

Statement by METI Minister Akira Amari

October 23, 2007

Regarding “Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) [tentative]”

1. The proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods poses a serious and significant threat to the world economy. The consequences of such proliferation include depriving right holders of their legitimate interest, discouraging innovation and creativity of businesses, threatening consumer health and safety and providing an easy source of revenue for organized crime and international terrorist groups.
2. In order to combat such a threat, it is essential to establish a new international framework aimed at strengthening the enforcement of intellectual property rights.
3. At the G8 Summit in Gleneagles in 2005, the then Prime Minister Koizumi proposed the establishment of a new international legal framework aimed at preventing the proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods. The METI has since taken the initiative in working closely with a number of 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, namely ACTA.
4. I am very pleased to announce today that we will initiate intensive consultation regarding the substance of ACTA with other interested trading partners by the end of this year.
5. I firmly believe that establishing ACTA will send a strong message for stopping the international proliferation of counterfeit and pirated goods, and that ACTA will serve as a high-level standard which countries throughout the world will define as its goal.
6. We would like to continue to seek participations in ACTA widely from interested trading partners which share our high level of commitment to strengthen the enforcement of intellectual property rights, and we intend to advance the discussions with a view to establishing ACTA as soon as possible.