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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER KOO YUN-CHEOL HOSTS KOREA ECONOMIC BRIEFING IN TOKYO

- Held at the Invitation of Bloomberg Japan Amid Growing Interest in the Korean Economy
- Encouraging Active Foreign Investment Based On Korea’s Global Competitiveness and Enhanced Accessibility to FX and Capital Markets

1. Event Overview

On March 13, the Ministry of Finance and Economy held a Korea economic briefing for major investors in Tokyo, Japan.

Time/Location: March 13, 16:30 / Bloomberg Tokyo Office

The briefing was held at the invitation of Bloomberg Japan as part of its “Invest in Asia: KTB” forum. Around 100 major global investors based in Japan attended, demonstrating strong interest in the Korean economy even in Tokyo, one of the world’s leading financial hubs.

2. Presentation on the Korean Economy

During the briefing, Deputy Prime Minister Koo Yun-cheol highlighted that Korea’s competitive strengths and comparative advantages—across sectors such as semiconductors, nuclear power, shipbuilding, and defense—are gaining global attention amid structural changes driven by the AI era and evolving geopolitical dynamics, and will continue to offer strong growth potential.

He emphasized that the government’s policy direction—focused on responding to the AI era through initiatives such as the AI transformation and hyper-innovative economy projects, enhancing potential growth, and improving market accessibility for foreign investors—will remain consistent and firm. He stressed that “now is the time to pay close attention to the Korean economy.”

The Director General for International Finance at the Ministry then delivered a presentation covering:

- (1) recent economic trends and fundamentals,
- (2) key growth drivers, and
- (3) government policy directions.

First, exports have set record highs for nine consecutive months on a monthly basis, while overall growth has been recovering since the second half of last year. Unemployment and inflation remain

stable, and both domestic and external soundness—such as the government debt ratio and external debt—are being well managed, indicating solid macroeconomic fundamentals.

Second, beyond semiconductors, Korea continues to secure overseas orders across industries such as shipbuilding, defense, and nuclear power. In addition, industries driven by soft power—such as tourism (with a record 18.93 million inbound visitors in 2025), content, and beauty—are on the rise, highlighting Korea’s increasingly diversified growth portfolio.

Third, policy goals and measures were introduced, including fostering national strategic industries (e.g., advancing Korea into a top-tier global semiconductor leader, becoming a top-four defense powerhouse, and developing the bio industry), as well as driving the AI transformation and a hyper-innovative economy. Supporting measures include fiscal investment, tax incentives, financial support, and regulatory improvements.

Measures to enhance market accessibility were also explained, including extending FX market trading hours to 24 hours and establishing offshore KRW settlement infrastructure.

3. Q&A Session

Participants showed strong interest—particularly from the perspective of foreign investors—in Korea’s FX and government bond markets, as well as related systems and policies.

The Korean side emphasized ongoing and planned reforms, including the introduction of omnibus accounts for government bond trading and the extension of FX market trading hours. It reaffirmed that the government will continue to prioritize removing investment barriers and pursue investor-friendly capital market reforms.

Participants noted that interest in the Korean economy and capital markets is increasing even within Japan. They emphasized that, for this interest to translate into actual investment, it is essential to provide detailed information on Korea’s economic conditions, institutional framework, and policy direction.

In this regard, they evaluated the event positively, noting that it effectively addressed investor needs and would be helpful for investment decision-making. They also expressed strong expectations for the Korean market, citing its solid fundamentals and ongoing capital market reforms.

4. High-Level Roundtable with Japanese Investors

Prior to the briefing, Deputy Prime Minister Koo held a roundtable meeting with senior executives from major Japanese financial institutions, including SMBC, MUFG, Mizuho Securities, Nomura Securities, Daiwa Securities, and Bloomberg.

He noted that Korea–Japan relations have been improving and expressed hope that this positive momentum would lead to tangible outcomes in economic and financial cooperation. He also stated that the government stands ready to actively support any difficulties faced in investing in Korea.

Participants acknowledged the Korean government’s policy efforts and commitment, and expressed their intention to contribute to strengthening cooperation between the two countries.