

The Study Group on Competition Policy for Data Markets

November 13, 2020

Japan Fair Trade Commission
Competition Policy Research Center

Competition Policy Research Center (hereinafter referred to as the “CPRC”) will hold the “Study Group on Competition Policy for Data Markets,” consisting of relevant experts, in order to discuss competition policy for data markets.

1 The purpose of the Study Group

(1) In recent years, data is called as "the oil of the 21st century" and is widely recognized as a source of competitiveness in the digital age. Under these circumstances, the field of competition in the rapidly changing digital age is now shifting from "cyberspace" where platform operators provide services such as a search and a SNS to the “Second Phase” where enterprises compete for "integration of cyber and physical" to improve the business in physical (real) spaces such as automatic driving, medical care, nursing or agriculture by utilizing the data in the cyber space. (Note 1).

(Note 1) “New IT Policy Principles for the Digital Age” (June 7, 2019, Strategic Conference for the Advancement of Utilizing Public and Private Sector Data, Strategic Headquarters for the Advanced Information and Telecommunications Network Society)

(2) As European Commission has announced a new strategy focusing on the importance of data (Note 2), governments in the world are developing policies to generate data spaces where high quality and large-scale data can be accessed easily and securely while keeping in mind the competition in the digital age. In October 2020, the Japanese government also started formulating a data strategy for building a data-utilization platform suitable for a digital nation in the 21st century.

(Note 2) "A European strategy for data" (European Commission, February 19, 2020)

(3) It would be of great significance to consider measures which promote competition in data-utilizing businesses in order to develop the Japanese economy in the digital age from the perspective of competition policy.

(4) Given this background, "the Study Group on Competition Policy for Data Markets" will be held to discuss various topics and issues related to competition policy, based on

the knowledge of experts and the actual state of affairs in Japan.

2 Study Theme

Topics and issues in competition policy related to data markets

3 Schedule of the Study Group, etc.

(1) The study group consists of the experts listed in the member list (*see* Appendix).

(2) The Study Group plans to hold meetings once a month.

(The first meeting will be held on November 20, 2020)

(3) While the Study Group is in principle closed to the public in order not to prevent free and vigorous discussion among the members, the summary of the discussion in Japanese will be in public promptly after a meeting is held.

(4) Administrative affairs of the Study Group are handled by the Secretarial Office, the CPRC, Japan Fair Trade Commission.

List of the members of the Study Group on Competition Policy for Data Markets

IKEGAI Naoto	Associate Professor, Department of Policy Studies, Faculty of Economics, Toyo University
ITAKURA Yoichiro	Attorney, Hikari Sogoh Law Offices
KUROSAKA Tatsuya	President and CEO, Kuwadate Inc.
KOBAYASHI Shintaro	Senior consultant and Public Policy Group Manager, ICT Media & Service Industry Consulting Department, Nomura Research Institute, Ltd
KORENAGA Daisuke	Professor, Graduate School of Law and Politics, Tokyo Metropolitan University
MATSUSHIMA Noriaki (Chairman)	Professor, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Osaka University (Director, Competition Policy Research Center)
MORIKAWA Hiroyuki	Professor, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
WATANABE Yasutora	Professor, Graduate School of Economics, The University of Tokyo Director, U Tokyo Economic Consulting Inc.

[In the order of the Japanese syllabary, as of November 13,2020]