



1. *Trade Facilitation --- Introduction & Background*

2. *“Asia Gateway Initiative”*

3. *“Trade Procedures Restructuring Program”*

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Trade Facilitation (1)

Why Important?

- **As tariffs become lower, greater significance of non-tariff costs**

Direct & indirect costs* of trade transactions are estimated at around few to several percent -- UNCTAD(1994), OECD (2003)

*mostly time delays

- **Post-9/11 environment**

Greater need to balance security & facilitation

Trade Facilitation (2)

What is going on?

WTO

Trade Facilitation: one of six issues in Doha Round “Single Undertaking”

APEC

TFAP2 : another 5% reduction of transaction costs by 2010

SW Initiative: assist development of Single Windows in APEC economies

WCO

SAFE (FoS): standards to balance security & facilitation of int'l trade

AEO

: C –B partnership to provide benefits to traders w/ good compliance

Japanese Bilateral FTAs/EPAs

Includes chapter on Customs Procedures & Cooperation for TF & TACB

“Asia Gateway Initiative” Priorities

Improve infrastructure for Gateway functions

- Trade Procedures Restructuring Program
- “Asia Open Sky” for Kansai & Chubu airports
- Attractive financial market to network w/ other Asian markets
- Special Economic Zones to promote e.g. trade

Promote cultural & academic interchange

- Internationalization of universities
- Triple number foreign students by 2025
- Strengthen cooperation/research hub functions on common regional issues e.g. environment & energy
- Promote Japanese culture & media contents

Goals

- Hub for people/goods/money/information in Asia & world
- Interact with Asia, deliver Asian values to RoW & vice versa

Trade Procedures Restructuring Program

Streamlined regulations and procedures

e.g.

a) Harmonize port procedures throughout Japan
(by March 2008)

b) Review procedures to reduce cost & time
(e.g. requirement to store export goods in bonded areas)
(by March 2008)

Improvement of AEO system

e.g.

a) Harmonize intra-gov. compliance programs

b) Promote G2G dialogue for possible mutual recognition
e.g. US, China, Korea, Australia, NZ

“Next Generation” Single Window (October 2008)

e.g.

a) “Open” system that reflects BPR

b) Develop linkage with international Single Windows
(e.g. ASEAN SW)

Promote Simplified Export Declaration system (Customs-Business Partnership) to cover 50% of exports by end-2008

Annual review of program to monitor implementation



Thank you.

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