

Prior to the Prime Minister Noda's possible announcement of Japan's intention to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) at APEC Summit, Masahiko Yamada, the former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and other 224 non-partisan group of Diet members affiliated with "The Conference to Cautiously Consider the TPP" (cf. attached list), released the following statement.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AGAINST AN IMMATURE PLEDGE TO JOIN TPP NEGOTIATIONS

Our view is that free trade is necessary for Japan, and bilateral FTA/EPA negotiations with EU, Australia, Korea, or China are useful in this respect. Such a bilateral negotiation, which gives consideration to the respective domestic situation, is what our diplomacy should focus on.

On the other hand, TPP negotiations could inflict damage upon agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as significantly influence Japanese people's life, by way of not only eliminating tariff but also reforming in 24 areas, ranging from healthcare system, drug approval, food safety standard, GMO labeling, labor practice to international dispute settlement system, and even postal service and kyosai insurance service need to be reformed.

Currently, sufficient information has not been revealed on the ongoing TPP negotiations and such a lack of information hinders detailed discussions at the Diet and prevents open public debate. Moreover, we hear the idea that Japan could leave the negotiation table of TPP after joining it and finding its contents against Japan's interest, but, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently acknowledged, it is unrealistic and impossible given the possible damage done to Japan's credibility in international and diplomatic society, especially under today's severe international situation surrounding Japan.

Therefore, we, "Diet members of The Conference to Cautiously Consider the TPP", adopt the following resolution;

RESOLUTION

We, Diet members of "The Conference to Cautiously Consider the TPP", are against an immature pledge to join TPP negotiations before APEC Summit meeting without disclosure of sufficient information on TPP negotiations.

October 21, 2011

All Diet members of "The Conference to Cautiously Consider the TPP"

"The Democratic Party of Japan" (203/406)

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Total Number of Signatures: 225