Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation
between
the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of
the People's Republic of China
and
the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

The State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the People’s Republic of China (SAIC) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) (hereinafter referred to as “the Participants”),

Recognizing the importance of mutual cooperation in promoting effective enforcement of relevant laws in respective countries, maintaining a regulated and harmonized market environment of fairness, justice and good faith, and protecting consumers’ legitimate rights and interests;

Aiming to establish and develop cooperation in competition enforcement, consumer protection as well as regulation on on-line goods transaction and related services between the Participants,

Hereby agree as follows:

Article 1 Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is to set up an institutional partnership between the Participants by establishing a general framework for bilateral cooperation.

Article 2 Scope of Cooperation

The Participants will, within their respective jurisdiction, cooperate in the fields of competition enforcement, consumer protection as well as regulation of on-line goods transactions and related services, including, but not necessarily limited to:

1. Exchange of the policies, laws and rules regarding competition and consumer protection as well as the progress of legislation and enforcement, which is allowed by the laws of respective countries;

2. Jointly holding workshops as needed to exchange views on related issues of common concern in the fields of competition and consumer protection;

3. Conducting mutual visits, exchange and training of personnel;
4. Other issues agreed upon by the Participants.

**Article 3 Consultation**

The Participants agree to:

1. Formally meet at intervals to review progress under this Memorandum and determine specific cooperative projects. Such meetings will alternate between the Offices of both Participants, or to be held on the margins of other events attended by both participants, with the timing to be agreed by the Participants. Generally, once a year is preferred.

2. Appoint a Liaison Department from their respective offices to ensure adequate communication between the Participants.

SAIC:
Liaison Department: Department of International Cooperation
Tel: 86-10-68010463/68013447
Fax: 86-10-68010463/68013447
Email: intl@saic.gov.cn
        international@saic.gov.cn

ACCC:
Liaison Department: The International Unit, Intelligence, Infocentre and Policy Liaison Branch, Executive and Compliance Division
Tel: 61-2-62431251
Fax: 61-2-62431078
Email: internationalACCC@accc.gov.au

**Article 4 Resources**

All commitments made in this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funds and each Participant’s budget priorities. This Memorandum is not meant to obligate the expenditure of funds.

**Article 5 Confidentiality**

It is understood that the Participants do not intend to communicate information to the other Participant if such communication is prohibited by the laws governing the Participant possessing the information or would be incompatible with that Participant’s interests.

Unless agreements are reached through negotiations, each Participant shall keep the
information provided by the other according to this Memorandum confidential in line with laws of its country.

Article 6  Limitations

This Memorandum and the expressed intentions of the Participants will be subject to all the effective applicable laws and regulations in their respective countries. This Memorandum does not affect the rights and obligations of the Participants acquired under existent agreements or memoranda in which the Participants are themselves involved. This Memorandum is not legally binding.

Article 7  Resolution of Disputes

The Participants will resolve any discrepancies or disputes arising out of the interpretation or application of this Memorandum through consultations.

Article 8  Miscellaneous Provisions

This Memorandum enters into effect on the date of signature. This Memorandum may be modified at any time by mutual agreement between the Participants. Either participant may terminate the Memorandum upon ninety (90) days written notice to the other participant.

Done in duplicate in Canberra on this 18th day of September 2012 in the Chinese and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

for the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the People's Republic of China

Mr. Zhou Bohua
Minister of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of the People's Republic of China

for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Mr. Rod Sims
Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission