

In Brief: WTO panel to examine Japan-Korea chip tiff

June 21 2006

The World Trade Organization said this week it would seat a panel to look at the tariff dispute between South Korea and Japan involving DRAM memory chips.

The WTO's Dispute Settlement Board panel is a response to South Korea's objection to 27-percent countervailing duties imposed in January on imports of Korean-made DRAM (Dynamic Random Access Memories) products, which are commonly used in personal computers.

The South Korean government argues that the duties violated the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Tokyo said the duties were a response to de facto government subsidies of the Korean DRAM industry and was confident they complied with WTO standards.

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