



EU-JAPAN CENTRE FOR INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

日欧産業協力センター

Seminar Report

“Control of Animal Diseases”

May 14, 2018 Tokyo

The EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation co-organized a seminar on animal health together with the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission on May 14, 2018 in Tokyo. Considering highly specialized nature of theme, participation was limited to the personnel of Japanese government organizations and EU diplomats stationed in Japan. Total number of participants were slightly over 50. As regard to the Japanese speakers, we obtained a full cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

Mr. Francesco Fini, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Japan stressed in his opening remarks the importance of sanitary and phytosanitary measures have on international trade. He recalled that disproportionate reactions to disease outbreaks could cause immediate economic damage for the exporting country while the sanitary risks of trade should be well addressed. He expressed his hope that the seminar would become an important step towards a mutual recognition agreement between the EU and Japan on such a policy instrument as regionalization.

Mr. Philippe de Taxis du Poet, newly appointed EU-side General Manager of the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation briefly touched upon various activities of the Centre. As an organization for promoting all forms of EU-Japan cooperation in the field of industry, trade and investment, implementing the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) is a top priority, he said. It is noteworthy that the EU-Japan cooperation on animal health will be promoted under the bilateral EPA as sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Dr. Norio Kumagai, Chief Veterinary Officer, Director of Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau of the MAFF gave presentation on Japan's animal health systems. In addition to a general explanation on current system, Dr. Kumagai explained measures against such diseases as foot and mouth disease (FMD) and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), and introduced Japan's international cooperation activities including a trilateral cooperation among Japan, China and Korea (ROK).

Dr. Andrea Gavinelli, Head of Unit, Official Controls and Eradication of Diseases in

Animals, DG SANTE gave two lectures successively, i.e. “EU Animal Health System” and “Maintaining Animal Health in the EU Single Market”. In the first lecture, Dr. Gavinelli explained veterinary control system in the EU, centering around various “tools” such as harmonized legislation and the Animal Diseases Notification System (ADNS). As a conclusion, Dr. Gavinelli stressed the importance of securing easier and safer trade of animals-derived products.

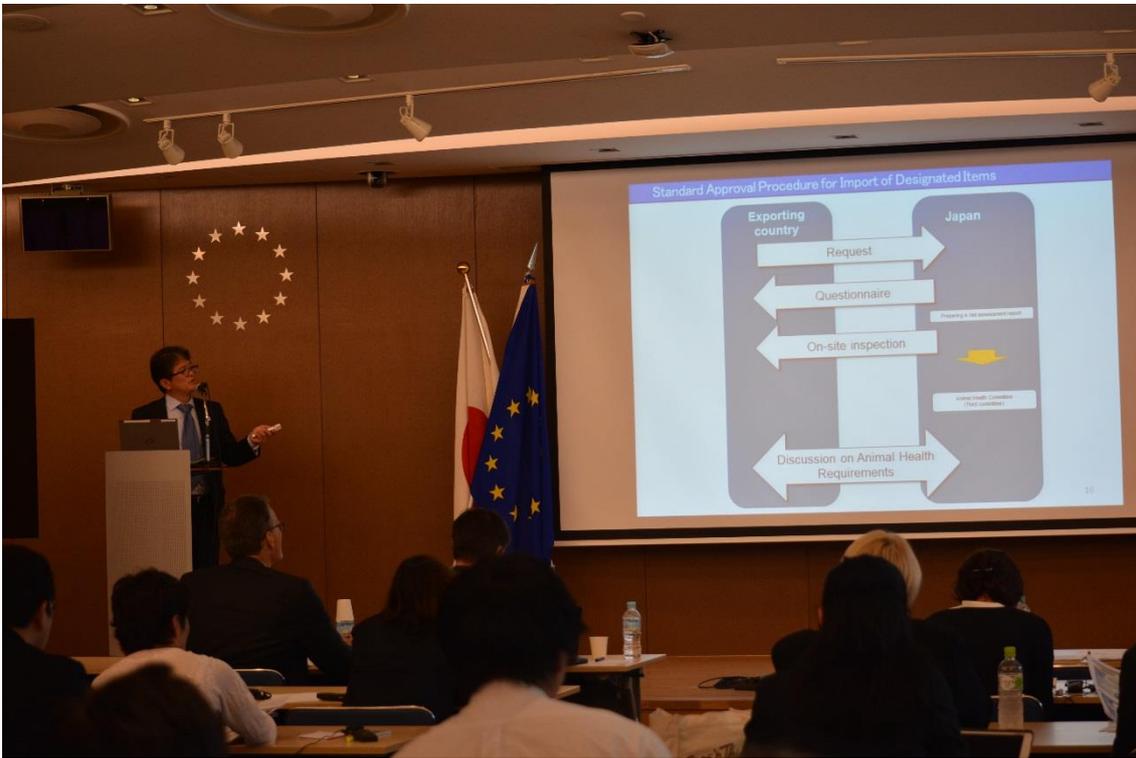
In the second lecture, Dr. Gavinelli explained that in the EU Single Market the controls at borders between member states had been abolished. Country-based disease control became obsolete and was replaced by the regionalization – region-based containment measures. He explained how EU’s regionalization works, referring to the actual cases of African swine fever and avian influenza outbreaks.

Dr. Masatsugu Okita, Director of International Animal Health Affairs Office, Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, MAFF made presentation on key principles of effective regionalization measures in Japan. He explained regionalization applied both to exports from Japan and imports to Japan. As for imports, regionalization has already been applied to live poultry, poultry products and pork from specific countries. Dr. Okita also explained the system of risk assessment in applying regionalization.

Key principles of effective regionalization measures in the EU were explained by Dr. Gavinelli and Dr. Koen Van Dyke, Head of Unit, Bilateral International Relations, DG SANTE. While Dr. Gavinelli spoke about key elements for successful regionalization in the EU, Dr. Van Dyke explained about audit and bilateral arrangements with the United States and Canada. Dr. Van Dyke emphasized the importance of transparency as well as swift response as key elements for successful regionalization in bilateral arrangement with trading partners.

After the presentations, the possibility of further cooperation between the EU and Japan was discussed.

Prepared by Toshiro Fukura, Manager, Policy Seminars and Analysis



Dr. Norio Kumagai speaks on the Japanese animal health system



Panel discussion by Dr. Andrea Gavinelli, Dr. Koen Van Dyke and Dr. Masatsugu Okita