

Statement of Co-chair
Tomochika UYAMA
Minister, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines
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At Siem Reap, Cambodia

My name is Tomochika Uyama, a Manila based diplomat, covering ODA, trade matters including WTO and FTA, as well as support of Japanese business in the Philippines.

It is my honor to assume the post for co-chairing the RTG, or Regional Technical Group with Director General Sok Sopheak of Cambodian Ministry of Commerce.

I fully agree with his statement, so, therefore, I would like to limit myself to add a few words in my personal capacity.

Since the WTO Ministerial Meeting in Hong Kong in 2005, "Aid for Trade" has been drawn greater attention both in trade and development circles.

"Aid for Trade" has been talked about in many conferences and seminars from both technical and political perspectives.

We have witnessed so many experiences in Asia, including success stories.

We also have learned lessons and recognized future challenges as well particularly at the time of global economic crisis.

We know from our own experience that economic development cannot be accomplished without trade, and that poverty alleviation efforts as well as various social programs cannot be sustainable without the firm basis of economic growth.

In other words, "trade" is a key for overall development process.

We understand that, under certain conditions, ODA could be a strong instrument for encouraging trade, but ODA alone cannot create trade.

"Ownership" is the key, and we know that many success stories in Asia are driven by the

efforts of governments and other stakeholders with full sense of ownership.

Based on the discussions in the first meeting of the RTG and consistent with the statement made earlier by Mr. Sok, I would like to point out the following.

First, part of the work of the RTG could be an analytical exercise learning from experiences.

Second, we also try to make common policy directions by which we hope the RTG be able to make contributions to the global AfT process.

I would like to thank the secretariat of WTO and ADB, in particular Dr. Wignaraja for his tremendous contributions for this event and the start of the RTG process. I also wish to ask members of RTG as well as ADB and other various institutions for their support so that the RTG will be able to make valuable achievements.