



EPA Task Force Report

Task Force Mission

- Analyze the merits/demerits, importance and feasibility of an US-Japan EPA
- Utilize and refer to the study paper to be undertaken by Keidanren and ACCJ
- Study the financial service and service sectors
- Analyze the possibility of tax incentives on donations on art and culture
- Face the challenge of promoting an EPA between the two countries, both dominant economies

Task Force Members

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Activities Since CULCON XXIII

1. EPA Task Force Meeting, June, 2009

A record of the meeting is attached.

Recommendations

While the consensus is also that promoting an EPA as such falls outside the purview of CULCON activities, the consensus of the CULCON panelists is in view of the spread of globalization, of the maturing of the Japan-US relationship to a “partnership,” of a long history of shared values, and with the rise of competing economies in East Asia, an EPA would serve to help strengthen bilateral interests and mutual interests in East Asia and the world.

One primary function of CULCON, however, is to convene research projects and symposia that explore the intellectual and academic underpinnings of topics of mutual interest, such as the desirability and feasibility of a Japan-US EPA. By helping to expand and strengthen ties between scholars of trade policy in academic departments and schools of business, economics, law and political science in the two countries, CULCON can help lay the foundation for open dialog between the two countries on all aspects of a Japan-US EPA and explore those aspects that may be sensitive in one or both countries and hinder development of productive discussion on the subject between the two countries.

CULCON’s specific interest in an EPA lies in the possibility of harmonizing regulations in the two countries dealing with educational and cultural exchange and the exchange of information, knowledge and knowledge production in the field of medicine. CULCON endorses efforts by the two governments to make exchange in these two fields as open and widely-practiced as possible, including harmonization of tax laws that allows contributions to support these activities through non-profit organizations to be tax deductible in both countries.

Attachments

1. EPA Action Program Group Meeting (June 2009)
2. Joint Statement, 46th US-Japan Business Conference (November 2009)
3. ACCJ-Keidanren Joint Statement on Japan/US EPA (July 2009)
4. DPJ Manifesto 2009 (Extracts)
5. Aso Group Vision: Being a Global Citizen (Extracts)
6. Pathways to Achieving FTAAP (Keidanren)