



Japan New Zealand
Partnership Forum
2008

(www.nzibf.co.nz)

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS FORUM WELCOMES JAPAN NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS ARRANGEMENT

The Japan New Zealand Customs Arrangement signed in Tokyo today is a positive development, says the New Zealand International Business Forum (NZIBF).

The Supply Chain Security Mutual Recognition Arrangement was signed on the eve of the Japan New Zealand Partnership Forum which is being attended by over 90 government, business and community leaders, including New Zealand Customs CEO Martyn Dunne and his Japanese counterpart Mr Yukiyasu Aoyama.

“A secure supply chain is a critical element in enhancing two-way trade between Japan and New Zealand and we congratulate the customs authorities in taking this step”, said NZIBF Executive Director Stephen Jacobi from Tokyo.

“This agreement follows a similar agreement concluded with the United States in 2007. They provide our key trading partners with assurance that goods coming from New Zealand present a low risk in terms of terrorism and international crime. They result in quicker passage of goods through customs and enhance the steps that exporters themselves are taking by securing their supply chain”.

The Japan New Zealand Partnership Forum opens this evening (14 May) in Tokyo and is an opportunity for New Zealand to demonstrate its interest in a stronger relationship with Japan. It is supported by both governments at the highest level and by business organisations in both countries.

Both Prime Minister Helen Clark and Trade Minister Phil Goff will deliver key note addresses at the Forum on 15 May, along with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Osamu Uno, representing the Prime Minister of Japan.

Note to editors

The Forum programme and delegation lists are attached or posted at www.nzibf.co.nz
Media interviews from the Forum can be arranged through Stephen Jacobi or Charles Mabbett in Tokyo. Please note Tokyo is 3 hours behind New Zealand.

For further information

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About the NZ International Business Forum

The Forum is a business organisation which aims to generate wealth for New Zealanders by helping ensure that New Zealand enterprises are fully integrated and engaged in the global economy and New Zealand's global competitive position is maximised. The Forum provides leadership, works with companies and other business organisations to implement key projects and articulates New Zealand's international business priorities to both the New Zealand Government and stakeholders. Forum participants represent companies and sectors with a turnover of over \$20 billion.

About the NZ Japan relationship

Japan is a major bilateral and regional partner of New Zealand. Japan is New Zealand's third largest trading partner, with exports totalling NZ\$3.49 billion to the end of June 2007. For New Zealand Japan is a major market for dairy products, fruit and vegetables, beef, wood products and fish. The cumulative value of total Japanese investment in New Zealand in March 2007 was roughly NZ\$7.6 billion. Japan is also the fifth most significant source of tourist revenue for New Zealand with 117,743 arrivals in the year to February 2008. At the political level strong political ties are underpinned by a commonality of views and shared interests in the stability, growth and development of the Asia/Pacific community.