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The Washington Monitor is a product of the Japan Fair Trade Center in cooperation with the international trade practice of the U.S. law firm of Winston & Strawn LLP. All questions concerning its content should be addressed to:

Washington Monitor
Winston & Strawn L.L.P.
1700 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
rmassony@winston.com

Trade Briefs

USTR Addresses Japan Issues

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk has recently addressed issues regarding the bilateral trade relationship between Japan and the U.S.

Response to Crapo's Letter Regarding DRAM Subsidies

Last month, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) sent a letter to USTR Kirk to express his concern regarding what he saw as unfair subsidies for producers of Dynamic Random Access Memory Chips (DRAMs) in Japan and Taiwan. Crapo was specifically concerned about a new program that benefited Elpida, Inc., a manufacturer with production facilities in both Japan and Taiwan. Crapo said that a new subsidy program, worth nearly \$2 billion, benefited Elpida in response to "deteriorating market conditions for memory products."

Crapo identified four main components of government assistance to Elpida: the purchase of Elpida shares by the Development Bank of Japan; a loan from the Development Bank of Japan; government-arranged loans from other Japanese banks; and an equity infusion from a corporation controlled by the Taiwanese government.

Crapo said that these subsidies encourage DRAM producers to overproduce and then flood the U.S. market, thus depressing prices. Micron Technology Inc., the last remaining American producer of DRAMs, is located in Crapo's district.

USTR Kirk responded to Crapo's letter, assuring the Senator that he intends to investigate the issue. Kirk identified the Government/Authorities Meeting on Semiconductors (GAMS) and meetings of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures as possible sources of information about the subsidies Crapo identifies.

Beef Issue Raised with Japan's Minister of Agriculture

On October 8, USTR Kirk met with Hirotaka Akamatsu, the Japanese Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. The Minister was visiting Washington, DC, at the time.

According to the USTR's press release, Kirk and Minister Akamatsu discussed a number of issues, including the possible conclusion of the Doha round of WTO negotiations.

More specifically, Kirk told Minister Akamatsu that the Obama Administration has a strong interest in securing greater access to Japan's beef market for American beef producers. The beef issue has been a major point of controversy between Japan and the U.S. ever since a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) was diagnosed in the U.S. and Japan responded by banning all U.S. beef imports.

Dumping Watch

Final Results of Review of AD Order on Chinese Tissue Paper

On October 9, the Department of Commerce (DOC) gave notice that it had reached final results in its administrative review of the antidumping (AD) duty order on certain tissue paper products from China. The DOC published preliminary results of this review on April 6. The DOC then received a number of comments from respondents that ultimately changed the DOC's margin calculations. The final dumping margins are 14.25% for Max Fortune Industrial Ltd. and 112.64% for the PRC-wide rate. In addition, the DOC gave notice of its final partial rescission of this review with respect to the following companies: Foshan Sansico Co., Ltd., Sansico Asia Pacific Limited, PT Grafitecindo Ciptaprima, PT Printec Perkasa, PT Printec Perkasa II, and PT Sansico Utama. These companies were found to have no imports during the period of review.

Federal Register Notices

International Trade Administration

[A-570-894] Certain Tissue Paper Products From the People's Republic of China: Final Results and Partial Rescission of the 2007-2008 Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Determination Not To Revoke in Part 74 FR 52176-52178, October 9, 2009.

[A-570-848] Freshwater Crawfish Tail Meat From the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Rescission of Review in Part 74 FR 52180-52181, October 9, 2009.

[A-201-834] Purified Carboxymethylcellulose From Mexico: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 74 FR 52178-52180, October 9, 2009.

[A-580-836] Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon-Quality Steel Plate from the Republic of Korea: Correction to the Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Intent to Rescind Administrative Review in Part 74 FR 51834-51835, October 8, 2009.

[A-583-816] Certain Stainless Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Taiwan: Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 74 FR 51837-51838, October 8, 2009.

Expected Non-Market Economy Wages: Request for Comments on 2009 Calculation 74 FR 51555-51556, October 7, 2009.

[A-570-898{time}] Chlorinated Isocyanurates from the People's Republic of China, Notice of Intent to Partially Rescind Administrative Review 74 FR 51557, October 7, 2009.

[C-570-955] Certain Magnesia Carbon Bricks From the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation 74 FR 51558, October 7, 2009.

[A-533-843] Certain Lined Paper Products From India: Notice of Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 74 FR 51558-51566, October 7, 2009.

[A-570-863] Seventh Administrative Review of Honey From the People's Republic of China: Second Extension of Time Limit for the Preliminary Results 74 FR 51566, October 7, 2009.

Amendment of Date for Trade Mission to Algeria and Libya, February 17-22, 2010 74 FR 51256-51257, October 6, 2009.

[A-570-904] Certain Activated Carbon from the People's Republic of China: Extension of Time Limit for Final Results of Changed Circumstances Review 74 FR 51256-51257, October 6, 2009.

Mission Statement; 2010 Executive-Led Trade Mission to Senegal and South Africa; March 7-12, 2010 74 FR 51256-51257, October 6, 2009.

Announcement of Performance Review Board Members 74 FR 51256-51257, October 6, 2009.

International Trade Commission

[Investigation No. 337-TA-678] In the Matter of: Certain Energy Drink Products; Notice of Commission Decision Not To Review an Initial Determination Granting Motion To Amend the Complaint and the Notice of Investigation To Add Six Additional Respondents 74 FR 52258, October 9, 2009.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-688] Certain Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Components Thereof; Notice of Investigation 74 FR 52258-52259, October 9, 2009.

[USITC SE-09-026] Government in the Sunshine Act Meeting Notice 74 FR 52259, October 9, 2009.

[Investigation No. 337-TA-678] In the Matter of Certain Energy Drink Products; Notice of Commission Decision Not To Review an Initial Determination Granting Motion To Amend the Complaint and the Notice of Investigation To Add Six Additional Respondents 74 FR 51319, October 6, 2009.

[Investigation No. 701-TA-461 (Final)] Ni-Resist Piston Inserts From Korea 74 FR 51319-51320, October 6, 2009.

[Investigation Nos. 731-TA-1174-1175 (Preliminary)] Seamless Refined Copper Pipe and Tube From China and Mexico 74 FR 51318-51319, October 6, 2009.

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

Fiscal Year 2010 Tariff-Rate Quota Allocations for Raw Cane Sugar, Refined and Specialty Sugar, and Sugar-Containing Products 74 FR 51361-51362, October 6, 2009.

2009 Special 301 Out-of-Cycle Reviews of Fiji, Israel, the Philippines, Poland, and Saudi Arabia: Identification of Countries Under Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974: Request for Public Comment 74 FR 51215-51216, October 5, 2009.

The Week Ahead

- On October 12, the ITC will be closed for the Columbus Day holiday.
- On October 13, the ITC will hold a commission vote on five-year sunset reviews of cut-to-length carbon steel plate from China, Russia, and Ukraine.
- On October 14, the ITC will hold a preliminary conference on the AD and CVD investigations into certain coated paper suitable for high-quality print graphics using sheet-fed presses from China and Indonesia.