

# Sejong Policy Brief



THE SEJONG INSTITUTE

No. 2020-03 (April 29, 2020)

## *Executive Summary*

### **A Solution to the ROK-Japan Relations: Can Korea-Japan Relations Be Made Right?**



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*This article is written based on the author's personal opinions  
and does not reflect the views of the Sejong Institute.*

## **Executive Summary**

### ☐ Inter-governmental Dialogue: Changed Attitude But No Difference in Contents

- South Korea and Japan recognized the necessity of communication.
- Seoul has demanded Japan to withdraw export regulations showing GSOMIA (General Security of Military Information Agreement) as a bargaining chip, while Tokyo has urged South Korea to resolve the forced labor issue. However, it is a difficult situation to find a solution to the issues related to forced labor.

### ☐ The Era of Moon and Abe: Changes Seen in the ROK-Japan Relations

- A Total Collapse of the Premises of South Korea's Japan Policy: The Reversal of Offender and Victim
- Benefits of Anti-Japan and Anti-Korea in Domestic Politics
- A Change in Strategy: A Decline in the ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Cooperation

### ☐ Scenarios to Solve the Forced Labor Issue and Its Limitations

#### ○ Possible Scenarios

- 1) Abandonment: Further deterioration of Korea-Japan Relations
- 2) Compromise: Establishment of fund or a proposal suggested by Moon Hee-sang

- 3) Ways toward civil reconciliation
- 4) Political decision to renounce reparations against Japan
- 5) A settlement at the International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- Compliance with the Treaty, Respect for the Judiciary, Historical Reconciliation (Apology) and Dilemma in the ROK-Japan Relations
- ☐ Has a Fundamental Change for the Improvement of the ROK-Japan Relations Happened?
- Absence of Influence from Interest Parties
- A Change in Strategy: A Decline in the ROK-US-Japan Cooperation
- Limited Role of the US
- ☐ Prospects of and Solutions to the ROK-Japan Relations
- Diversification of Communication Channels
- Measures to Control: Freeze Plan
- Negotiation for a Plan B
- Re-evaluation of Mutual Interests and Strategic Values of the ROK-Japan Relations ♣

*※ Translator's note: This is a summarized unofficial translation of the original paper which was written in Korean. All references should be made to the original paper.*