Japan's Export Control to ROK (Summary)

NAKAJIMA Tomoyoshi

Senior Research Fellow, Research Division, ERINA

Since the inauguration of the Moon Jae-in administration, the ROK's Supreme Court's decision on the former recruitment work in October 2018, the ROK Navy's radar irradiation incident on the Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft in December 2018, and the dissolution of the foundation based on the comfort women agreement in June 2019. The series of events has greatly deteriorated Japan-ROK relations. The strengthening of Japan's export control to South Korea in July 2019 is generally seen as one of those events. However, the impact of Japan's strengthening of export control and ROK's reaction to it on Japan-ROK's economic relations and the world's free trade system can be said to be unprecedented. In looking at the future of Japan's trade policy, it is necessary to consider it independently of the overall trends in Japan-ROK relations. In this study, we focused on strengthening export control and summarized the background and its impact.

Keywords: Security trade control, Japan-ROK relations, WTO

JEL Classification Codes: F13, F51, F52