

Japan may file WTO complaint over China's chip row

AFP, Tokyo

Japan said Friday it may file a complaint against China's tax policies with the World Trade Organization (WTO) if necessary, after similar action taken by the United States.

Japan will seek to join a dispute between the United States and China about tax breaks for its domestic integrated circuit industry as a third-party country, trade minister Shoichi Nakagawa told a news conference.

"We have both interest in and concerns about the dispute," he said a day after the United States launched the first WTO complaint against China, attacking its preferential tax treatment to integrated circuits produced in China.

Under WTO rules, a third group of countries can join WTO negotiations with an observer status if the countries involved express their consent.

"The request for our participation into their talks is part of our efforts to gather information so that Japanese semiconductor compa-

nies can avoid having a disadvantage," a trade ministry official said.

"We are not at the stage to file a complaint with the WTO immediately but we are considering taking action in the future if necessary," the official said without elaborating further.

By filing the WTO case, the United States triggered a 60-day consultation period. If those talks fail, Washington can ask for a WTO panel to consider whether China is breaking the rules.

It was the first WTO complaint filed against China by any of the 146 members since Beijing joined the organisation in December 2001.

Many Americans blame a tide of Chinese imports for displacing US industry, and for contributing to the loss of 2.8 million manufacturing jobs in the past three years although US firms have moved some of their output bases to China.

The US trade deficit bulged unexpectedly to a record 43.1 billion dollars in January, nearly a quarter of it with China.

China working to resolve first WTO trade spat with US

AFP, Shanghai

China said Friday it is working with the United States to resolve a dispute over its tax system for domestic chip companies after Washington launched a complaint to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Ministry of Commerce has yet to receive any official documentation but said it was in touch with its US trade counterparts in hopes of finding

resolution.

"We are negotiating with the US side," said a commerce ministry spokesman, surnamed Huang.

The US challenge lodged Thursday is the first WTO complaint filed against China by any member of the global trade body since Beijing joined the organization in December 2001.

"China is discriminating against key US technology products; it's

wrong and it's time to pursue a remedy through the WTO," US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said.

Japan weighed in Friday by saying it could seek to join the dispute between the United States and China with similar action on behalf of its own chip industry as an interested third party, which is allowed under WTO rules.

"We have both an interest in, and concerns about the dispute," Trade

Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said.

"We are not at the stage of filing a complaint with the WTO immediately but we are considering taking action in the future if necessary," the minister said.

International chip makers such as Intel and Micron Technologies complain that Chinese government tax rebates of up to 14 percent for its fast growing 19-billion dollar semiconductor industry give domestic com-

panies an unfair advantage over imports.

China has flouted WTO rules by providing preferential tax treatment for chips produced in China, thereby disadvantaging US and other imports, Zoellick said.

"US manufacturers of semiconductors and other products have a right to compete on a level playing field with Chinese firms," he said.

Li Ke, a director at the China

Semiconductor Industry Association, expressed regret over the dispute, pledging to work toward a viable solution but also faulting US refusals to recognise that international chip makers in China were privy to the same rebates.

"There are lots of multinational corporations who invest in the Chinese semiconductor industry and they have been enjoying the same preferential treatment... so there's no discrimination," Li said.

