

Mr. OKADA Kenichi, Consul General (Ambassador) of Japan in Hong Kong, urged Chief Executive Mr John Lee to reconsider the plan of import suspension of marine products from 10 prefectures

21st July, 2023

Consulate-General of Japan in Hong Kong

1. On 21st July, Mr. OKADA Kenichi, Consul General (Ambassador) of Japan in Hong Kong, paid a visit to Chief Executive Mr. John LEE Ka-chiu and expressed his extreme regret at the Hong Kong government's announcement regarding the plans to suspend imports of marine products from 10 prefectures in the event of ocean discharge of ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System) treated water, and therewith has strongly requested the latter to reconsider his decision.

2. The Japanese government has been providing the Hong Kong government with information and explanations on the safety of Japanese food products many times, and has requested the government to remove existing import restrictions on Japanese food products as soon as possible based on the scientific evidence provided. In addition, the Japanese government has been explaining its measures in detail to the latter regarding the discharge of ALPS treated water into the ocean since the earliest stage and requested that the government to refrain from further tightening the import restrictions.

3. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which has the authority to establish and apply international safety standards for nuclear energy, concluded in its comprehensive report issued on 4th July that the discharge of ALPS treated water into the ocean complies with relevant international safety standards and will have negligible impact on humans and the environment. Furthermore, on 12th July, a Japanese government delegation requested the Hong Kong government to remove existing import restrictions, explained the safety of the discharge of ALPS treated water into the ocean, as well as the content of the above mentioned IAEA report in Hong Kong, and requested that the government to refrain from further tightening the import restrictions.

4. Today Ambassador Okada reiterated the stance of the Japanese government, requesting the Hong Kong government to remove the existing import ban. He also explained the contents of the IAEA report and urged the Hong Kong government to reconsider the plan to further tightening the import restrictions.

5. The Japanese government will continue to provide necessary information to the Hong Kong Government, as well as continue to request the removal of the existing import ban and strongly request refraining from further tightening the import restrictions based on the scientific evidence. Besides, both sides agreed to continue to communicate between the concerned authorities.