

Remarks by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga
June 20, 2014

- Following the testimony by former Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Ishihara at the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, in which he testified on the possibility of coordinating views with the Korean side during the drafting process of the Kono Statement, and in response to a request from the Diet, the Government of Japan set up a study team of five intellectuals including three women, to conduct a study to grasp the facts on this issue. This study had been undergoing.
- With the conclusion of the study, the Government of Japan submitted the report that lays out the result of the study to the Steering Board of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives this afternoon. In addition, Mr. Tadaki, the chair of the study team, is going to be explaining about the content of the report.
- In any case, we reaffirm our position that we will not revise the Kono Statement, and that we will uphold the Kono Statement as stated in the government's response to a written inquiry from a Diet member in 2007. With regard to the "comfort women" issue, we are deeply pained to think of all those who suffered immeasurable pain. This government position remains unchanged as well.
- The Republic of Korea is the most important neighbor for Japan. The Abe administration's stance to continuously attach importance to Japan-ROK relationship and to advance cooperation with the ROK through dialogues at various levels remains completely unchanged.

(End)