

Statement of Ambassador Yoichi Otabe, Mission of Japan
at the Fourth Global Review of Aid for Trade,
Session 23 "Plenary Session for Members/Observers"
11:00-12:30 10 July, 2013 at Room CR, WTO

1. First and foremost, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Pascal, who created the concept of "Aid for Trade" and started this process which brought both trade and development people together.
2. AfT started with the demand from developing countries that, in order to fully benefit from the trade liberalization, capacity building would be necessary.
3. A straightforward way to gain such capacities is by receiving FDIs. If factories are established through FDIs, they would contribute to building productive and trade capacities, connecting the host countries to global or regional value chains. Expansion of production and trade would lead to employment creation, stronger growth. AfT is an instrument to create an attractive investment climate which will lead to such benefit.
4. In this light, we also appreciate the idea of Pascal, to connect AfT with value chains as the main theme of this global review. This was successful to make our discussion relevant to the current business practices and also facilitated our discussion to understand the development in a real changing global environment.

5. A great amount of discussions were conducted how AfT can enhance trade facilitation capabilities. This proves that AfT can be a strong supporter of the TF negotiations. Japanese contributions in trade facilitation include various kinds of assistance to customs as well as the establishment of One Stop Border Post in some African countries. As stated in the joint statement by the donors, Japan will continue its efforts on AfT in trade facilitation.
6. Speaking about Africa, 51 African countries, including 39 African leaders, participated in the fifth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD), which we hosted last month. At the meeting, Japan declared the assistance package of 32 billion USD, including ODA amounting to 14 billion USD as well as private financing. AfT is the core of this assistance package.
7. Japanese AfT is based on the accumulated experiences in Asia and the Pacific. Regional Technical Group on AfT in Asia and the Pacific have produced a report which focuses the mechanism how AfT enhances productive and trade capacities. We hope this RTG report as well as the side event entitled “Asia’s experiences and Dialogue with Africa” was a valuable contribution to this Global Review.
8. Finally, given the wide range of activities involved in our work, cooperation with IFIs and other international organizations is important. OECD, which is a co-organizer of the global review

with WTO, is making significant contributions on the analysis of value chains including the establishment of a database for Trade in Value Added. As a chair of the OECD Ministerial Meeting next May, Japan will strengthen cooperation with the OECD and encourage further collaboration between WTO and OECD in the analysis of Aft, investment climate, and value chains and in encouraging discussions for exploring future policy directions in this regard.