

Aid for Trade (AfT) and Japan's position

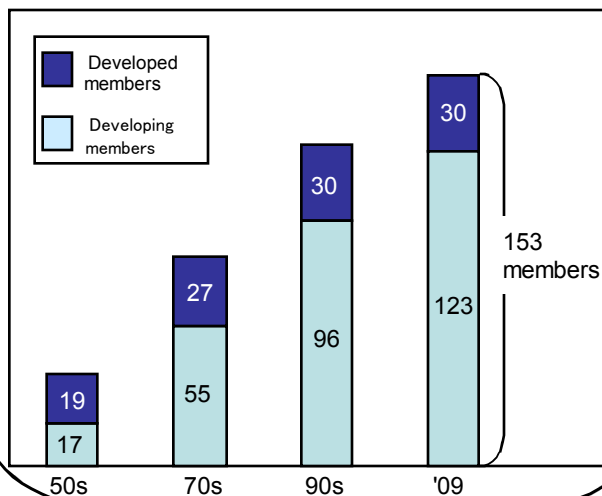
What's AfT?

AfT aims to help developing countries to develop trade-related skills and infrastructure and to benefit from WTO multilateral trading system, to expand their trade and thus to achieve their economic growth.

Background

In the WTO Doha Round, negotiations for the reduction of tariffs and making new trade rules, decisions are arrived at in principle by consensus. The number of developing members in the WTO is increasing (four fifths of the members, as of June 2009).

Number of developing members in the WTO



Short history on AfT and the 2nd Global Review on AfT

December 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference

Recommendation on the operationalization of AfT was decided. Japan announced "Development Initiative for Trade," including 10 billion US dollars in financial assistance over the next three years, technical assistance of ten thousand persons in total, and providing duty-free and quota-free market access for essentially all products (98%) originating from the LDCs.

November 2007 1st Global Review on AfT in Geneva

Awareness on the importance of AfT was raised through high-level meetings

April, May 2009 Regional Reviews in Asia, Africa, and South America

6, 7 July 2009

2nd Global Review on AfT in Geneva

- ① Review of the implementation of AfT
- ② Assessment of progress in mainstreaming of trade into national development strategy
- ③ Maintaining the momentum of AfT in the current economic crisis



Its conclusion is to be reported at G8 Summit in L'Aquila

Japan's position

- Japan has been implementing AfT through "Development Initiative" announced at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in 2005 as a contribution to promote the Doha negotiations.
- Japan intends to continue to support developing countries through Development Initiative for Trade, regardless of the financial conditions affected by the current economic crisis. Japan will also indicate its new initiative at the coming 2nd Global Review.
- Japan will continue to work for the further improvement of AfT and reinforce its efforts, including in countering protectionism and in trade finance.