

October 23, 2007

Regarding “Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)”

1. Japan is announcing today that it intends to work closely with interested trading partners, which share our high level of commitment in the protection of intellectual property rights, with a view to establishing a new international agreement, the “Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) [tentative]” for the purpose of strengthening the enforcement of intellectual property rights and that Japan plans to initiate intensive consultations regarding the substance of this framework by the end of this year.
2. The proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods poses an ever-increasing threat not only to the sustainable development of the world economy, but also to consumer health and safety. Furthermore, new developments in the fields of counterfeiting and piracy, such as infringements via the internet, are posing new challenges.
3. ACTA’s goal is to provide a high-level international legal framework that strengthens the enforcement of intellectual property rights in effectively combating these new challenges. This goal is pursued through three primary components of ACTA; (1)the strong and modern legal framework, (2)establishment of enforcement practices that promote strong intellectual property protection, and (3)cooperation amongst our trading partners. Japan plans to actively pursue this goal.

[FYI]

1. Since the then Prime Minister Koizumi proposed the necessity of a new legal framework aimed at preventing the proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods at the G8 Summit in Gleneagles in 2005, Japan has been engaged in discussions aimed at establishing ACTA with a number of interested trading partners, encompassing both developed and developing countries, which share our high level of commitment in the protection of intellectual property rights.
2. Japan plans to initiate intensive consultations with interested trading partners which share our high level commitment in the protection of intellectual property rights including Canada, the EC, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States by the end of this year.