Japan-Korea Relations: Recent Polling

James L. Schoff | March 8, 2018
Impression of the Other
2 to 1, Bad vs Good Impression

[Graph 1: Your impression of the other country]

Japanese Public Opinion (N=1000)
- Good impression: 26.9% (2017), 29.1% (2016)
- Bad impression: 48.6% (2017), 44.6% (2016)
- Neither: 24.5% (2017), 26.2% (2016)
- No response: 0.1% (2017), 0.1% (2016)

South Korean Public Opinion (N=1003)
- Good impression: 26.8% (2017), 21.3% (2016)
- Bad impression: 61.0% (2017), 56.1% (2016)
- Neither: 11.9% (2017), 17.0% (2016)
- No response: 0.0% (2017), 0.0% (2016)

※Good impression includes [good] and [somewhat good], bad impression includes [bad] and [somewhat bad]

Source: Genron NPO, “5th Japan-South Korea Public Opinion Poll,” June/July 2017
Reason for Bad Impression

Territorial Issue Less of a Factor in Japan

Source: Genron NPO, “5th Japan-South Korea Public Opinion Poll,” June/July 2017
## Reason for Good Impression

**Culture/People a Strong Factor; Democracy Less So**

### South Korean Public Opinion (N=269)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No particular reason</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because Japanese products are high quality</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because of an interest in Japanese culture</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
<td>29.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because Japanese people are kind and considerate</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because Japan is a developed country with a high standard of living</td>
<td>65.8%</td>
<td>74.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Japanese Public Opinion (N=269)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
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<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No particular reason</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because South Korea is a developed country with a high standard of living</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because South Korean products are cheap and affordable</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because of interest in South Korean culture</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because South Koreans are hardworking and diligent</td>
<td>25.2%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because South Korea is a democratic country</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Genron NPO, “5th Japan-South Korea Public Opinion Poll,” June/July 2017
Impression of the Socio-Political Regime

Japan as Militaristic? ROK as Ethno-Nationalist?

(Graph: What do you think of the socio-political regime of the other country?)
Impression of the Socio-Political Regime

“Militarist” Seems Off the Mark...

Source: Genron NPO, “5th Japan-South Korea Public Opinion Poll,” June/July 2017
Impression of the Situation
Most Think Worrisome, Undesirable, Need to be Fixed

Source: Genron NPO, “5th Japan-South Korea Public Opinion Poll,” June/July 2017
Few Friends/Acquaintances Among Them

Source: Genron NPO, “5th Japan-South Korea Public Opinion Poll,” June/July 2017
Optimism for the Future?

Not much...

Source: Genron NPO, “5th Japan-South Korea Public Opinion Poll,” June/July 2017
But What Can/Should Be Done?  
Some Ideas, but Little Agreement (except about media)