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Trade Briefs

Japan, U.S. Discuss Economic, Trade Issues at APEC Summit in Singapore

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit held in Singapore last week was an opportunity to see Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and U.S. President Barack Obama address economic and trade issues.

APEC was created in 1989 specifically to address the issue of free trade in the Asia-Pacific region. Its members have grown in importance, especially in light of the continuing global economic crisis. In particular, nations like China and Japan are seen as linchpins in any recovery. The APEC summit is thus considered to be an important occasion for discussing trade issues of regional and global importance.

Obama's visit to Japan, just prior to the summit in Singapore, was not particularly revealing on the issue of trade. Hatoyama and Obama's 90-minute meeting in Tokyo appeared to focus on security issues. Included in the meeting was Japan's recent move to stop refueling warships supplying coalition forces in Afghanistan, the issue of a new U.S. military base in Okinawa, North Korea, Iran, and nuclear proliferation worries. The two leaders also discussed climate change. The press conference after their meeting also highlighted the military and strategic alliance.

In contrast, the two leaders' appearance at the APEC summit proved to be a better opportunity to see how the U.S. and Japan will pursue their respective trade policies under new administrations. Both countries joined the APEC group's pledge to "refrain from raising new [trade] barriers," but there was not a joint statement on currency manipulation, a sticking point for U.S. policymakers.

In general, observers said that China appeared to be asserting itself as the U.S. receded from its past position of overwhelming economic influence. Obama said that this was not a zero sum trade-off, arguing that China's growing influence does not mean that the U.S. will have less influence.

However, Obama seemed to acknowledge that major adjustments are necessary. Obama said, and APEC leaders agreed, that the global economy could not continue to rely on U.S. consumers as the sole source of growth. Obama said that U.S. consumers should save more and spend less, and that Asian nations should be prepared to accept this shift.

On the specific issue of trade agreements, Obama said that his Administration would seek to move the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) toward ratification. Furthermore, he said that the U.S. would pursue a regional trade agreement with Trans Pacific partnership countries.

Prime Minister Hatoyama said that he was interested in an East Asian community with a structure similar to the European Union (EU). The idea, a kind of open regional cooperation, could include far-reaching changes such as a regional currency. At this point, Hatoyama has only given a vague outline of the idea. However, it shows that the

Hatoyama is not afraid to question the fundamental arrangement that now exists. Hatoyama's vision would enhance trade and financial cooperation between East Asian nations.

More specifically, Hatoyama said that Japan would continue to work hard on negotiations with regional partners such as Korea, India, and Australia to settle on bilateral trade agreements. It seems clear that Hatoyama, like many world leaders, is less than sanguine about the prospects for concluding the Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks in the near future.

Dumping Watch

Preliminary CVD Determination regarding Wire Decking from China

On November 9, the Department of Commerce (DOC) gave notice that it had reached an affirmative preliminary countervailing duty (CVD) determination in the investigation of wire decking from China. The DOC calculated subsidy rates of 3.13% for Dalian Eastfound Metal Products Co., Ltd. and its affiliate Dalian Eastfound Material Handling Products Co., Ltd. and 2.02% for Dalian Huameilong Metal Products Co., Ltd. The rate for all the other producers and exporters of wire decking evaluated in this investigation was calculated to be 437.73%. The all-others rate—for producers and exporters of wire decking from China not individually considered in this investigation—was calculated to be 2.58%. The International Trade Commission (ITC) will make its final determination within 45 days of the date of this notice.

Federal Register Notices

International Trade Administration

[A-570-898] Chlorinated Isocyanurates From the People's Republic of China: Notice of Extension of Time Limit for the Final Results of the Antidumping Duty Administrative Review *74 FR 58242*, November 12, 2009.

[A-583-816] Certain Stainless Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Taiwan: Notice of Extension of Time Limit for the Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review *74 FR 58242-58243*, November 12, 2009.

[A-570-904] First Administrative Review of Certain Activated Carbon from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review *74 FR 57995-57999*, November 10, 2009.

[A-570-849, A-821-808, A-823-808] Continuation of Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from the People's Republic of China and Continuation of Suspended Antidumping Duty Investigations on Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from the Russian Federation and Ukraine *74 FR 57994-57995*, November 10, 2009.

[A-570-912] Certain New Pneumatic Off-the-Road Tires from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Changed Circumstances Review *74 FR 57999-58001*, November 10, 2009.

[A-580-807] Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from the Republic of Korea: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review *74 FR 57993-57994*, November 10, 2009.

Application(s) for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments *74 FR 58002*, November 10, 2009.

[C-423-809] Stainless Steel Plate in Coils From Belgium: Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review *74 FR 57627-57629*, November 9, 2009.

[C-570-950] Wire Decking From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Alignment of Final Countervailing Duty

Determination with Final Antidumping Duty Determination 74 *FR* 57629-57648, November 9, 2009.

[A-274-804] Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod From Trinidad and Tobago; Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 74 *FR* 57648-57653, November 9, 2009.

[A-570-822] Certain Helical Spring Lock Washers From the People's Republic of China; Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 74 *FR* 57653-57658, November 9, 2009.

The Week Ahead

- On November 16, the ITC held a hearing on the general factfinding investigation into possible modifications to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences.
- On November 17, the ITC will hold a vote on the final phase CVD and AD investigations into commodity matchbooks from India.
- On November 19, the ITC will hold a vote on the five-year sunset review regarding tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol from China.