

Session 2: Implementation of the transparency provisions
-Member's experience with SPS/TBT notifications-

Implementation and Handling of SPS and TBT Notifications : Japan's experience

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Japan's SPS and TBT Enquiry Point

WTO Secretariat

Publish SPS/TBT notification website (IMS)

Japan

Ministries

- MAFF (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries)
- MHLW (Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare)
- METI (Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry), etc

Coordinate

**Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
(MOFA)
Japan SPS/TBT
enquiry point**

Comment
Reply

**WTO
Members
SPS/TBT
enquiry point**

Submit

Comment
Reply

**WTO Members
Stakeholders**

Coordinate

Stakeholders

**Japan External Trade
Organization (JETRO)**

Publish draft notification to
collect domestic comments

MAFF's Organization on SPS/TBT notification

International Economic Affairs Division (SPS/TBT)

**Wood Products
Trade Office
(TBT)**

**Food Safety and Consumer
Affairs Bureau
Food safety policy Division
(SPS/TBT)**

**Fishery Products
Trade Office
(SPS/TBT)**

- Distribute notification from other WTO Members

- Information on relevant regulations to be notified
- Comment to notification from WTO members

Plant protection
Division

Animal health
Division

Animal products
safety Division

Plant products
safety Division

Regulatory authorities

◆ Implementation of re-evaluation system

- All pesticides must be re-evaluated periodically
- The registration may be revoked or the Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) can be changed based on the result of periodical re-evaluation

◆ Change Evaluation system

The following assessments are implemented

- Risk assessment for pesticide operator
- Ecological Risk assessment
- Risk assessment for honey bee

[2] Revision of the Food Sanitation Act/MHLW

◆Improvement of sanitary regulations for food utensils and packaging

- Prohibit manufacturing and selling food utensils and packaging made of raw materials for which specifications are not established

SCOPE

- SPS: SPS measures include all relevant laws, including . . . , packaging and labelling requirements directly related to food safety. (ANNEX A of the SPS Agreement)



Food Packaging

- TBT: The provisions of TBT Agreement do not apply to SPS measures as defined in Annex A of the SPS Agreement. (Art. 1.5 of the TBT Agreement)



Food Utensils



overlapped scope of SPS/TBT

Japan notified as **both SPS and TBT notification** with the same content.

- (1) G/SPS/N/JPN/552, G/TBT/N/JPN/582
- (2) G/SPS/N/JPN/638, G/TBT/N/JPN/625

Merits of the assignment of Common SPS/TBT Enquiry point

- **Adjust from a cross-cutting perspective of SPS and TBT agreements**
 - Some regulations may have within overlapped scope of SPS/TBT.
 - Japan properly notifies and addresses the comments submitted by members within the overlapped scope of SPS/TBT.
- **Submit SPS/TBT notifications simultaneously**
 - There is no difference of comment period between SPS/TBT.
 - Accommodate comment period (60 days) under SPS/TBT agreements and public comment period for stakeholders.
- **Transparency**
 - SPS/TBT notifications within the scope of SPS and TBT agreements will be useful to share widely to other members.