

Press Conference by Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Kajiyama  
(June 19, 2020)

*Q: I want to ask you about resumption of WTO dispute settlement process the Republic of Korea announced yesterday.*

A: I understand the Republic of Korea has requested establishment of a panel regarding the update of METI's export control licensing policies and procedures to the Dispute Settlement Body.

Such a unilateral action is deeply regrettable as it would undermine agreements at the previous Japan-Korea Export Control Policy Dialogues where both sides agreed to explore resolution of issues of concern through dialogues and communications.

Lots of progress has been made at the Policy Dialogue. Therefore, both sides should explore resolution of issues of concern through this framework.

While Japan believes both sides should resolve concerns through dialogues, I cannot presume how the Korean side want to handle this issue.

*Q: One more question on the Korean issue. The Japanese government has so far taken a position that it does not violate the WTO rules. I want to know how the government will respond to the issue.*

A: As I have just explained, both sides are making progress in the Policy Dialogue. Through various communication channels including the Policy Dialogue, we have scrupulously explained our point of view to the Korean side. At the same time, we have concisely answered to questions and comments from the Korean side. I do not want to suspend the Policy Dialogue but our hope is to explore resolution of issues of concern by continuing the Policy Dialogue.