

PRESS RELEASE

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Japan donates USD 91,938 (CHF 85,000) to enhance trade capacity of developing countries

Since 2002, Japan's total contributions to the various WTO Trust Funds have reached CHF 9.2 million. This new donation of USD 91,938 (CHF 85,000) to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF^[1]) will be allocated to assist developing and least-developed countries in analysing and implementing existing international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards. The objective is to improve their human, animal and plant health situation so as to increase their trading opportunities.

"With its latest contribution to financing capacity building in developing countries, Japan has once again underscored its strong commitment to the multilateral trading system. In this period of economic uncertainty, Japan's donation is particularly welcome. Trade is an important avenue for exiting the crisis and technical assistance programmes such as these will strengthen the share of developing countries and LDCs in world trade," said WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo.

Japan's ambassador to the WTO, Yoichi Otabe, stated "Japan has continuously supported developing countries and least-developed countries (LDCs) in building their capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards to be in a better position to make full use of multilateral trade. Together with its bilateral assistance, this contribution is part of Japan's long-time efforts, through projects and programmes of the STDF, which will enable these countries to gain and maintain market access and to accomplish growth, development and poverty reduction."

END

^[1] The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) is a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).