BANKWISE LENDING RATE (PERCENTAGE PER ANNUM) March, 2004

Name of the Banks	Agriculture	Large and medium scale lending (TL)	Working Capital	Export	Other commercial lending	Small industry	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NCBs							
1. SONALI	5.00-9.00	9.00-11.00	11.00	7.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-10.50	12.00
2. JANATA	10.00	9.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	7.00	12.50	10.00	10.00-12.50
3. AGRANI	10.00	9.00-11.00	11.00	7.00	12.00	10.50	10.00-13.00
4. RUPALI	9.00	11.50	13.00	7.00	14.50-15.00	10.50-11.00	12.00-14.50
DFIs							
5. BKB	10.00	10.00	10.00	7.00	12.00	10.00	10.00-12.00
6. BSB	10.00	9.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	7.00	12.00-12.50	9.00-11.00	10.00-14.50
7. RAKUB	10.00	10.00	10.00-12.00	7.00	14.00	10.00	11.00-12.00
8. BSRS	-	10.00-11.00	12.00	7.00	12.00	10.00	10.00-13.50
9. BASIC	9.00	9.50-11.00	10.00-12.00	7.00	12.00	11.00-11.50	12.00
PCBs							
10. PUBALI	8.00-10.00	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.00	7.00	13.00-14.00	11.00-12.00	12.00-14.00
11. UTTARA	10.00	13.00	14.00	7.00	14.00	12.50	12.50-14.50
12. AB-BANK	8.00-11.00	13.00-14.50	9.00-14.25	7.00	10.00-15.00	10.00-11.00	9.00-15.00
13. IFIC	10.00-12.00	13.00-14.50	13.00-14.50	7.00	13.00-14.50	13.00-14.00	11.00-14.50
14. ISLAMIC	10.00	13.50	13.50	7.00	13.50-14.00	12.50	12.50-14.50
15. NBL	12.00-14.50	14.00-14.50	14.00-14.50	7.00	14.00-16.00	13.00-14.00	13.00-16.00
16. THE CITY	11.00-15.00	12.00-15.00	12.00-15.00	7.00	12.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	9.00-18.00
17. UCBL	10.00	14.00	14.00	7.00	13.50	12.00	13.00-15.00
18. ORIENTAL	12.00-14.00	14.00-16.00	14.00-16.00	7.00	14.00-16.00	12.00	14.00-16.00
19. EBI	11.00-16.00	12.50-16.50	10.00-15.50	7.00	13.00-16.00	14.00-16.00	16.00-18.00
20. NCCBL	10.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	7.00	13.00-15.00	10.00	13.00-15.00
21. PRIME	10.00-12.00	12.00-13.50	12.50-13.50	7.00	12.50-14.00	12.00-14.00	12.50-15.00
22. SOUTHEAST	9.00-12.00	12.00-14.00	12.00-14.00	7.00	13.00-14.00	12.00-13.00	13.00-14.00
23. DHAKA	7.00-10.00	11.00-14.00	10.00-14.00	7.00	11.00-14.00	9.00-12.00	10.00-18.00
24. AL-ARAFAH	10.00-14.50	13.00-15.00	12.00-14.50	7.00	12.00-15.00	10.00-15.00	12.00-14.50
25. SIBL	10.00	12.50-14.00	12.00-14.00	7.00	12.00-14.00	12.00-14.00	8.00-14.00
26. DUTCH-BANGLA	9.00	12.00	12.00	7.00	11.50-12.00	10.00	12.00
27. MERCANTILE	10.00	11.50-14.50	11.50-14.50	7.00	11.50-14.50	11.50-14.50	11.50-14.50
28. ONE BANK	8.00-10.00	12.00-15.00	8.00-15.00	7.00	12.00-15.00	11.00-13.00	12.00-15.00
29. EXIM	10.00-12.00	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.00	7.00	13.00-14.00	12.00-13.50	13.00-14.00
30. PREMIER	12.00	12.50-14.00	11.50-14.00	7.00	13.00-14.50	12.50-13.50	14.00-15.00
31. FIRST SECURITY	12.00	14.00	14.00	7.00	14.00	13.00	14.00
32. STANDARD	10.00-14.00	12.50-14.00	12.50-14.00	7.00	12.50-14.00	14.00	13.00-14.00
33. TRUST BANK	9.00-10.00	11.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	7.00	12.00-13.00	10.00-11.00	10.00-10.50
34. MUTUAL TRUST	9.00-10.00	12.50-13.50	12.50-13.50	7.00	12.50-13.50	10.00-11.00	12.50-13.50
35. BANK ASIA	9.00	14.00	14.00	7.00	14.00	12.00-13.00	11.50-14.00
36. BCBL	10.00	13.50	13.50	7.00	13.50	13.50	11.00
37. JAMUNA	10.00	12.00-14.00	13.00-14.00	7.00	13.00-15.00	12.00-14.00	11.00-15.00
38. SHAHJALAL	10.00-13.50	12.00-15.50	7.00-15.50	7.00	10.00-15.50	12.50-15.50	12.50-15.50
39. BRAC	9.00-12.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	7.00	13.00-24.00	16.00-18.00	12.00-19.00
Fbs							
40. AMEX	-	10.50-13.75	8.25-12.50	7.00	8.25-13.00	-	7.00-15.00
41. COMMERCIAL B.	7.00-9.00	9.50-12.50	7.75-12.00	7.00	9.50-12.50	8.00-10.00	10.00-13.00
42. ST. CHARTERED	8.50-12.00	10.00-13.25	8.50-13.00	7.00	9.00-13.50	10.00-13.75	7.00-19.50
43. HABIB	10.00	12.50-14.50	12.50-14.50	7.00	13.00-14.50	12.50-14.50	12.50-14.50
44. SBI	10.00-11.00	12.00-13.00	12.50-14.50	7.00	12.50-14.50	13.00-13.00	13.50
45. NBP	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	7.00	14.00-16.00	13.00-15.00	14.00-16.00
46. CITI N.A.	10.00-12.00	11.50-13.50	8.50-14.00	7.00	9.50-14.00	9.00-11.00	8.50-14.00
47. WOORI	7.00-12.00	10.50-14.00	7.00-14.00	7.00	12.00-14.00	10.00-11.00	11.00-14.00
48. SHAMIL	10.00	12.00-14.00	10.00-12.00	7.00	12.00-14.00	11.00-13.00	12.00-13.00
49. HSBC	-	11.00-14.00	9.00-14.00	7.00	-	-	11.00-19.00

Banks are permitted to differentiate in lending rates to individual borrowers not more than 3% in the same lending category.

