



Japan: C-store operators ready to go overseas with TPP agreement

Japanese convenience store operators will receive help from authorities to expand their business overseas after a new Pacific free trade pact was signed.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) accord will deregulate rules in the convenience store business in some TPP countries such as Malaysia and Vietnam, opening many investment opportunities for Japanese convenience store retailers, reported the Japan Times.

A meeting was held on Monday between the Industry Minister and leading convenience store operators. Japanese authorities showed their support to top executives from major retailers such as Seven-Eleven Japan, Lawson Inc., FamilyMart and Ministop - all of which pursue major overseas investments.

The agreement will be valid when at least 6 countries, accounting for 85% of the combined gross domestic product of the 12 signatories, ratify the treaty.