

The JFTC holds the 2018 ICN Merger Workshop in Tokyo.

October 24, 2018
Japan Fair Trade Commission

Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC) will hold the 2018 ICN Merger Workshop in Tokyo as below.

ICN Merger Workshop has been taking place almost every year since 2002. At these workshops, merger review investigators at competition authorities and experts such as lawyers and academics (hereinafter referred to as “NGA”, Non-Governmental Advisors) share their expertise and experience with each other.

Agency officials around the world as well as NGAs will participate in the 2018 ICN Merger Workshop. Over 200 participants from about 40 countries and regions will get together, and discuss the role of merger review in the digital economy and the challenges of globalization for the merger review under the theme “Merger Review in the 2020s: Do Digitalization and Globalization Change the Analysis?”

This is the first time for the ICN Merger Workshop to be held in Japan.

1. Date

November 7th and 8th, 2018

2. Venue

InterContinental Tokyo Bay

3. Theme

“Merger Review in the 2020s: Do Digitalization and Globalization Change the Analysis?”

Note: Overview of the ICN

International Competition Network or ICN is an international network which was established in October 2001. As of October 2018, the ICN consists of 139 competition agencies from 126 countries and regions. The purpose of the ICN is to promote procedural and substantive convergence in competition laws. In addition to the competition agencies, experts from international organizations, NGAs also take part in the ICN's activities.

4. Agenda

- Wednesday, November 7th, 2018

9:00 - 9:30	Opening Session
9:30 - 10:30	Plenary Session 1 : Merger review in the digital economy This session will discuss the characteristics of mergers in the digital economy, the issues of merger review in the digital economy and how competition agencies should respond to these issues.
11:00 - 12:15	Simultaneous Break Out Session 1 (Related to the topics of Plenary Session 1)
13:45 - 14:45	Plenary Session 2: Vertical Mergers This session will discuss issues related to vertical mergers such as theories of harm, evidence, economic analysis, assessment of efficiencies, and remedies.
15:00 - 16:15	Simultaneous Break Out Session 2 (Related to the topics of Plenary Session 2)
16:45 - 17:45	Plenary Session 3: Challenges of Globalization for Merger Review This session will discuss the procedural and analytical challenges of globalization for the merger review such as the influence of globalization on geographic market definition and how international cooperation help agencies to address multijurisdictional merger review.

- Thursday, November 8th, 2018

9:00 - 10:00	Plenary Session 4: Innovation and Non-Price Effects in Merger Review This session will discuss how to evaluate effects of mergers on factors other than price such as quality, investment in new products or processes and research and design.
10:00 - 10:15	MWG Work Products Presentation This session will introduce the work products such as Recommended Practices which have been formulated by the ICN Merger Working Group.
10:45 - 12:00	Simultaneous Break Out Session 3 (Related to the topics of Plenary Session 3)
13:30 - 14:45	Simultaneous Break Out Session 4 (Related to the topics of Plenary Session 4)
15:00 - 15:15	Closing Session

Note: The details of each session as well as moderators/panelists are available at the

workshop website (<https://icnmergerworkshop2018.jftc.go.jp/agenda.html>).

5. Online streaming of the workshop

Officials from ICN member agencies and NGAs who have completed the registration exclusively can join the workshop. So that other stakeholders can follow the discussions at the workshop, sessions highlighted in gray on the table above will be streamed at the workshop website (<https://icnmergerworkshop2018.jftc.go.jp/>) and the official YouTube account of the JFTC (<https://www.youtube.com/c/JFTCchannel>). Archived videos will be available shortly after the workshop on the JFTC's official YouTube account.

Those sessions which will be streamed live are also open to the press. Request for press pass should be submitted to JFTC's International Affairs Division ICN Merger Workshop Team via email at icnmergerworkshop2018@jftc.go.jp by 12:00 a.m. on Friday, November 2nd, 2018 (Japan Standard Time).

The working language of the workshop is English.

[Contact Information]

International Affairs Division, Japan Fair Trade Commission

Tel: +81-3-3581-1998

Website: <https://icnmergerworkshop2018.jftc.go.jp/>