

FCIJ BCS April 2008- General Comments

A reduction in the ability of listed Japanese companies to utilize anti-takeover measures would enhance the efficiency of the capital/economic markets. Further development of a stronger entrepreneurial/start-up environment in Japan would enhance the efficiency of the capital/economic markets.

After the September figures come out in the US investor confidence may return and share prices may begin to rebound once the situation there is clear.

An industry body, encompassing both overseas producers and importers and domestic distillers would be welcomed, although in practice this seems difficult to achieve.

As mentioned above, demand has fallen off considerably and there seems to be paralysis at the government level.

Being an ACCJ (member) has been valuable and we believe that will increase as our clients request more multi-country consumer surveys and strategy consulting.

Competitors seem to be able to operate without profit for a long time due to strong bank backing.

compliance and regulatory

Constant attacks by Green pressure groups on the Federal and State Government, on our business in particular by Senator Brown and Senator Milne and denigration of Australia's environmental credentials in Forestry have caused and continue to cause us trouble.

Counter-intuitively, a US recession will benefit Japan. A weaker USD means lower commodity costs for Japan manufacturers and exports will remain strong as a weaker USD will be offset by a stronger Yuan making exports to China more competitive.

Cultural/Artistic/Pop exports to China will become more significant over the next few years.

Fewer US companies are coming to Japan, which tends to lower our revenues. We have compensated for that with new services.

Foreign lawyers should be allowed to incorporate as local lawyers do.

I feel there are so much trade barriers with Japanese government, especially with food items.

I found this survey very difficult to answer due to the closed ended questions, various market forces that can come into play at any time, and also the fact that multiple special interests have been and are manipulating Japanese media on a wide range of issues. A great example: many major local news organizations have an office and a desk supplied and paid for by a few large Japanese corporations.

This makes it very difficult for us to forecast and convey the reality. Relying on conventional methods of gathering market intelligence through the general Japanese media seems to be ineffective to complete this sort of survey, unless, one could utilize the typical Today, Keio or equivalent alumni oligopolic powers moving this society from behind the scenes in both government, and business.

I wish European chambers of commerce would all provide a free access and regularly updated directory of their members profiles, contacts, their needs in Japan and these members want to advertise in Japan about their local activities to the European Council of Japan in order to facilitate and accelerate relations

Import duties on chocolates and some other food items remain prohibitive and difficult to understand. Is there any prospect of improvement of this situation?

It unfolds the horizon of my connection to people.

I've heard of some recent and ongoing signs of anti-foreigner sentiment in immigration department / ward office. I wonder whether this is becoming more widespread or isolated incidents.

Japan needs to build stronger business ties with its geographical West and the emerging markets for the long term

Make clearer agreement based on international standards about electrical safety and food sanitation issues

Most Japanese laws and regulations in the building construction materials areas are trade barriers to protect Japan manufactured products. If Japan would recognize US Standards and certifications in complying with Japanese standards, imports of US Products will increase significantly and at the same time contribute to a healthy benefit to both the Japanese market and the U.S. Markets.

not so much in our business but with the client which we support: regulatory simplification and transparency would improve things a lot not the regulations itself hinder us, it's the bureaucratic approach of the authorities like FSA that is hindering business

Please introduce/open your human-channel on HR issues much more.

Please note that our company profile below are consolidated data of subsidiaries and group companies in Japan.

Please pick topics about business opportunities in mega trend

Quality and safety issues in the elevator business is a great concern, and it remains such due to long term price erosion and current market structure. Market can not become efficient with so many local or regional players. Further consolidation with international major players would result more efficient and sustainable service levels.

Reducing the tax on company profit is the most key topic for us on the table.

Regulatory Integration is something we have wanted for a long time. Let's try

Regulatory issues continue to be a major obstacle to the entry of innovative medical devices into Japan.

Sector based growth can vary widely. Media and entertainment will grow...

Since you have so many events/seminars, we find difficult to pick one that suits our needs.

still abnormal import tariffs prevail in Japan for materials.

taxation of foreign limited partners in Japanese venture capital efforts, even though firms do not have an actual presence in Japan, i.e. are treated on case by case basis, in a rather opaque and arbitrary fashion, as possible permanent entities (P.E.) by the tax authorities, with often conflicting or unclear ramifications

The Japanese will have to learn to accept growing commodity prices particularly when the world is resource hungry. Their current policies lack inherent ability to change.

Trade barriers and high tariffs.

Transfer pricing issue

We see a "steady continuation", an improvement is only possible if global consumption for non-branded luxury items improves, which is doubtful.

We would like to have charitable status in Japan as we do in the UK (since we are a charity!). However, it is very difficult to gain this status currently, regardless of merit.

Whilst the US is an important partner for Japan, we see that Japan needs to diversify and develop stronger partnerships to its geographical West.