

**The First Accession Working Group
of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific
Partnership for the United Kingdom
issued by Japan as the Accession Working Group Chair**

On February 18, 2022, the accession working group to negotiate the accession of the United Kingdom (Accessions Working Group: AWG) of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) (chaired by Japan) held a virtual meeting at the Chief Negotiator (CN) level, and reached a consensus to conclude its first meeting. The first AWG meeting, began with a session with CNs on September 28 and 29, 2021 and CPTPP members have had a series of sessions to require the United Kingdom to demonstrate the efforts made to date, as well as to identify any additional changes the United Kingdom will need to make its domestic laws and regulations, in order to comply with the obligations of the CPTPP.

Based on the result of this meeting, Japan, as the Chair of the AWG and on behalf of the AWG, has advised the United Kingdom, pursuant to the CPTPP Accession Process, to submit its market access offers and non-conforming measures (NCMs) to the AWG.

Next steps are being coordinated among the CPTPP members and with the United Kingdom. The CPTPP members remain committed to upholding the high standard rules and market access throughout the accession process, which is the first accession process to the CPTPP.