

Report of the Study Group on Competition Policy for Data Markets

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Japan Fair Trade Commission
Competition Policy Research Center

In recent years, data has been recognized as a source of competitiveness in the digital age. The field for competition in the rapidly changing digital age is now shifting from "cyber spaces" where digital platform operators provide services such as search engines or social networking services, to places to compete for "integration of cyber and physical" where data analyzed in cyber spaces is utilized to sophisticate businesses in "physical space" such as automatic driving, medical care, nursing or agriculture.

In a global context, some governments in foreign countries or regions are developing policies to create data spaces where high quality and large amount of data can be accessed easily and securely, while keeping in mind the competition in the rapidly-changing digital age. In June 2021, the Japanese government has also formulated a comprehensive data strategy for building bases of data utilization.

Under these circumstances, it is of great significance to discuss measures from the view of competition policy to promote competition of businesses utilizing data and innovation, which may lead to the development of the Japanese economy in the digital age.

Given this background, the Japan Fair Trade Commission has held the "Study Group on Competition Policy for Data Markets" under the Competition Policy Research Center ("CPRC"), which discussed various issues and challenges of competition policy in data markets. The study group has been chaired by MATSUSHIMA Noriaki (Professor, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Osaka University / Director of the CPRC) and organized eight meetings from November 2020.

Following the discussion in the study group, the CPRC publishes the Report of the Study Group on Competition Policy for Data Markets today.