

# Communications News

Newsletter of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications(MIC), Japan

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## TOPIC

## Result of the G20 Ibaraki-Tsukuba Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy

On June 8 and 9, 2019, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) jointly held the G20 Ibaraki-Tsukuba Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy. This was one of the related ministerial meetings of the G20 Osaka Summit, which was held on June 28 and 29. Amid the advancement of the digitalization of our societies and economies, trade and the digital economy have been developing inseparable interfaces. Against this background, Japan hosted the first G20 meeting bringing together ministers of both trade and the digital economy. The G20 members, as well as invited countries and relevant international organizations, participated in the meeting to discuss trade and digital economy issues, and the G20 Ministerial Statement on trade and digital economy was adopted.

### 1. Major Points of Discussions at the Meeting

In this meeting, three sessions were held, namely the Digital Economy Session, the Trade and Digital Economy Session (hereinafter referred to as “the Joint Session”), as well as the Trade Session. Masatoshi Ishida, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, co-chaired the Digital Economy Session and the Joint Session.



Photo: Masatoshi Ishida, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, co-chairing at the Digital Economy Session.

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# Result of the G20 Ibaraki-Tsukuba Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy

The main points of discussions concerning the field of the digital economy were as follows:

1. An agreement on AI principles based on a human-centered idea was made for the first time in the G20 to promote the responsible development and use of AI.
2. The need was shared to consider new social models in the AI era based on the idea that AI can create new jobs and industries.
3. Agreement was made for the first time in the G20 on the increasing importance of security in the digital economy, along with the rapid expansion of emerging technologies, including the Internet of Things (IoT).
4. The notion of a human-centered future society, which is being promoted as Society 5.0 in Japan, was shared.
5. The recognition was shared that digital technologies can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations.
6. An agreement was made on the concept of “data free flow with trust” in order to build trust and facilitate data free flow.

The G20 Ministerial Statement on Trade and Digital Economy was adopted at the meeting.

(Reference 1) Attendees at the G20 Ibaraki-Tsukuba Ministerial Meeting on Trade and Digital Economy

Japan: Masatoshi Ishida (Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications), Taro Kono (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Hiroshige Seko (Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry), Yukari Sato (State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications), Hideo Kunishige (Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications), other ministerial officials, and representatives of the G20 countries, invited countries, and relevant international organizations.

(Reference 2)

Information on the meeting can also be found via the following link:

<https://g20trade-digital.go.jp/>

## 2. Bilateral meetings

During the Ministerial Meeting, Masatoshi Ishida, Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, and Yukari Sato, State Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications, held bilateral meetings with the representatives of participating countries and international organizations.

## 3. Others

As part of a local school exchange program, students of Ibaraki Prefectural Namiki Secondary School made a presentation in the meeting to participating ministers and officials on an Innovative Transportation System—The Mottainai System. In their presentation they proposed that food waste should be reduced by using ICT.