

**The comments of the Government of Japan on the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review (7 July 2008)**

1. The Government of Japan does not have any particular comment on the issues being reviewed by the Quarantine and Biosecurity Review Panel, in relation to the TOR of this review or the Issues Paper released by the Panel.
  
2. On the other hand, the Government of Japan has keen interests in the substance of this review, including the ALOP (Appropriate Level of Sanitary or Phytosanitary Protection) and public communication. Therefore, it would be highly appreciated if the Government of Australia could provide as much information as possible regarding the final report of this review, as well as possible changes to quarantine and biosecurity arrangements.
  
3. Recently one of the important policies of the Government of Japan has been to promote exports of Japanese agricultural, forestry and fishery products. The Governments of Japan and Australia have had technical discussions on quarantine arrangements for some products, in which the Japanese side is especially interested in better access to markets in Australia.

The Government of Japan is of the view that these quarantine technical discussions should continue to be held in good faith and in a steady manner, based on scientific knowledge, even if the Government of Australia makes some changes to quarantine and biosecurity arrangements on the basis of the final report of this review.