

Activities on Supply Chain Review and Strengthening

In order to promote the exchange of opinions on the review of supply chains and the reconsideration of mutual complementation, a Working Group (WG) on Supply Chain Review and Strengthening was established in 2020 as a lower branch of the FTA and Trade Subcommittee in JAPIA and began to act.

First, a questionnaire was used to identify problems related to supply chain review and strengthening. The WG then categorized, prioritized, and scrutinized the issues, dividing them into three categories: those for submitting opinions to the government, those for exchanging opinions with experts, etc., and those for exchanging opinions among member companies.

The issues were repeatedly scrutinized from the viewpoint of "activities of an industry association," narrowed down to 14 issues, and the activities were completed before September 30, 2021.

Responding to the tight international logistics situation

The JAPIA has been working to address the tightening of international logistics and soaring prices that have become apparent since around the end of 2020 through two working groups: the International Logistics Working Group and the Review and Strengthening of Supply Chains Working Group.

In February 2021, four shippers' organizations (Japan Machinery Exporters' Association, Japan Foreign Trade Council, Japan Electronics and Information Technology Industries Association, and JAPIA) jointly submitted a written request to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism and the Ministry of Economy,

Trade and Industry. Subsequently, through two information sharing meetings held by the public and private sectors in April and January (2022), we obtained information on the status of ports in the U.S. Individual discussions were also held with related industry associations such as the Japan Air Cargo Forwarders Association and the Logistics Planning Office of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, but unfortunately, the tight international logistics situation has not improved.

The JAPIA will continue its activities in FY2022.

Responding to EPA Originality Surveys

With the aim of promoting the use of EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements), JAPIA has been strengthening its cooperation with JAMA. In order to use EPAs, it is necessary to prove the origin of exported products, which is complicated and burdensome. As an activity to reduce this burden, even partially, and to reduce the burden on the entire supply chain, JAMA and JAPIA have jointly launched activities to organize and simplify the domestic operational procedures.

In addition, as an example of adopting an electronic platform, etc., that contributes to reducing the burden on subcontractors, JAMA and JAPIA studied the wording with JAFTAS in mind and included it in the September 2021 revision of the guidelines for appropriate transactions in the automotive industry.