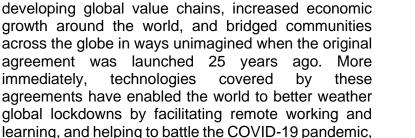
Another round of ITA product expansion, coupled with expansion of the geographic scope of the agreement, would yield immediate and sweeping benefits, removing tariffs on a vast array of tech products not currently covered, giving a helpful boost to the WTO, and spreading the benefits of digital innovation around

the world to developing and developed economies alike.
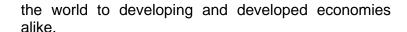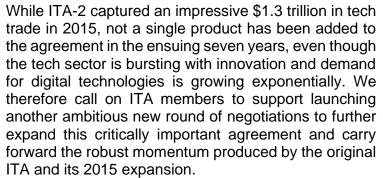
While ITA-2 captured an impressive $1.3 trillion in tech trade in 2015, not a single product has been added to the agreement in the ensuing seven years, even though the tech sector is bursting with innovation and demand for digital technologies is growing exponentially. We therefore call on ITA members to support launching another ambitious new round of negotiations to further expand this critically important agreement and carry forward the robust momentum produced by the original ITA and its 2015 expansion.

American Chamber of Commerce in Malaysia (AmCham Malaysia, Malaysia) - Bahrain Technology Companies Society (BTECH, Kingdom of Bahrain) - Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS, Bangladesh) - Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA, Japan) - Communications and Information Network Association of Japan (CIAJ, Japan) - Computer &-Communications Industry Association (CCIA, USA) - Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA, USA) - Consumer Technology Association (CTA, USA) - Costa Rican Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies (CAMTIC, Costa Rica) - DIGITALEUROPE (DIGITALEUROPE, EU) - European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA, EU) - European Services Forum (ESF, Europe) - Federation of Brazilian ICT Industry Association (ASSESPRO, Brazil) - Federation of Hellenic Information Technology and Communications Enterprises (SEPE, Greece) - Federation of Korean Industries (FKI, Korea) - Federation of Korean Information Industries (FKII, Korea) - Global Business Alliance (GBA, USA) - Infocomm Technology Association of the Philippines (ITAP, Philippines) - Information Technology Industry Council (ITI, USA) - Japan Business Machine and Information System Industries Association (JBMIA, Japan) - Japan Electrical Manufacturers' Association (JEMA, Japan) - Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association (JEITA, Japan) - Japan Information Technology Services Industry Association (JISA, Japan) - Japan Machinery Center (JMC, Japan) - Japan Semiconductor Industry Association (JSIA, Japan) - Japan Services Network (JSN, Japan) - Korea Semiconductor Industry Association (KSIA, Korea) - Malaysia Semiconductor Industry Association (MSIA, Malaysia) - National Association of Manufacturers (NAM, USA) - National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC, 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) - Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association (TSIA, Taiwan) - TECHNATION Canada (TECHNATION, Canada) - Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA, USA) - United States Chamber of Commerce (USCC, USA) - United States Council for International Business (USCIB, USA) - United States Information Technology Office (USITO, USA) - US-Taiwan Business Council (USTBC, Taiwan) - The World Innovation, Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA, USA)
For more information, contact ymeng@semiconductors.org