

The First Meeting of the Public-Private Council for the Promotion of
Appropriate Ivory Trade Measures
Summary

➤ **Date and time**

Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 14:00–15:30

➤ **Venue**

Common Meeting Room 5, 17th floor, Main Building of the Ministry of Economy,
Trade and Industry

➤ **Members** (“*” indicates Secretariat of the Council)

[Public Sector]

- Ministry of the Environment*
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry*
- National Police Agency
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Finance

[Private Sector]

- Ihojohotou Taio Renrakukai
(Liaison group with a view to tackling illegal transactions composed of the following four telecom
and internet business associations .
Telecommunications Carriers Association (TCA), Telecom Service Association (TELESA), Japan
Internet Providers Association (JAIPA), Japan Cable and Telecommunications Association (JCTA))
- THE JAPANESE SEAL ENGRAVERS ASSOCIATION
- Zenkoku Inban Yohin Shoko Rengokai (Association for Seal and Stamp Products
Companies of Japan)
- DeNA Co., Ltd.
- TRAFFIC East Asia=Japan
- JAPAN FEDERATION OF IVORY ARTS AND CRAFTS ASSOCIATIONS*
- Yahoo Japan Corporation*
- Rakuten, Inc.

[Experts]

- Prof. Nobuo Ishii, Tokyo Woman’s Christian University
- Prof. Yoshio Kaneko, Iwate Prefectural University

➤ **Agenda**

1. Explanation on the Purpose of Establishment of and Terms of Reference of the Council
2. Sharing Information on the Current Situation Surrounding Ivory Trade
3. Efforts toward Thorough and Appropriate Implementation of and Dissemination of Information on Japan's Ivory Trade Control
4. Consideration on Possible Further Measures for Implementation and Dissemination of Information for Better Understanding
5. Wrap-up and Future Work Plan

➤ **Summary of Discussions**

1. Explanation on the Purpose of Establishment of and Terms of Reference of the Council

In order to promote efforts such as on thorough and appropriate implementation of the domestic trade control for ivory and ivory products, and further dissemination of relevant information in Japan and overseas, the Secretariat explained on the idea of establishment of and terms of reference of the Council in which expertise is gathered from a variety of stakeholders. Upon Secretariat's explanation, the participants agreed on the establishment of the "Public-Private Council for the Promotion of Appropriate Ivory Trade Measures" and its terms of reference.

2. Sharing Information on the Current Situation Surrounding Ivory Trade

- a) Based on a document entitled "[Japan's View on and Efforts for Conservation of African Elephants and Trade in Ivory](#)", the public sector side provided information on the current situation surrounding ivory trade control of Japan as well as standpoint of the government on the ivory trade. Furthermore, recent international trend was presented and it was mentioned that some countries are becoming critical even for legal domestic markets of ivory and ivory products, in which context making some Parties of the CITES to submit draft proposals urging total closure of domestic trade in ivory and ivory products at the upcoming Conference of the Parties this year.
- b) A Council Members introduced topics such as change in estimated population of African elephants (*Loxodonta Africana*), increase in the number of exposed cases of illegal trade in raw and worked ivory worldwide, changes in business categories handling ivory and ivory products over time in Japan, and cases of illegal export from Japan to overseas (as reported by the press of the importing country of seizure). The Member made proposals to address challenges that Japan is facing today with regard to ivory trade.

- d) Moreover, some Members evoked that while there is a global common understanding among experts that sustainable use of wildlife resources would contribute to conservation of wildlife resources, it is not very easy for the general public to intuitively understand the logic. Therefore, it was pointed out that addressing to the general public is essential to gaining public understanding of the above logic.
- e) Furthermore, a remark was made that no large-scale smuggling cases of ivory destined to Japan in a third country of transit nor at the Japanese customs have been reported in recent years and consequently it is unthinkable that use of poached ivory is rampant in Japan, as allegedly pointed out by some overseas NGOs.

3. Efforts toward Thorough and Appropriate Implementation of and Dissemination of Information on Japan's Ivory Trade Control

Council Members presented their activities ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations relating to domestic ivory trade as well as their efforts on dissemination of information on the activities.

4. Consideration on Possible Further Measures for Implementation and Dissemination of Information for Better Understanding

- a) Building upon the discussion above, the Secretariat proposed to the Members to consider the following topics:
 - 1) further strengthen dissemination of information not only in Japan but also overseas; and
 - 2) enhance appropriate and thorough implementation of the domestic trade control, mainly focusing on:
 - i) thorough implementation of the whole tusk registration system and further public awareness raising on the registration system;
 - ii) thorough implementation of registration rules applied to entities intending to engage in ivory business activities; and
 - iii) ensuring appropriate ivory trade in e-commerce market.
- b) After some discussion as to whether consideration over domestic trade regulation is necessary or not, an agreement has been reached to progress discussions on above-mentioned four items 1) and 2) i) through iii), and to add other items in the Council's scope as necessary.

5. Wrap-up and Future Work Plan

After summarizing discussions, the Secretariat proposed a work plan. The Council agreed that:

- 1) the Council will hold the second meeting in July;
- 2) the Secretariat and relevant Members will continue detailed discussion and coordination to identify further possible measures to be conducted before the second meeting, building upon the discussions of this meeting; and
- 3) the Council will officially announce the outcome of its work.