



May 23, 2013

To WTO Permanent Missions of ITA Members:

On behalf of the World Semiconductor Council (WSC) we are writing to ask you to support the ongoing efforts to expand the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). **The WSC strongly encourages ITA signatories to conclude negotiations this summer and deliver a commercially significant agreement for the Bali Ministerial in December of 2013.**

The WSC represents global leaders in the manufacturing and design of semiconductors and is dedicated to the principle that free and open markets and common frameworks lead to a stronger global industry and vibrant innovation. Semiconductors are the foundation of the digital global infrastructure: from the digital world to the green economy, they act as the building blocks of products and services, which provide key innovative solutions in the home, in the office and in society in general.

The WSC considers the ITA to be one of the most successful WTO agreements because it has contributed enormously to promoting jobs, lowering consumer prices, and enhancing economic growth and innovation. Through tariff elimination, the ITA has dramatically lowered the cost of trade in ICT products, which has had a significant economic impact around the world. From 1996 to 2008, total two-way trade in ITA products increased by more than 10 percent annually, from \$1.2 trillion to \$4.0 trillion. The benefits of an ITA expansion to its signatories will be significant and immediate. An expanded ITA would remove tariffs on an estimated additional \$800 billion in global two-way ICT trade – a 20 percent increase over the \$4 trillion in annual trade under existing ITA product coverage.

Expanding the ITA's product and geographic coverage would further enhance the ITA's benefits in those regions wanting to boost their ICT exports and reduce costs for consumers. For instance, expanding the ITA's coverage to include new semiconductor products like multi-chip packages (MCPs) and multi-components (MCOs) – a priority for all six WSC member regions – will benefit semiconductor designers, manufacturers, and customers worldwide.

In short, the WSC believes that an expansion of the ITA would trigger further growth in trade of ICT products and services, spurring economic growth, which will benefit consumers and enhance industry competitiveness overall. Lastly, the conclusion of an expanded and commercially significant ITA is needed to establish further trust and confidence in the WTO and the world trading system.

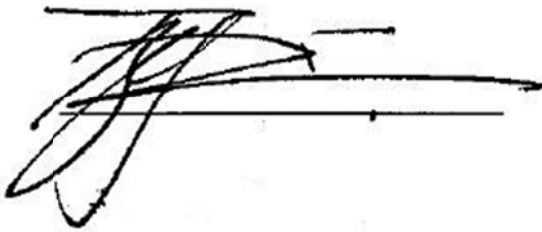
We appreciate your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you have concerning the above.

Sincerely,

*On behalf of the 2013 World Semiconductor Council regional delegations:*



Nicky Lu  
Chairman, WSC Delegation from Semiconductor Industry Association in Chinese Taipei  
(Chairman & CEO, Etron Technology, Inc.)



Dr. Tzu-Yin Chiu  
Chairman, WSC Delegation from Semiconductor Industry Association in China  
(Chief Executive Officer, Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation  
(SMIC))



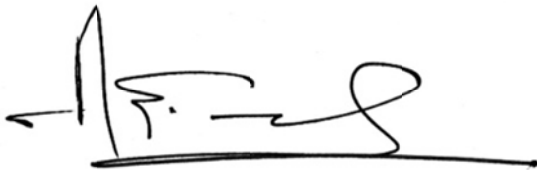
Richard Clemmer  
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