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TOPIC

The G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma, was held.

1. G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the Digital Agency, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry jointly hosted the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma, on April 29 and April 30, 2023. This meeting was held with the aim of a strong recovery from the severe impact of the global economy due to the spread of COVID-19 infection and Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The meeting also aimed to demonstrate the G7's united response in digital areas, such as Data-Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), emerging technologies, digital infrastructure, and AI, in light of the crises faced by authoritarian regimes and the global economy. Together with the "developing and emerging countries" the aim is to accelerate efforts in the digital field.

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2. Main Outcomes of the Discussions at the Meeting

The meeting discussed six themes, i.e., Facilitation of Cross-Border Data Flows and Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT), Secure and Resilient Digital Infrastructure, Internet Governance, Emerging and Disruptive Technologies in Innovating Society and Economy, Responsible AI and Global AI Governance, and Digital Competition, and the G7 Digital and Technology Ministerial Declaration was adopted as the outcome of the meeting.

Main Points of the Ministerial Declaration

(1) Facilitation of Cross-Border Data Flows and Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)

Agreed to establish the Institutional Arrangement for Partnership (IAP) to operationalize DFFT and agreed on G7 Vision Priorities for operationalizing DFFT.

(2) Secure and Resilient Digital Infrastructure

Agreed to formulate the G7 Vision for future networks in the Beyond 5G/6G era, including elements such as openness and interoperability, and agreed on the G7 Action Plan for Building a Secure and Resilient Digital Infrastructure.

(3) Internet Governance

Agreed on the G7 Action Plan for maintaining and promoting an open, free, global, Interoperable, reliable, and secure internet.

(4) Emerging and Disruptive Technologies in Innovating Society and Economy

Agreed to ensure the interoperability of digital infrastructure, address software vulnerabilities in the digital supply chain, and leverage governance approaches conducive to innovative technological innovations.
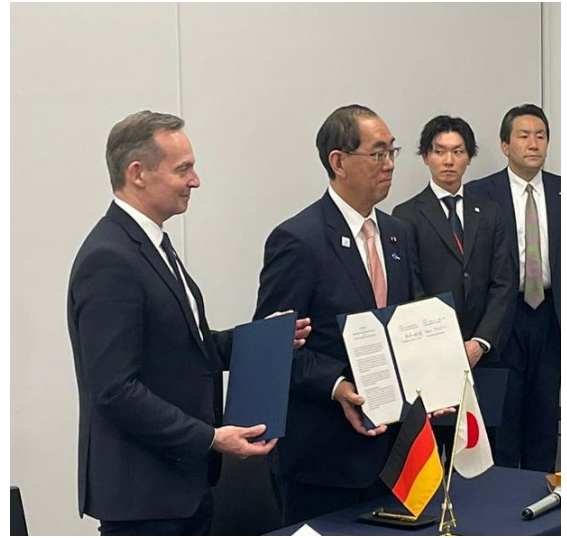
(5) Responsible AI and Global AI Governance

Agreed on the G7 Action Plan for promote global interoperability between tool for trustworthy AI and agreed to establish a forum for discussing generative AI as soon as possible.

(6) Competition Policy in the Digital Competition Market

Agreed to share common challenges countries face in developing and implementing existing and new legislation in digital competition and to hold a Digital Competition Summit this autumn.

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3. Signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Mr. MATSUMOTO Takeaki, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and H.E. Mr. Volker WISSING, Minister for Digital and Transport of the Federal Republic of Germany

On April 30, 2023, within the premises of the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) and the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (FDM) of the Federal Republic of Germany signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on the following items.

Based on the MOU's contents at the bilateral meeting, they exchanged views on cooperation in specific ICT infrastructure utilization, including Open RAN and high-speed communications in high-speed railroads, and agreed to strengthen their cooperation further.

•Recognizing the importance of an open and secure communications infrastructure in developing and deploying 5G networks, the two sides will promote cooperation to build such an infrastructure.

•The ministers confirmed the importance of deepening concrete cooperation to promote emerging technologies such as Beyond 5G/6G was confirmed.

•The two sides aim to strengthen cooperation in ICT utilization, etc., and to contribute to further utilization by sharing the experiences of both parties.

•The ministers confirmed that both sides will drive international discussions on AI based on human-centered principles.

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4. Digital Technology Exhibition during G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma

   In conjunction with the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Meeting in Takasaki, Gunma, a Digital Technology Exhibition was held at G-Messe Gunma in Takasaki, Gunma, where visitors could experience digital technology.

   The Digital Technology Exhibition was designed to promote Japan's advanced technologies to the G7 countries and to promote future international expansion and international collaboration.

   The exhibition hall was open to the general public, and many people came to see, hear, and experience cutting-edge technologies in mobility, communications, robotics, video, and more.