

DAY 3: Wednesday, 22 March 2017

Role of Chairpersons in mobilizing Support for WTO accessions

My name is Ryosuke KUWANA. I am the DPR of the Mission of Japan in Geneva. I am also the chair for the Sudan's accession working party.

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the host of this event, the Government of Cambodia, for their warm hospitality, as well as to the sponsor, the Government of China, and the Organizer, the WTO Secretariat, for giving me this opportunity.

It is a great honor for me to address such a distinguished audience.

I have been involved in the trade issue for some time, and also involved in the accession process of Russia, Kazakhstan and some other countries.

However, I took up the post of the chair of Sudan's Accession Working Party last year.

So, the job of chair is new to me. And I don't know how much I can contribute to the discussions today.

But I will do my best and I also would like to learn as much as I can from such distinguished and knowledgeable colleagues, many of whom have already participated in the accession process to the WTO.

Today, I would like to talk about

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What happened at that time, almost 90 years ago, was a very good example of a vicious cycle.

First, it started with the financial crisis, which caused a downward spiral of the economy, then came a wave of trade protectionism in many countries, which resulted in a severe contraction of global trade and further contraction of the world economy.

This economic downturn and bloc economy was a

For example, the World Bank financed a wide variety of projects such as power plants, steel mills and public transportation systems.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Highway Network and high-speed railroad "Shinkansen" were funded by the World Bank. The Bank contributed not only through financing, but also through its advice on project management.

At that time there wasn't such a concept as Aid for Trade. But, maybe in effect that was Aid for Trade in its early days.

So, the Multilateral Trading System and International Assistance including Aid for Trade have been essential

This reactivation has been possible thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Sudan's technical team under the overall guidance by the chief negotiator Dr. TAHA and Team S of the WTO Secretariat. I would like to commend their efforts.

I should admit the challenge ahead of us is huge. But I think that Sudan has several advantages or necessary elements for an early conclusion of the process.

The first element is collective understanding and conviction that WTO accession is indispensable for the development of its economy. I am sure that Dr.

and a great need for technical assistance. There are many potential donors such as the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, EIF, or bilateral donors. I would like to call for additional support for LDCs, especially for Sudan.

The sixth element is a good communication and coordination among the parties concerned. Especially good communication and coordination between the capital and Geneva are essential. I think Sudan is doing well in this area, too.

So Sudan has a lot of advantages in its favor. Although the target is ambitious and time and resources are limited, we will make our utmost effort to advance in this challenge.

4) Role of the Chair.

Formally, the function of the chair is to preside over working party meetings.

But that is just a part of the work. Even with my short experience as the chair, I have found out that the chair's function is much more than that.

I think that the chair is expected to facilitate the accession process in many different ways.

This would involve; listening carefully to the acceding government, the members and the secretariat;

helping to promote mutual understanding and identify problems, if any, and helping them to find a landing zone to solve those issues

As I will be visiting Sudan in two weeks, this would be my next big challenge, sending out a positive message