BANKWISE DEPOSIT RATE (PERCENTAGE PER ANNUM) March, 2004

Name of the Banks	Savings Deposit	Fixed Deposit				
		3 months but<6 months	6 months but<1 year	1 year but<2 years	2 years but<3 years	3 years and above
1	2	3	4	5	6	
NCBs						
1. SONALI	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	
2. JANATA	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	
3. AGRANI	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	
4. RUPALI	4.50	6.25	6.50	7.00	7.25	
DFIs						
5. BKB	4.50	6.25	6.50	7.00	7.25	
6. BSB	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	
7. RAKUB	4.50	6.25	6.50	7.00	7.25	
8. BSRS	4.50	6.25	6.50	7.00	7.25	
9. BASIC	6.00	7.00	7.50	7.75	8.00	
PCBs						
10. PUBALI	4.25	6.00	6.25	6.75	7.00	
11. UTTARA	5.50	7.00	7.25	7.50	8.00	
12. AB-BANK	6.50	8.25	8.50	9.00	9.25	
13. IFIC	6.50	7.75-8.50	8.00-8.75	8.25-9.00	-	
14. ISLAMIC	5.50	6.50	6.80	7.20	7.50	
15. NBL	7.00	8.00-10.00	8.25-10.25	8.50-10.50	9.25-11.25	
16. THE CITY	5.50-6.00	7.50-8.50	7.75-8.75	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	
17. UCBL	6.50	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	
18. ORIENTAL	7.50	8.50	9.00	9.50	10.00	
19. EBI	5.50-7.00	8.50-9.00	9.00-9.50	9.50	-	
20. NCCBL	5.50	8.00-8.50	8.50-9.00	9.00-9.50	9.50	
21. PRIME	6.00-7.00	7.25-8.00	7.75-8.50	8.00-9.00	8.00-11.25	
22. SOUTHEAST	7.50	8.00-9.00	8.50-9.50	9.00-10.00	9.50-10.50	
23. DHAKA	6.00	8.25-9.00	8.50-9.25	8.75-9.50	8.75-9.50	
24. AL-ARAFAH	6.31	7.57	7.96	8.35	8.74	
25. SIBL	6.85	8.50	8.85	9.20	9.50	
26. DUTCH-BANGLA	7.00	7.25	7.75	8.00	8.25	
27. MERCANTILE	6.50	8.25-8.50	8.50-9.00	9.25-10.00	-	
28. ONE BANK	8.00	8.50-9.50	8.75-9.75	9.00-10.00	9.25-10.50	
29. EXIM	7.50	8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50	9.75-10.00	-	
30. PREMIER	6.50	9.00-9.50	9.50-10.00	10.00-10.50	-	
31. FIRST SECURITY	7.00	9.00	9.50	10.00	-	
32. STANDARD	7.00	9.00	9.50	10.00	10.50	
33. TRUST BANK	7.00	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.25	
34. MUTUAL TRUST	7.50	9.00-9.50	9.25-9.75	10.00-10.50	-	
35. BANK ASIA	7.00	8.75-9.00	9.25	9.50	-	
36. BCBL	5.00	8.25	8.50	8.75	9.00	
37. JAMUNA	7.00	8.50-8.75	9.00-9.50	9.75	10.00	
38. SHAHJALAL	6.50	9.00-10.00	9.25-10.25	9.50-10.50	9.75-10.75	
39. BRAC	5.50-6.50	7.75-8.75	8.25-9.25	8.25-9.25	8.25-9.25	
Fbs						
40. AMEX	5.00	6.25-7.75	6.50-8.25	6.75-8.50	-	
41. COMMERCIAL B.	5.00	7.00-7.75	7.50-8.00	7.50-8.00	6.50-7.50	
42. ST. CHARTERED	4.50-5.50	4.50-7.00	5.00-7.15	5.00-7.25	5.00-7.00	
43. HABIB	5.50	6.50	7.00	7.25	7.50	
44. SBI	5.50	6.50-6.75	7.00-7.25	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.00	
45. NBP	6.00	8.00-8.25	8.25-8.50	8.50-9.00	9.00-9.50	
46. CITI N.A.	5.00	6.25-6.75	6.75-7.25	7.00-7.25	7.00-7.25	
47. WOORI	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.00		