

Japan's Basic Position on the WTO Negotiations for Forestry and Fishery Products

Japan's Approach concerning the framework for negotiations

When forestry and fishery products are addressed at the WTO new round, a framework for negotiations should be ensured allowing discussions to take full account of global environmental issues and sustainable utilization of exhaustible natural resources.

Points to be pursued in the negotiations

(1) Basic Stance

Forestry and Fishery products are exhaustible natural resources which are renewable but can be depleted without proper management. It is necessary to establish rules and disciplines on trade contributing to sustainable utilization of resources through promotion of adequate resource conservation and management, and such rules should also be fair and equitable for both exporting and importing countries. Considerations must be given to multiple roles and functions of forest, fisheries and fishing communities.

(2) Forestry products

Trade rules contributing to sustainable forest management

() Giving considerations to global environmental concerns, it is necessary to establish trade rules, which contribute to promoting sustainable forest management and restricting activities adverse to such management, including illegal logging.

() In view of ensuring a balance between exporting and importing countries on their rights and obligations, it is necessary to establish trade rules which promote sustainable forest management such as promoting adequate forestry activities in order to maintain public functions of forest, in both exporting and importing countries.

Market Access

Border measures should not hinder the promotion of sustainable forest management achieved through proper maintenance and development of forestry and timber industry among importing countries.

(3) Fishery products

Trade rules contributing to sustainable utilization of fishery resources

It is necessary to establish trade rules that contribute to sustainable utilization of resources by discouraging over-exploitation that neglects the conditions of resources, or fishery activities inconsistent with the rules for resource conservation and management.

Market Access

Various elements such as conservation and management of resources, stable supply of fishery products, multiple roles and functions of fisheries and fishing communities should be taken into account when addressing issues of market access.

Fishery subsidies

As for the resource conservation, it is necessary to examine not only fishery subsidies but all factors which could hinder sustainable resource utilization.

The WTO should address the fishery subsidy issues based on the results of discussions taken place in organizations which have the expertise, such as the FAO.