

Press Conference by Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama
(June 30, 2020)

Q: How would Japan respond to Korea's request for establishing a WTO panel on export control issues? What is your plan on the Export Control Policy Dialogue?

A: Korea's unilateral action is deeply regrettable as it would undermine previous agreements at the Japan-Korea Export Control Policy Dialogues where both sides agreed to explore resolution of issues of concern through dialogues and communications. I understand that, from such a point of view, Japan did not agree to the establishment of the WTO panel at the Dispute Settlement Body meeting held yesterday.

Japan believes both countries should continue to explore resolution of issues of concern through dialogues. Thus, I want to urge Korea to come back to the table, and suspend the WTO process so that we can relaunch the Export Control Policy Dialogues.

In any event, our update of the export licensing policies and procedures is WTO-consistent and does not disrupt supply chains. Japan will continue to deal with the WTO process in accordance with the relevant provisions under the WTO Agreement.

Q: One question of export control. It's been a year since Japan excluded Korea from the white-list countries. Japan-Korea relations have become so bad for a year. Minister Kajiyama, I want to hear your thoughts on that. Also, Korea concerns Japan's announcement yesterday to initiate an anti-dumping investigation for dipotassium carbonate. I also want to hear your thoughts on that as well.

A: As a responsible member of the international community, every country including Japan is required to control, and continuously review its control over, exports of goods and transfers of technologies that are applicable for military use. Accordingly, METI undertook the update of the export licensing policies and procedures last July.

Anyway, we will continue our export control management considering the need to check the effectiveness of Korea's export control system and its actual operation.

Japan and Korea could not have the Export Control Policy Dialogue for more than three and half years until last year. However, we relaunched the dialogue and had several formal meetings in addition to information exchanges at various levels. So there are improvements in this process.

For the anti-dumping investigation, METI and MOF are just responding to the application filed by domestic industries. We initiated our investigation as the requirements pursuant

to the WTO Agreements and related domestic laws and regulations were satisfied. It has definitely nothing to do with Japan-Korea bilateral relations or the update of the export control policies and procedures. There are various products under such investigations and it is also the case.