

General Comments

- Government engagement about de-regulation is needed to make the most of the EPA.
- How much support are you truly able to give new Businesses from your country setting up, in introducing potential distributors, partners and client?
- Keep the good information work
- Needs more efforts from CCBJ or the Embassy. Brazil doesn't have much competitiveness here in Japan but now is getting worse.
- Non-tariff barriers, additives, too high level of customer quality requirements are penalizing foreign firms
- Regulatory issues: Health Care / Medical Devices: lengthy and cumbersome approval processes Safety Equipment Industries: Deviation from EU / Global Norms and Standards create costly extra test as well as the time to market is negatively impacted
- Supporting International staffs to work flexibly in Japan
- There is a number of non-tariff trade barriers remaining which effectively and strongly limit imports to Japan
- There is a serious disparity between Japan's labor laws and immigration policy. Protectionism in one of the industries we work in (construction) is rife and, as mentioned above, it is near impossible hiring overseas labor for roles that Japanese people do not want to take. Japanese immigration policy must fall in line with the labor needs of the country. And Australia-type 457 visa might be useful. At the moment, in order to hire overseas workers the only method is via an Internship visa. It allows workers to come here for 3 years and then return home without possibility of extension or switching to permanent residency. Management of this system has been handed to a third party by the Japanese Government. The third party takes a "cut" of employees' wages as does an "agent" in the home employees home country. The system described is nothing more than government-sanctioned slavery, since the worker receives very little of the very low wages paid by Japanese employers. We refuse to use this horrible system and are searching for alternatives. Any help would be welcomed. But more than help, we would like the Chamber and its partners to add to the mounting pressure on the Japanese government to abolish this program in favor of a fair system. We hire all staff on the same basis no matter what nationality, or gender. Why is a person from Vietnam regarded as less human than someone from Japan? The answer is obvious. The US Embassy in Tokyo has already written to the Japanese government about this matter and the information is readily available.
- Very supportive governmental and tax environment.
- When does an Asian Region Fund Passport go live ?
- Which French companies are growing its organization in Japan?
- Why did the EPA not include harmonization of industrial standards? Wasn't this important topic compromised for the sake of announcing a quick success in FTA in face of a protectionist US stance?
- 北朝鮮の不思議な軟化。