

'Three Months after Japan's Announcement of Export Restrictions against Korea - The Position of the Korean Government -

Today marks three months since the Japanese government unilaterally announced its decision to impose tighter export controls against Korea.

Following Japan's imposition on July 4, export restrictions on three key materials used in the production of semiconductors and displays have remained in place up until the present day.

First of all, with regard to the number of export approvals issued by the Japanese government, exports of the abovementioned three items to Korea are permitted only in a highly restrictive manner.

In particular, taking the case of liquid hydrogen fluoride for semiconductors, Exports to Korea are now required to submit a total of nine documents in the same manner as countries subject to a UN arms embargo.

Despite the passing of almost 90 days since Japanese exporters submitted an application for this item, however, not a single export approval has been issued due to repeated requests for additional documents.

Furthermore, the Japanese government approves the export of the three materials on an individual license only. This is in fact a more discriminatory form of system than that is applied even to other countries that have not joined the four multilateral export control regimes.

Supply of key materials should be made based upon contracts signed freely between companies. However, Japan's hardly predictable export controls against Korea have increased uncertainties in supply chain and so substantively affected the operations of companies.

Such restrictions run counter to the basic spirit and principles of the international export control systems as they hinder civil transactions conducted in good faith. Japan's export restrictions are an unfair and discriminatory export-restrictive measure that is directed only and unilaterally against Korea.

Therefore, we cannot agree at all with the position of the Japanese government that its measure is in perfect compliance with WTO regulations.

The Korean government has made continuous proposals for dialogue and consultations through various channels for the withdrawal of Japan's export restrictions for the past three months, but the government has yet to receive any response from the Japanese government.

In this vein, to prevent a similar recurrence of abuse of export controls for political purposes, the government filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization over Japan's July export restrictions on September 11 by requesting bilateral consultation.

The Korean government once again urges the Japanese government to reexamine its position in order to solve this issue through consultations in accordance with the relevant provisions of the WTO in the days ahead.