



# The Weekly Observer

August 21-25

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

## Japan-U.S.-ROK Trilateral Summit

On August 18, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio met with U.S. President Joe Biden and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol at Camp David for a **historic summit marking the first standalone summit** between the three leaders.

The three leaders stated their commitment to the **complete denuclearization of the DPRK**, the importance of peace and **stability across the Taiwan Strait**, their commitment to **consult each other** to respond to regional challenges, the establishment of **regular trilateral communications and multi-domain exercises**, a **new trilateral working group** to drive cooperation on the DPRK, and a commitment to launch an **early warning system** to respond to global supply chain issues.

## Japan Begins Release of Treated Radioactive Water from Fukushima Plant

On Tuesday, the **Cabinet approved** the plan to begin releasing ALPS-treated radioactive water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on **August 24**.

The GOJ and TEPCO plan to release water over the next thirty years. TEPCO and the IAEA both confirmed the initial release had **no issues**.

In response to the release, China announced a blanket ban on seafood imports from Japan. Kishida stated that the GOJ requested that the **ban be withdrawn**.

The GOJ plans to **expand subsidies** to seafood processing companies to combat such bans. The **current JPY 80 billion fund** does not cover processing companies.

## Cabinet Approval



**41%** (+/-0 pt.)

**54%** (+1 pt.)

[Sankei/FNN](#) (August 21)

## State of the Economy

**Gini Coefficient (2021):**  
0.57 (same as record-high 2014)

## Measures of Underlying Inflation (July):

Trimmed mean: +3.3%

Weighted median: +1.6%

Mean: +3%

Prices have continued to rise despite signs of slowing inflation