

Opening Remarks by Minister NISHIMURA Yasutoshi
The Fifth Meeting of the CPTPP Commission
September 1, 2021

It is my great honor to convene the fifth CPTPP Commission meeting, following the fourth meeting in June.

During the period of more than two and a half years since the CPTPP entered into force, we have not only steadily implemented the Agreement, but we have also been intensifying efforts to advance the cooperative activities among the CPTPP members, such as holding a series of webinars, even under the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

In addition, we are now working together to add greater value to the CPTPP. At the meeting in June, we marked the start of a new chapter in the history of the CPTPP by deciding to commence the accession process with the United Kingdom. In July, our important CPTPP partner, Peru notified the completion of its applicable legal procedures to become the eighth Party to the CPTPP, which will enable the entire CPTPP community to enjoy more benefit of the Agreement.

The uncertainty of the global economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is still around us. However, I strongly believe that such an innovative, high standard agreement like the CPTPP is a significant contributor to building back better from the impacts of the pandemic.

I am hopeful that today's meeting will provide further impetus to the development of the CPTPP through discussing the overall implementation of the Agreement and exploring further cooperation and collaboration among CPTPP members.

I am very much looking forward to fruitful discussions with the CPTPP colleagues today.