

**Enhanced Framework for Cooperation
In the Information Economy and
Information and Communications Technology Industries
between Australia and Japan**

Australia and Japan, in the area of cooperation in information and communications technology and e-commerce,

RECALLING the objectives of the Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce released by both countries on 6 July 1999;

DESIRING to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between Australia and Japan through cooperation in their information industries sectors based on the principle of mutual benefits;

RECOGNISING the importance of developments in electronic commerce, electronic government (also known as "government online"), broadband and the information economy in progressing global economic relations to the benefit of both countries, especially in the conduct of international business;

RECOGNISING the interest of both Australia and Japan in furthering the development of their respective information technology, telecommunications, electronic commerce and information services industries in supporting the expansion of domestic, regional and international markets for their products, services and technologies, and in improving the quality and range of services for their consumers through more effective competition;

RECOGNISING the importance of promotion of both Australia's "A Strategic Framework for the Information Economy" and Japan's "e-Japan Strategy II";

RECOGNISING the importance of promotion of both Australia's "National Broadband Strategy" and Japan's "Asia Broadband Program"; and

GUIDED by the mutual benefit and interest of both sides in encouraging and supporting electronic commerce and electronic government;

Have jointly determined:

EXECUTING AUTHORITIES

The Executing Authorities for the purposes of this Enhanced Framework will be, on behalf of the Government of Australia, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE), the Treasury, the Attorney-General's Department and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) and, on behalf of the Government of Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications (MPHPT), the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST AND COOPERATION

Recognising the rapid change of technological development in the information technology, telecommunications and information services industries, both sides have identified areas of common interest for cooperation, including, but not limited to:

- recognition measures aimed at promoting the interoperability of electronic authentication systems;
- protection measures provided to consumers using electronic commerce that is equivalent to that provided to consumers using other forms of commerce;
- the promotion of privacy of personal data transmitted electronically;
- exchange of information and views on electronic government;
- exchange of information and views, and enhanced cooperation of possible measures to address digital divide issues; and
- measures to improve access to broadband services.

FORMS OF COOPERATION

Cooperation between the two sides in the fields of information and communications technology and electronic commerce may take the following forms aimed at facilitating bilateral trade, improving arrangements for cross-border recognition of digital certificates, promoting trust and certainty in online transactions and at promoting e-government, improving broadband access and addressing digital divide issues:

- Undertaking a policy dialogue between NOIE of Australia and MPHPT and METI of Japan to promote greater understanding of the mutual recognition of digital certificates;
- Commencing a policy dialogue between the Treasury of Australia and MPHPT and METI of Japan to promote the exchange of information on the level of consumer protection available to consumers using electronic commerce in each country and promote the protection of consumers using electronic commerce that is at least equivalent to that provided for consumers using other forms of commerce;
- Establishing a policy dialogue between the Attorney-General's Department of Australia and the Cabinet Office and MPHPT and METI of Japan on the application of relevant privacy principles with a view to deciding principles and implementation mechanisms for Australia and Japan;
- Entering into a policy dialogue between NOIE of Australia and MPHPT of Japan on the subjects of electronic government and the digital divide; and
- Entering into a policy dialogue between DCITA and NOIE of Australia, and MPHPT of Japan on issues relevant to improving broadband access based on measures adopted in both countries.

To the extent possible, the policy dialogues referred to above will be conducted in the margins of multilateral or regional meetings which relevant officials of both countries are attending. Government agencies other than those referred to above may participate in the dialogues as appropriate.

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE

In order to coordinate cooperative activities, each side will designate a representative or representatives from within its Executing Authorities to be responsible for determining the particular directions of cooperation and for ensuring the effectiveness of all cooperation and exchange activities.

The representatives of both sides or their designated coordinators will consult with each other through the government channel specified through the Executing Authorities, to define activities and other related matters. When necessary, and as mutually determined, the representatives or their designated coordinators may hold working meetings.

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

Cooperation under this Enhanced Framework will commence on the date of its signature by both sides and will continue for a period of five (5) years. It may be terminated earlier by one side giving to the other side a written notice at least 90 days before the suggested date of termination.

The two sides will review the operation of the Enhanced Framework two (2) years after its commencement to ensure that it continues to reflect developments in the Information Economy and Information and Communication Technology Industries.

SIGNED at Tokyo this 9th day of December, 2003

For the Government of Australia

For the Government of Japan

HE Mr John McCarthy
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Australia to Japan

Mr Mitoji Yabunaka
Director-General,
Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs