



TPP に賛成？ 反対？

TPPとは、英語では“Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement”、日本語では「環太平洋戦略的経済連携協定」と呼ばれる、太平洋周辺地域の国々における経済（ヒト、モノ、サービス、カネの移動）の自由化を目指す経済協定です。この経済協定は2006年5月に初めてシンガポール・ニュージーランド・チリ・ブルネイの4カ国で締結され、2013年7月時点で12カ国が参加、2015年をめどに全ての貿易の関税の完全撤廃を目指しています。TPPに参加すれば、鉱工業品や農産物などの関税がほぼ例外なくゼロになるほか、非関税障壁の撤廃も迫られることとなります。また、外資系企業や外国人看護師・介護士をはじめとする労働者の受け入れ規制ができなくなります。自国の産業への多大な影響を懸念して、日本では特に農産物から参加に強く反対する意見が上がっています。

TPPをめぐる世界の動き

- 2006年 シンガポール、ブルネイ、チリ、ニュージーランドの4カ国間で調印
- 2010年 現加盟国とアメリカ、オーストラリア、ペルー、ベトナムを加えて8カ国で協定交渉開始
- 2010年 マレーシアを加えて9カ国で協定交渉開始
- 2012年 カナダ・メキシコを加えて11カ国で協定交渉開始
- 2013年 日本が初めて参加、12カ国で協定交渉開始

Warm-up Questions

- ① Do you think Japanese food is far more expensive than foreign food?
- ② Do you want to buy less expensive foreign rice, orange, and beef even if the Japanese agricultural industry suffers?

Japan's PM announces participation in controversial TPP talks

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe officially announced on March 15, 2013 that Japan will join **negotiations** on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Asia-Pacific free trade **agreement**. Abe expressed strong determination to defend its national interests, saying that the government will “protect what should be protected, and gain what should be gained.”

There is no guarantee, however, that key agricultural products will be exempt from abolition of **tariffs**. Many agricultural and consumer groups are **unanimously** opposed to Abe's decision. Immediately after the announcement, the representative of the JA (Japan Agricultural Cooperatives) Group said at a press conference, “We strongly protest and deeply regret Japan's participation in the TPP.”

The government also announced its new **estimate** of the possible economic impacts of joining the TPP, saying that abolition of all tariffs could decrease its production in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector by 3 trillion yen every year. But at the same time the government estimated that joining the TPP would **boost** Japan's real GDP by 3.2 trillion yen.

Notes

- controversial 論争中の Trans-Pacific 環太平洋の national interests 国益
 exempt from... …を免除された JA (Japan Agricultural Cooperatives) 農協
 abolition 撤廃 forestry and fisheries 林業と漁業 real GDP 実質国内総生産

Vocabulary Check

上の英文を読み、①～⑥の用語の説明としてふさわしいものを a～f より選びなさい。

- ① a tax on goods coming into a country or going out of a country ()
- ② to increase or improve something and make it more successful ()
- ③ agreeing completely about something ()
- ④ official discussion aimed at reaching a consensus ()
- ⑤ a decision, promise or arrangement between two or more groups or people ()
- ⑥ a calculation or judgment of the value, number, quantity ()

a. negotiation

b. agreement

c. tariff

d. boost

e. unanimously

f. estimate

Read On *The pros and cons of the TPP*

各パラグラフを読み、あとの問題に答えなさい。

Paragraph 1 TPP のメリット



The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement is expected to improve the economy and increase the GDP of the member countries. It is often pointed out by political and financial communities that the TPP has a number of ^①benefits. The complete removal of tariffs will increase the amount of imports by decreasing the prices of various imported products, including farm produce, raw materials, and manufactured products. The TPP is also said to encourage domestic companies to expand their business ^②overseas and attract foreign direct investment. The TPP can not only promote the free flow of goods, services and investment, but also bring economic growth and prosperity to the region.

Notes investment 投資 prosperity 繁栄

Exercise 1 下線部①②とほぼ同じ意味を表す単語を a ~ d より選びなさい。

- ① a. advantage b. capacity c. command d. consent
 ② a. abroad b. outside c. home d. internal

Paragraph 2 日本が TPP に参加すべき主張点



The TPP trade agreement will become a universal economic and trade framework. Japan's participation in the TPP is necessary to maintain its national interests and political and economic influence in the Asian community. Through Japan's entry into the TPP talks, Japan can cooperate with the U.S. and promote a close economic and security partnership. Japanese political leaders believe that Japan-U.S. cooperation will lead to the stability of the Asia-Pacific region by countering China's growing economic power in Asia. At the same time, Japan's participation in the TPP will also pave the way for Japan to carry out its economic reform and enhance the international competitiveness of its industries.

Notes universal 世界共通の framework 枠組み pave the way for ... …への道を開く
 enhance …を高める take advantage of... …を利用する competitiveness 競争力

Exercise 2 英文の内容に合う記述には T を、合わないものは F を書き入れなさい。

- ① Japan should cooperate with the U.S. to develop friendly relationships with China. ()
 ② Japan will be able to make economic reforms through participating in the TPP. ()



The TPP is said to greatly affect every aspect of Japanese people's lives. Japanese farmers are especially worried that the TPP would lead to a sudden increase in the import of cheap foreign agricultural products and a decline in the sale of domestic products. Similarly, consumer groups fear that the TPP could lower Japan's food-safety standards for genetically-modified foods, leaving the use of pesticides and food additives subject to foreign rules. Medical experts also voiced concern that the TPP could undermine the universal health-care system, and could eventually push up Japan's medical costs with the advancement of foreign insurance companies and hospitals in Japan.

Notes

- genetically-modified food 遺伝子組み換え食品 pesticide 農薬 additive 添加物
 subject to... …の対象である universal health-care system 国民皆保険制度

Exercise 3 英文の内容に合う記述には T を、合わないものは F を書き入れなさい。

- ① Japanese famers would suffer under the TPP. ()
 ② Foreign agricultural products should not be banned by the TPP. ()



China, with the world's second-largest GDP, has not expressed its intention to participate in the TPP because the government considers the TPP trade agreement as a U.S.-led Asian strategy. They believe that its purpose is to establish American-style economic rules in the Asia-Pacific economic bloc and to ^① check China's economic growth in the region. In contrast, most political leaders in Japan think that the free trade agreement with China will likely bring economic benefits to Japan. According to foreign trade statistics, China has been Japan's largest trading partner since 2007, ^② covering 20 percent of Japan's imports and exports in 2012. In fact, Japan has already received economic benefits from the growing Chinese market. After all, participation in the TPP has become a highly controversial issue involving many countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Notes

- strategy 戦略 Asia-Pacific economic bloc 太平洋経済圏 statistics 統計

Exercise 4 下線部①②とほぼ同じ意味を表す単語を a ~ d より選びなさい。

- ① a. ignore b. maintain c. control d. proceed
 ② a. dedicating b. dominating c. monitoring d. occupying

Listen to Model Opinions

Is it beneficial to participate in the TPP? (TPPへの参加は有益か) について、以下4人のモデルオピニオンを聞き、空欄を埋めなさい。

Pro



I think so. **It is often pointed out** that the TPP will stimulate _____ trade and economic development. It will also improve our daily lives. It will make it easier for us to buy _____ products and travel abroad.

Yoshiko from Japan



I totally agree. The TPP trade agreement will promote healthy _____. It will drive _____ industries to increase their price competitiveness.



Simon from the U.S.

Con

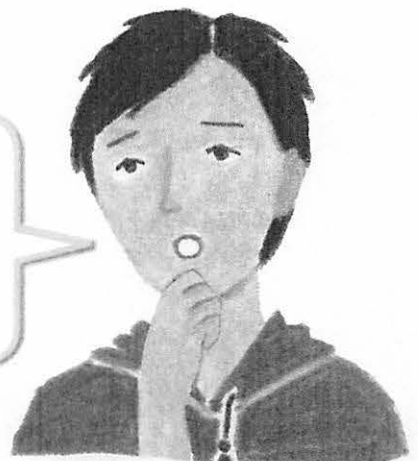


I don't think so. China can't totally _____ the U.S.-led TPP. Although the currently strong Chinese economy will not be _____ by the TPP, it may **have a negative influence on** the Chinese economy in the future.

Wei from China



I disagree. **Our biggest concern is that** the TPP trade agreement can _____ some domestic industries. I'm afraid some industries can't _____ severe competition and many people may lose their jobs.



Taro from Japan

Useful Expressions

議論に使える表現を覚えましょう。



1. It is often pointed out that... …とよく指摘されている

It is often pointed out that the TPP will bring disadvantages to domestic industries protected by trade barriers and government subsidies.

(TPPは貿易障壁や政府の補助金で保護されている国内産業にとって、不利になるとよく指摘されている)

2. have a ~ influence on... …に~な影響を与える

The TPP trade agreement is said to have a profound influence on the regional economy and public life.

(TPPは地域経済と国民の生活に多大な影響を及ぼすと言われている)

3. Our biggest concern is that... 最大の懸念は…

Our biggest concern is that many foreign agricultural products will not meet the food safety standards of our country.

(最大の懸念は、多くの外国の農作物がわが国の食の安全基準を満たさないということだ)

Discussion

モデルオピニオンを参考にし、どちらの議論がより説得力があるか考えなさい。またその根拠を話し合ってみましょう。

I [think / don't think] that it is beneficial to participate in the TPP because
