

First ASEAN-JAPAN Comprehensive Cooperation Economic Partnership Meeting,
Feb. 14-15, 2004, Siemreap, Cambodia¹

Japan Fair Trade Commission

PROPOSED ACTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS BY JAPAN IN THE FIELD OF COMPETITION POLICY

In order to respond to the urgent needs for enhancing regional cooperation, in particular technical assistance for capacity building in less developed countries, the following initiatives are proposed as one of “Measures for Immediate Implementation” in the framework for Comprehensive Economic Partnership between ASEAN and Japan. The Japan Fair Trade Commission would be pleased to play a key role in strengthening regional cooperation through these actions.

(1) Policy Dialogues for deepening the mutual understanding

Recognize the importance of competition policies and the mutual understanding of competition laws and policies that suit each country’s economic development. The JFTC and the competent authorities of ASEAN member countries and Japan will continue discussions among expert group on competition law and policy on the occasion of bilateral economic partnership negotiation, as well as explore the possibility of organizing policy dialogues such as meetings, workshops, or conferences in the near future in cooperation with any of ASEAN member countries.

The objectives of the policy dialogues are proposed as follow.

- i) Exchange and discuss information on competition policy development
- ii) Identify needs for assistance and capacity building
- iii) Examine a possible framework for further strengthening regional cooperation

As a part of these dialogues, the 1st East Asia Conference on Competition Law and Policy will be held on March 4th in Kuala Lumpur, co-organized by the JFTC and Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (MDTCA) of Malaysia. Many senior competition officials from ASEAN member countries including the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam will attend the Conference.

(2) Training Experts and Trainers

The JFTC, in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), have offered and provided group training programs for experts and trainers from developing countries, including ASEAN member countries, and will be pleased to continue to do so. This year, “The training course on Competition Policy and Anti-Monopoly Act” will be

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scheduled in Osaka and Tokyo for a one-month period in late summer. Those who are interested in this program, should contact JICA local offices.

It is also suggested that ASEAN member countries submit at that time any requests for technical assistance projects for the year 2005, reflecting their individual needs.

APEC Training Programs are also utilized as a major training tool for ASEAN competition authorities under the cooperation of the JFTC and the competition authorities of host countries.

(3) Creating an Open Platform for the Sharing and Exchange of Information:
“East Asia Competition Policy Forum Website”

To provide East Asia countries with key information on competition law and policy, the JFTC is offering a web-accessed database and electronic newsletters.

The web-accessed database, the *East Asia Competition Policy Forum* (<http://www2.jftc.go.jp/eacpf>), which was established in May 2003 by JFTC, has been an open platform for the facilitation of sharing and exchanging experiences and information in East Asia.

Reflecting the needs and demands of ASEAN member countries, and respecting the diversity of regulatory approaches and different levels of economic development in the region, the Forum website contains the following information, such as:

- Legal and policy framework in the respective countries
- Competition policy and economic development, including Japan’s experiences
- Regional and International framework
- Capacity building: needs and seeds for technical assistance

The JFTC also delivers monthly newsletter related to competition policy in East Asia.

As a compound result of measures mentioned in (1)-(3) above, capacity building on competition policy will be facilitated and lead to active discussion in the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership, as well as on-going bilateral negotiations with some ASEAN countries in the field of competition policy.