

**TEXT OF STATEMENT ON
STRENGTHENING BILATERAL EXPORT CONTROL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN
AND SINGAPORE CUSTOMS**

1. Preamble

In the APEC Leaders' Meeting last October in Bangkok Thailand, the leaders declared to eliminate the growing danger posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery (hereinafter, referred to as "WMD") by adopting and enforcing effective export control and other means.

The First Asian Export Control Policy Dialogue was also held last October in Tokyo with eight participating countries and region including Japan and Singapore. The Chairman's Summary issued at the Dialogue confirmed that cooperative countermeasures would be taken against procurement activities relating to WMD.

In accordance with these efforts in various fora, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan, and Singapore Customs have discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of export control and have set forth the following principles.

2. Basic Recognitions

The two sides share the view that the proliferation of WMD and related materials, equipment and technology remain a serious concern for global and regional security, and recognise the importance of continuous efforts to prevent any proliferation activities and, inter alia, to implement a stringent export control system.

In this regard, the two sides have taken a series of domestic measures to further enhance their export control systems as part of regional and global effort to prevent the proliferation of WMD and their related materials, equipment and technology.

The two sides share the basic recognition that a secure trading environment through stringent export controls is beneficial for the expansion of trade including bilateral trade between Japan and Singapore.

The two sides recognise that the essential elements to reinforce export control include having:

- (a) a domestic legal framework of export control, including catch-all control and controls on intangible transfer, transshipment and arms brokering;
- (b) a control list consistent with international export control regimes;
- (c) effective licensing and enforcement; and
- (d) sufficient infrastructure and trained personnel.

To enhance the two sides' domestic export control systems, both sides will cooperate in the areas of information exchange, enforcement cooperation, industry outreach and introduction of appropriate export control systems in Asian countries and regions.

3. Information Exchange

The two sides will, in accordance with their own domestic laws, work towards enhancing the exchange of information necessary for effective export control.

The two sides will maintain strict confidentiality over the information exchanged, and decide that such information will be used only for governmental use for the effective implementation of their respective export control systems and that such information will not be presented to a court or a judge in criminal proceedings.

4. Enforcement Cooperation

The two sides will seek ways to ensure adherence to the export licence conditions required by both countries. In the case of suspected end users or end uses, the two sides will, in accordance with their own domestic laws, seek to cooperate with each other in identifying relevant information, including information on denied export licences as well as on technical specifications of controlled items and technologies, for purposes of investigation and prosecution.

The two sides will coordinate efforts to prevent procurement activities relating to WMD. When either one side identifies a procurement activity of concern which requires the other side's cooperation in preventing the activity, the latter will endeavour to fulfill the request, based on its own national export control laws and other regulations. For this purpose, each side will provide contact points that can be reachable in times of emergencies.

5. Industry Outreach

The two sides recognise that it is imperative for the private sectors of both sides to have effective internal programs which comply with their own domestic export control regulations. The two sides will resolve to encourage outreach programs and relevant educational activities to ensure that the private sectors in Japan and Singapore have full and accurate information on the export control laws, regulations and policies.

6. Cooperation for introduction of appropriate export control systems in Asian countries and regions

The two sides will make efforts to jointly conduct outreach activities such as regional conferences or training programmes to encourage Asian countries and regions to introduce appropriate export control systems. Both sides realise that effective prevention of illicit transfers of WMD related materials and equipment could be accomplished more effectively if all Asian countries have equally stringent export control systems.

7. Conclusion

It is decided that the two sides will periodically hold talks on export control issues, in which further cooperative measures, including the review of licensing processes for export to each other, will be discussed.

22nd April 2004
SINGAPORE