

The Fifth Meeting of the Public-Private Council for the Promotion of  
Appropriate Ivory Trade Measures  
Summary

Date and Time: Thursday, January 25, 2018, 14:00-15:30

Venue: Kokukaikan Building

Members: (“\*” indicates Joint Secretariat of the Council)

[Public Sector]

- Ministry of the Environment (MOE)\*
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)\*
- National Police Agency (NPA)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
- Ministry of Finance
- Agency for Cultural Affairs

[Private Sector]

- Japan Federation of Ivory Arts and Crafts Associations\*
- Yahoo Japan Corporation\*
- Liaison Group for Tackling Illegal Transactions (Telecommunications Carriers Association [TCA], Telecom Services Association, Japan Internet Providers Association [JAIPA], and Japan Cable and Telecommunications Association [JCTA])
- DeNA Co., Ltd.
- KDDI Commerce Forward Corporation
- The Japanese Seal Engravers Association
- Association for Seal and Stamp Products Companies of Japan
- Nationwide Pawnshop Union Alliance Society
- National Federation of Commerce and Industry Associations for Japanese Traditional Instrument
- Antique Dealers Crime Prevention Associations Federation of Tokyo
- TRAFFIC<sup>1</sup>

[Experts]

- Prof. Yoshio Kaneko, Iwate Prefectural University
- Prof. Nobuo Ishii, Tokyo Woman's Christian University

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<sup>1</sup> TRAFFIC participates in the Council from a position to call for a ban of domestic trade with narrow exemptions that are strictly controlled.

## **Agenda**

1. Changes in Participating Organizations
2. Preparation of relevant Cabinet Orders and Ministerial Ordinance toward Implementation of Amended “Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora” (LCES)
3. Outcome of the 69th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and Future Actions
4. Other Matters

## **Summary of Discussions**

### **1. Changes in Participating Organizations**

The Secretariat reported on the participation of new members to the Council, namely National Federation of Commerce and Industry Associations for Japanese Traditional Instrument, Agency for Cultural Affairs and KDDI Commerce Forward Corporation, as well as the withdrawal of Rakuten, Inc. from the Council.

### **2. Preparation of relevant Cabinet Orders and Ministerial Ordinance toward Implementation of Amended “Law for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (LCES).”**

Based on document 1, MOE provided explanations on details of the amendment of the Law related to ivory, which are included in two draft Cabinet Orders (Order for Prescribing Date into Effect of the Amended Law / Order for Implementation of LCES) to be promulgated by the end of January 2018 and draft Ministerial Ordinance Regarding Notification Related to Business Handling International Endangered Species, etc. to be promulgated after the above mentioned Cabinet Orders. In addition, MOE also explained about explanatory meetings on the amendments of the Law for business operators to be held in March 2018 at every regional block throughout Japan that are jointly organized by MOE and METI.

### **3. Outcome of the 69th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee and Future Actions**

(1) Based on document 2, MOE provided explanations on the outline of the discussions and contents of the decision made on Japan’s ivory trade at the 69th Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee held last year. Moreover, the outline of the discussion regarding methodology of the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS) at the Standing Committee was shared to the participants.

METI informed that one of the Parties at the Standing Committee made remarks on cases of suspension in China of exported ivory thereto from Japan, but at the same time pointed out that close examinations of the data of these cases were necessary.

MOFA reminded that Japan's efforts to manage ivory trade are to be reported to the next 70th Meeting of the Standing Committee. In addition, as the issue on ivory trade is expected to be discussed at the International Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade to be held in London around the same period as the 70th Meeting of the Standing Committee, MOFA pointed out the necessity of conducting substantive debate in this Council so that Japan will be able to fully demonstrate the achievements gained by the concerted efforts of the parties concerned under this Council at the aforementioned two conferences.

(2) Based on document 3, TRAFFIC provided explanations on the summary of their report ("IVORY TOWER: An Assessment of Japan's Ivory trade and domestic market") published in December 2017.

In regard to this explanation, participants in the Council supported the idea that measures against illegal ivory export and illegal ivory trade are necessary. In the meantime, some participants expressed their objections to the contents of the TRAFFIC's report. They stated that, given that Japan's ivory trade draws considerable attention within the country as well as from abroad, efforts should be made to disseminate accurate information causing no misunderstanding, while giving a balanced overview of Japan's efforts such as amendments to relevant laws and the approach to optimize the domestic market through voluntary measures by the industry. Furthermore, in light of the sustainable use of wildlife, negative impact on conservation of African elephants brought exerted by closure of a domestic ivory market was pointed out by one participant.

METI provided explanations on the initiative taken via National Police Agency to familiarize antique dealers with the management system of ivory trade in December 2017. In addition, METI also explained about its making a request to organizers of flea markets who were listed in the report of TRAFFIC to verify if their vendors have reported their intention for business to the competent Ministers and to eliminate business operators who had not made necessary reporting to the competent Ministers. For illegal ivory export, METI presented that an arrangement for cooperation with the Chinese CITES Management Authorities is under consideration in collaboration with both countries' customs authorities, and expressed its intention to discuss with relevant stakeholders with a view to strengthening familiarization of business operators with management system on ivory sale to foreign tourists visiting Japan who risk to bring out their purchased items to overseas without going through the proper export procedure for those eligible items.

#### 4. Other Matters

MOE provided explanations on the efforts to identify whole ivory tusk stocks within Japan which started last August.

MOFA explained that it was expecting to make voluntary contributions for supporting anti-poaching in an African elephant range state this fiscal year, continuing from last fiscal year.

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