

For immediate reporting

**DIGITAL ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT JOINT COMMITTEE
COMMENCES ACCESSION WORKING GROUP FOR COSTA RICA**

1. The Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) Joint Committee has agreed to formally commence the accession process for Costa Rica, following Costa Rica's application to join DEPA on 23 December 2022. To do so, the Joint Committee has established an Accession Working Group (AWG) which will be chaired by New Zealand and comprise government representatives from each DEPA Party. The AWG will examine Costa Rica's accession request, conduct discussions on its ability to comply to the standards and commitments of DEPA, and submit a report to the Joint Committee on the proposed terms and conditions of Costa Rica's accession.
2. Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong said, "Singapore welcomes Costa Rica's application to join DEPA. Through DEPA, we hope to create a common framework for rules and standards while offering a platform for collaboration as well. We will be pleased to work closely with Costa Rica to facilitate discussions on its accession."
3. Current DEPA members consist of Chile, New Zealand and Singapore. AWG discussions for the Republic of Korea (ROK) have substantially concluded, and DEPA Parties and ROK are currently undergoing legal processes for ROK to join as a formal Party. AWG discussions for China and Canada, chaired by Chile and New Zealand respectively, are currently ongoing.

Jointly issued by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Communications and Information, and Infocomm Media Development Authority on 6 October 2023

* * * *

For media queries, please contact:

Delia Wu
Senior Assistant Director, Communications and Engagement Division
Ministry of Trade and Industry
Email: delia_wu@mti.gov.sg

Emmanuel Phua
Assistant Manager, Communications and Engagement Division
Ministry of Communications and Information
Email: emmanuel_phua@mci.gov.sg

Melanie Ng
Manager, Communications and Marketing
Infocomm Media Development Authority
Email: melanie_ng@mda.gov.sg