

## Fact Sheet: Measures Taken by the Government of Japan on the Comfort Women Issue

1. The Government of Japan has sincerely dealt with issues of reparations, property and claims pertaining to the Second World War under the San Francisco Peace Treaty, which the Government of Japan concluded with 45 countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom and France, and through other bilateral treaties, agreements and instruments. These issues including those of claims of individuals, have already been legally settled with the parties to these treaties, agreements and instruments. (With regard to the ROK, it was confirmed in the 1965 Agreement on the Settlement of Problems concerning Property and Claims and on Economic Cooperation between Japan and the Republic of Korea that the issues concerning property and claims “have been settled completely and finally.” The Government of Japan, in accordance with the said Agreement, provided 500 million US dollars to the ROK as economic cooperation.)
2. Additionally, since the 1990s, the Government of Japan has extended its utmost cooperation to the projects of the Asian Women’s Fund (AWF), which carried out “medical and welfare support projects” and provided “atonement money” (for a total of 5 million yen per person in the ROK and Taiwan as well as 3.2 million yen per person in the Philippines) to offer realistic relief to former comfort women. When the atonement money as well as the medical and welfare support were provided, the then-Prime Ministers (namely, PM Ryutaro Hashimoto, PM Keizo Obuchi, PM Yoshiro Mori and PM Junichiro Koizumi), sent a signed letter expressing apologies and remorse directly to each former comfort woman. As a result of such efforts, the 1998 Japan-ROK Joint Declaration—A New Japan-Republic of Korea Partnership towards the Twenty-first Century—called upon both countries “to build a future-oriented relationship based on reconciliation as well as good-neighborly and friendly cooperation.”  
(<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/korea/joint9810.html>)
3. Despite such efforts, the comfort women issue became a political matter between the two countries. The Government of Japan and the Government of the ROK held intensive consultations on this issue toward an early conclusion to realize the healing of the former comfort women. The Foreign Ministries of both countries had a meeting on December 28, 2015, and finally reached an agreement on this issue.

([http://www.mofa.go.jp/a\\_o/na/kr/page4e\\_000364.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/a_o/na/kr/page4e_000364.html)) With this agreement, the two Governments confirmed that the comfort women issue is resolved “finally and irreversibly” and that the two Governments will refrain from accusing or criticizing each other regarding this issue in the international community, including at the United Nations. In addition, in accordance with the agreement, the Government of the ROK established a foundation for purpose of providing support for former comfort women and the Government of Japan contributed 1 billion yen to the foundation.

4. This Japan-ROK agreement has not only been welcomed by the international community, including Mr. Ban Ki-moon, then Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Government of the United States of America, as well as appreciated by the media in the European and American countries, including the New York Times, but has also been positively received by many former comfort women in the ROK. Under the cooperation between Japan and the ROK, projects have been carried out for recovering the honor and dignity and healing the psychological wounds of former comfort women. So far, among the 47 former comfort women who were alive at the time of the agreement, 36 have already agreed to the projects, of which 34 have actually received such support as medical and welfare support. It is thus important that the agreement is steadily implemented for the sake of former comfort women who are now advanced in years.
5. As stated in the Statement by the Prime Minister of Japan issued in 2015, that we will engrave in our hearts the past, when the dignity and honour of many women were severely injured during wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Japan is determined to lead the world in making the 21<sup>st</sup> century an era in which women’s human rights are not infringed upon.