

## **THE DIET PETITION FOR OPPOSING JAPAN'S JOINING THE TPP NEGOTIATIONS**

(November 10, 2011)

JA (Japan Agricultural Co-operatives) Group has been making efforts to send a petition to the Diet for opposing Japan's joining the TPP negotiations. As of November 10, the total number of Diet members, who support and introduce it into the Diet deliberation, reaches 365.

The fact that more than half of the all Diet members (total is 722) showed their willingness to put their names on supporter's list indicates how strong oppositions many Diet members have against joining the TPP.

The petition requests that;

1. the government should not join the TPP, since it could not only undermine our efforts to raise food sufficiency ratio, but also devastate local economies and communities where many residents are involved in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and would drastically change our nation by forcing Japan to amend its systems and standards on medical services, insurance, employment and food safety, and
2. the government should establish measures to ensure stable supply of safe food and energy, to promote sustainable development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, to stabilize local economies, communities and employment therein, and to conserve the environment, in response to Japanese people's demand.

"The Democratic Party of Japan" (126/406)

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"The Liberal Democratic Party of Japan" (166/199)

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“Your Party” (1/16)

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“The People's New Party” (4/6)

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"The Sunrise Party of Japan" (4/5)

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"New Renaissance Party" (1/2)

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"New Party Nippon" (1/1)

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"Independents" (11/20)

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ITOKAZU Keiko

Total Number of Signatures: 365

## **ACTIONS OF THE JA GROUP FOR COLLECTIONS OF 10 MILLION SIGNATURES FOR OPPOSING JAPAN'S JOINING TPP NEGOTIATIONS**

### **Background**

Being strongly concerned about the government's intention to consider participating in Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), JA(Japan Agricultural Co-operatives) Group started this January the "Nationwide collections of 10 million signatures for opposing Japan's joining TPP Negotiations" in order to protect food, environment and national land from the possible damage caused by TPP and to enhance development of agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as the local economies and communities, in collaboration with various organizations ranging from agricultural producers to consumers, medical workers, and labors.

Given the fact that the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake suspended the collection of signatures in most regions, this large number of the signatures, which were collected with the limited time until the end of September, indicates how broadly strong opposition against TPP is shared in Japan.

JA Group makes a strong request that the Prime Minister, the Government and both the ruling and the opposition parties take these voices seriously and not join TPP negotiations.

### **Petition**

- The government is now considering its participation in TPP negotiations. Once Japan joins the TPP agreement, which would not allow any exception to tariff elimination, agriculture, forestry and fisheries would be lost, and local economies and communities would be collapsed with their related industries diminished. Moreover TPP could possibly force systems and standards to be changed in various areas including finance, insurance and food safety, and could lead to drastic changes in our society and lifestyle.
- What Japan needs now is not to pursue short-term economic benefit, destructing environment or widening economic gap, but to ensure stable supply of safe food in response to people's demand and to stabilize local economies, communities and employment, for which agriculture, forestry and fisheries play important roles. We will not be able to permanently continue the reliance on the rest of the world for food supply. Each country should endeavor to increase its food production and stabilize local communities, preparing for future population growth and other global change.
- We strongly request that the Japanese Government will not join TPP negotiations. It is because we want to make sure that people keep building a dignified nation, appreciate nature's blessings, show respect to food supply, protect beautiful rural villages, support each other and continue our life in satisfactory manner.

### **Outcome**

- 11,668,809 (total number of signatures as of September 30, 2011).