



CABINET SECRETARIAT

Statement by Minister in charge of Economic Revitalization of Japan, Nobuteru ISHIHARA

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

After the TPP Agreement was signed last February, the Government of Japan submitted the TPP Agreement and related legislation to the Diet. Various discussions were held during the Diet deliberations, in which more than 70 hours were spent in the House of Representatives and more than 60 hours in the House of Councillors.

Minister Kishida and I (Minister Ishihara) kept on responding to questions for about 100 hours in total at both Houses and diligently explained the significance of the TPP Agreement as well as the need for its early entry into force, among other aspects.

Prime Minister Abe has made the case that if Japan, being the second largest economy among liberal democratic countries, lowered the flag for a free and fair economic zone, the advancement of free trade would stop then and there.

With this frame of mind, we went into Diet deliberations so as to demonstrate, in a form that includes the legislative branch, our resolve not to succumb to the temptations of protectionism, and to play a leading role in creating a free and fair economic zone.

As a result, the TPP Agreement and related legislation passed the House of Representatives last month, and on the 9th of this month, last Friday, the TPP Agreement was approved and the related legislation was passed at the Plenary Session of the House of Councillors.

I am pleased to announce that this constitutes the approval of the Diet.

I would like to ask that Your Excellencies report back to your countries that with Prime Minister Abe spearheading efforts to make diligent explanations on matters including the significance of the TPP and the need for its early entry into force, the outcome was that we were able to show the unwavering resolve of Japan as a nation, including the legislative branch.

Looking ahead, upon finalizing our domestic procedure such as setting relevant Cabinet Orders and Ministerial Ordinances which are necessary prior to the conclusion of the TPP Agreement, we are intent on notifying the depository country namely New Zealand early next year, that Japan has completed its domestic procedure.

Furthermore, as was confirmed in the meeting with your Excellencies in September that there should not be any renegotiation, I look forward to cooperating with each country with an eye toward the early entry into force of the TPP Agreement that has already been agreed upon and signed.

As Your Excellencies are aware, at the TPP Leaders' Meeting in Lima, the economic and strategic importance of the TPP Agreement was confirmed, as was the need for each country to carry forward their respective domestic procedures.

Japan has worked to realize what the TPP leaders confirmed, and has achieved the approval of the Diet.

We expect that each of your countries will continue to advance domestic procedures as was repeatedly confirmed among the TPP leaders, in order for the early entry into force of the TPP Agreement.