**WTO CHALLENGES AUSTRALIAN INTERPRETATION:** A WTO Dispute Panel ruled this week Australia had not correctly followed some anti-dumping rules when imposing duties on A4 paper imported from Indonesia. The Panel recommended Australia bring its measures into conformity with global rules.

**JAPAN’S PARLIAMENT APPROVES US TRADE AGREEMENT:** The Japanese Diet (Parliament) voted this week in favour of the recently signed US-Japan Trade Agreement. USTR Lighthizer welcomed Japan’s quick action saying he expected President Trump to sign an implementing proclamation next week.

**AUSTRALIA TO PROTECT EXPORT WINE BRANDS:** Legislation was introduced to Parliament this week to establish a public-facing online database of export wines in a bid to prevent copycat and fake labelling. Agriculture Minister McKenzie said the database would help build consumer confidence in export markets.

**HONG KONG & THAILAND TO PURSUE FTA:** Hong Kong and Thai officials agreed this week to commence exploratory talks on a free trade agreement. This followed a visit to Bangkok by Hong Kong Chief Executive Lam where she met with Prime Minister Prayut. Negotiations for an FTA could begin in 2021.

**AUSTRALIA SCORES RECORD TRADE SURPLUS:** Australia this week reported a record $21.1 billion trade surplus in the quarter ended September 2019. Trade Minister Birmingham said the result demonstrated Australian exporters were reaping the benefits of increased market access delivered by the Government.

**INDIA TO BOOST ONION IMPORTS:** The Indian Government has announced a further series of country-specific and global onion tenders in a bid to address supply shortages and rising prices. The Government had earlier banned onion exports and directed states to ensure strict action against hoarding.

**STADIUM ARCHITECT WINS AUSTRALIAN EXPORT AWARD:** Populous, a global designer of sports and entertainment stadiums with its Asia-Pacific regional headquarters in Brisbane, was this week named as Australian Exporter of the Year 2019. Thirteen exporters were recognized in the annual awards.

**NZ PUBLISHES TRADE-FOR-ALL REPORT:** Trade Minister Parker expects the Government to respond in early 2020 to a Trade-for-All Advisory Board report. It says trade policy should avoid future governments having to choose between their election policies and remaining in existing international agreements.

**MALAYSIA SEEKS TO BOOST TRADE WITH JAPAN:** Trade Minister Leiking was in Japan along with 60 Malaysian companies this week in a bid to boost trade and investment in such sectors as aerospace, automotive, infrastructure, machinery, medical devices, green technology and the Halal industry.

**TAIWAN FACES NEW ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES:** The US Commerce Department has announced a final determination of anti-dumping duties of 32.26 per cent on imports of carbon and alloy steel threaded rod from Taiwan. A final ruling on the case is due in January.