

The Political Economy of the CJK FTA (Summary)

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The aim of this paper—after presenting several facts relating to the intraregional trade and tariff structures of the three nations of Japan, China, and the ROK—is to examine from a political-economic perspective the significance that the conclusion of the Japan–China–ROK FTA will bring to Japan. We pointed out the outcomes of the examination as: (1) that the intraregional trade among the three nations of Japan, China, and the ROK has been driven by the expansion of trade in intermediate goods, and while the three nations have deeply dependent relationships in terms of trade, Japan’s presence in the region is shrinking; (2) that approximately half of intraregional trade remains subject to the imposition of tariffs, and the country in the region with the

most tariffs imposed upon it is Japan; (3) that the realization of high-quality economic integration among the three nations of Japan, China, and the ROK via other FTAs such as RCEP and CPTPP is realistically difficult, but that fact brings a unique *raison d’être* to the Japan–China–ROK FTA negotiations; and (4) that for the three nations of Japan, China, and the ROK the mere pursuit of being as acceptable as possible, “more than RCEP but less than the TPP Japan–China–ROK FTA”, will be important in the raising of the quality of the FTAAP to be discussed in the future.

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