# JFTC's competition policy initiatives and legislative developments in Digital Markets in Japan

Ryota INABA Japan Fair Trade Commission



## JFTC's competition policy initiatives in digital markets

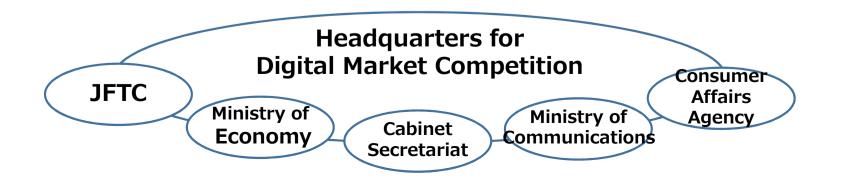
#### JFTC's Market Studies

- Online Marketplaces (Oct. 2019)
- App Stores (Oct. 2019)
- Digital Advertising (Feb. 2021)
- Cloud Computing Services (Jun. 2022)
- Mobile Ecosystem (Feb. 2023)
  - Operating Systems
  - App Stores
  - Web Browsers
- Online News Platforms (on-going)

Act on Improving Transparency and Fairness of Digital Platforms (TFDPA)

(came into full operation in Apr. 2021)





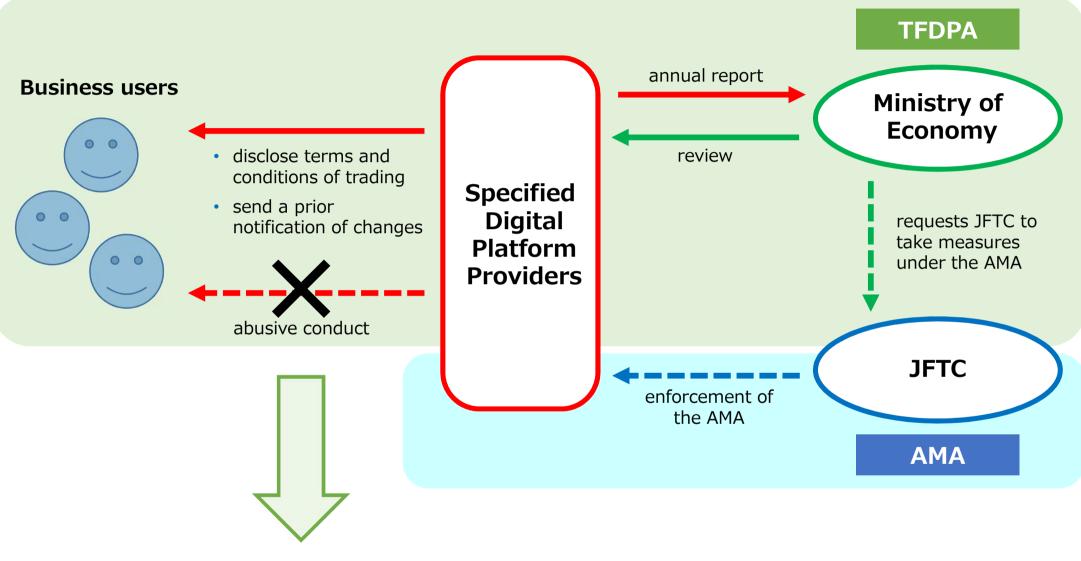
#### Targets only large online platforms

- designated as a "specified digital platform provider"
- Online Marketplaces: Amazon, Rakuten and Yahoo Japan
  - (Annual Domestic Turnover of ¥300 bn or more)
- App Stores: Apple and Google (ADT of ¥200 bn or more)
- Digital Advertising: Google, Meta, Yahoo Japan (ADT of ¥100 bn or more)

#### Adopts a "co-regulation" approach stipulating the general framework under laws and leaving details to online platforms' voluntary efforts

- requires "specified digital platform providers" to:
- disclose terms and conditions of trading
- send a prior notification of changes in terms and conditions to business users
- establish procedures and systems for handling complaints and disputes

### **Expected roles of TFDPA**



prevent Abuse of a Superior Bargaining Position (restricted under the Antimonopoly Act (AMA))

## Assessment on competition issues in mobile ecosystem 4

Layers of Mobile Ecosystem	Issues	JFTC's policy proposals
App	<ul> <li>Anti-competitive conduct         <ul> <li>Self-preferencing</li> <li>Charging a high commission</li> <li>Abuse of Superior Bargaining Position</li> </ul> </li> <li>Enforcement of the AMA can take considerable time         <ul> <li>Complex market definition</li> <li>Burdensome proof of harms</li> <li>Verifying security and privacy claims</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul> <li>To complement the enforcement of the AMA</li> <li>Prevent and fix anticompetitive conduct by:         <ul> <li>Creating a Level Playing Field</li> <li>Access to OS functions</li> <li>Anti-steering</li> <li>In-app payment system</li> <li>Data use</li> <li>Pre-installation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
App Store	Tipping over	<ul> <li>Pro-active interventions to promote competition</li> </ul>
Mobile OS	<ul> <li>Insufficient competition</li> <li>Even bet. Google and Apple</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Interoperability and Data portability</li> <li>Alternative app distribution         <ul> <li>* taking a balance bet. security</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

new regulatory framework beyond the existing competition laws

## Regulatory reforms for digital markets over the world

