



CABINET SECRETARIAT

Statement by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kentaro Sonoura

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

- Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement has significant diplomatic and strategic importance of strengthening relations among the participating countries, which share universal values such as freedom, democracy and the rule of law, and contributing to the peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Japan is determined to play an active role in enlarging the network of high quality free trade by expanding the circle of the TPP through accession of new members and vigorously working on EPA negotiations such as Japan-EU EPA, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and the Japan-China-ROK FTA while giving due consideration to the outcome of the TPP.
- In this context, Japan's approval of the TPP Agreement also has great significance. Japan intends to continue cooperating closely with the other participating countries to further upgrade and promote free trade in the world.