

FCIJ Business Confidence Survey - Fall 2011

General Comments

- A part of our business covers imports to Japan. Bureaucratic and regulatory hurdles keep generating non-tariff barriers that almost cancel positive impact of FTA (for ex. with Switzerland). There is still a strong feeling of protectionism of long-established Japanese trade companies by custom officials.
- Accurate information about real levels of radiation and concerns about food. Recent news about 384 animals in 16 prefectures fed radiated hay for example.
- Chamber helps stay connected with people.
- Ensuring a stable supply of Medical Products is more critical than most other sectors of the economy. Any unexpected disruption will always create challenges.
- Expect as a source of some live views and information through activities.
- Expect Japanese government support to increase use of bio based materials which is still higher cost than current oil based. Shifting to bio based material will significant reduction of CO2 which also related to energy saving.
- Japan's attitude against imports has to change, for its own sake.
- Keep going with your good information
- Regulatory framework continue to complicate our operations, effectively serving as NTB's.
- Regulatory issue, especially Approval process does no get better.
- Remain concerned about political environment and lack of clear 3/11 crisis and economic responses. More concerned about Japan tackling longer term issues of aging population, manufacturing shift offshore and needed business reinvention.
- The chamber had better focus more on good sides of the Japanese market for foreign-affiliated companies doing business in Japan.
- Trade barriers are always an issue as we import product for sale in Japan.
- Updates on the ETA would be useful.
- We are facing difficulties in promoting the sales of one of our products in Japan, due to the JAS (Japan Agricultural Standard) regulations. Can you help us put pressure on the Japanese authorities to remove the non-tariff barrier in importing such product from Finland?
- We see continuous sign of supporting Japan-based UK companies by BBC.
- We surely hope that the FTA agreement can be a reality during next year!