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TPP and Japanese Agriculture

A Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement is currently under negotiation to create a trading bloc among 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific. While its participants were initially New Zealand, Singapore, Chile and Brunei, they expanded subsequently to include the United States and Japan. A TPP seeks to be a '21st century trade agreement' with elimination of tariffs and comprehensive rules on goods, services and intellectual property, but it generates controversy in existing and potential entrants in the negotiations. Against this background, my presentation addresses the following questions: (i) why has the TPP succeeded in expanding despite the fact that its original members were all tiny countries? (ii) why is the participation to the TPP negotiations so controversial not only in Japan but also other countries? (iii) what will be the impacts of tariff elimination on Japanese food and agriculture under the TPP? (iv) what will be the prospect of concluding negotiations in the near term?

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Dr. Sakuyama earned a M.Sc. in agricultural economics with distinction from University of London, a M.A. in development economics from University of Sussex and a Ph.D. in international economics from Aoyama Gakuin University. He joined in Japanese Ministry of Agriculture in 1988 and served as an agricultural attaché at the Japanese Delegation to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris and an economist at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. In the Ministry, Dr. Sakuyama engaged in such negotiations as the Doha Round in the World Trade Organization, a free trade agreement with Switzerland and Japan's participation in the TPP. He is a co-author of *Payment for Environmental Services in Agricultural Landscapes* published from Springer in 2008.