

## **PRESS RELEASE**

<p><b>STATEMENT ON STRENGTHENING BILATERAL EXPORT CONTROL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF JAPAN AND SINGAPORE CUSTOMS</b></p>
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The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI), and Singapore Customs have today agreed to strengthen their ties of close partnership in the field of export control policy.

2        Given the present international situation, the development and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery pose a genuine threat to our common security. Under such circumstances, preventing the proliferation of WMD and related items and technology is becoming increasingly important for the sustainable development of the Asian region.

3        Despite active efforts by some Asian countries and regions to strengthen domestic legal frameworks to implement more effective export control systems, illicit procurement of WMD-related materials by countries of concern have not abated. Perpetrators have in fact become more cunning and creative in circumventing existing controls. The two authorities thus believe that it is essential for countries in this and other regions to collectively establish strong channels for cooperation and information exchange in order to prevent the illicit procurement of, and trade in, WMD-related material.

4        From this viewpoint, METI and Singapore Customs, through a series of bilateral discussions on both countries' export control policies, have decided to cooperate in areas such as, (a) enhancing export control implementation and enforcement through exchange of related information, (b) conducting outreach activities to encourage companies to implement effective internal export control compliance measures, and (c) encouraging other Asian countries to introduce domestic legal framework to implement export control.

5        METI and Singapore Customs recognise that stringent export control, particularly those consistent with international non-proliferation treaties and regimes, is the key to increasing stability in regional security in Asia, and will continue to undertake these cooperative efforts to promote this partnership effectively.

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**Japan METI**  
**Singapore Customs**  
22 April 2004