

### United States And Japan Hit Bumps On The Road To TPP Agreement *Shannon Doyle Barna*

Progress on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) currently is at a standstill while the United States and Japan engage in bilateral trade negotiations. Talks in April were not as fruitful as many had hoped, with issues surrounding automobiles and agriculture leaving the two countries at an impasse. Many in the United States are encouraging the Obama administration to hold firm to its negotiating position, suggesting that the TPP negotiations should not be concluded without serious concessions from Japan. [More »](#)

### Senate Commerce Committee Passes Manufacturing Bill *Lauren M. Donoghue*

On April 9, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation passed the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation (RAMI) Act of 2013, which aims to grow U.S. manufacturing by strengthening the collaboration between government, educational entities, and industry. The bill, S. 1468, was introduced by Senators Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) in August of 2013. It has bipartisan support with its fifteen cosponsors split almost evenly between Democrats and Republicans. [More »](#)

### WTO Panel Finds China's Export Restraints On Rare Earth Minerals Violate Trade Rules *Joseph Laroski*

On March 26, the World Trade Organization (WTO) released a dispute settlement panel report finding that China's imposition of export restraints on rare earths, tungsten, and molybdenum breach WTO rules. The United States, European Union and Japan had initiated this challenge in early 2012 claiming that China – through a variety of published and unpublished measures – imposed export duties, export quotas, limitations on the entities permitted to export, and other requirements on the export of rare earths, tungsten, and molybdenum in violation of commitments China made when it joined the WTO in 2001. [More »](#)

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## U.S. Customs And Border Protection Announces Three New Members Of Commercial Targeting And Analysis Center

*J. Michael Taylor, Christina M. Markus, and Patrick J. Togni*

Participating agencies jointly target commercial imports that threaten health and safety

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced on April 1 that three additional Federal agencies have formally joined the Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC). CTAC is designed to enhance the Federal government's ability to target commercial imports that pose threats to the health and safety of the American public and to address other border management goals. A key means of effectuating CTAC's goals is that personnel from all participating agencies work together at one location in Washington and also collaborate at ports around the country.

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## News Of Note

- **House Subcommittee Advances Bill Approving LNG Exports To WTO Members** – *P. Lee Smith and Alex McLamb* – On April 9, a House subcommittee voted to advance a bill seeking to expedite the licensing of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports to World Trade Organization (WTO) members. [More »](#)
- **Highlights from 2014 National Trade Estimate Report** – *Ben Popeck and Clint Long* – The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) published its annual National Trade Estimate Report in March. [More »](#)
- **Revised WTO Government Procurement Agreement Enters Into Force** – *Marcus Sohlberg and Erienne R. Kilgore* – The revised Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) entered into force on April 6. [More »](#)

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