

Opening Remarks by Minister NISHIMURA Yasutoshi
The Fourth Meeting of the CPTPP Commission
June 2, 2021

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for joining the fourth meeting of the CPTPP Commission. I am most delighted to be able to see your healthy faces on the screen despite the current difficult situations.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the downturn of the global economy and increased inward-looking tendencies. As a Cabinet Minister in the Government of Japan taking charge of the COVID-19 response, economic policy, and the CPTPP, I am firmly convinced that the CPTPP will play a crucial role in transforming the post-pandemic economy to a more resilient, sustainable and inclusive one, offering the high-standard and well-balanced rules for the 21st century.

Two and half years have passed since the entering into force of CPTPP, and its high-standard rules have been prominently upheld and steadily implemented. Now, the CPTPP is moving onto a new chapter with the accession request by the United Kingdom in February. Japan, as the Chair of the Commission, has been coordinating with other members to advance the process smoothly and carefully, looking into the position of the U.K. as to whether it would meet the high standards of the Agreement.

I am very much looking forward to fruitful discussions with the CPTPP colleagues on the question of the U.K.'s accession request today.