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Accelerating restoration with the cooperation of everyone!

The whole nation, including prefectures, local municipalities, local residents and all others, will join together to proceed with the reconstruction by “collaborative work” towards hope and independence. Even in the difficult-to-return prefecture of Fukushima, we aim to create “cities to live in again within five years” with new homes and new city skylines and we do our best to support the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic games in 2020.

1. Recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake

Recovery continues to be our top priority with focus on reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake. At the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Japan in 2020, we will reward the support and cooperation received from countries all over the world and will show that we completed the reconstruction.

2. Securing resources after the “concentrated reconstruction period”

In order to secure necessary financial resources, we will review the current budget management as well as the required future budget volume and will examine whether or not the extension of special measures is possible. Also, regarding the areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami disaster and the nuclear accident, we strive to secure necessary financial resources to develop detailed policies tailored to specific circumstances and future prospects at the disaster sites.

3. Reasonable prospects and hope for the victims of the disaster

To enable disaster victims to return to their homes in the future, we will continue with intensive reconstruction. We will work on giving people prospects and hope for their lives by maintaining the process chart, available to everyone, which shows entire maps of cities and clarifies when and where residence is possible again.

4. Improving “town functions”

We will accelerate the rebuilding of industries and businesses, create an environment securing employment and develop “town functions” such as education, medical treatment or shopping districts, to enable people to live with peace of mind. Regarding the Fukushima Prefecture, we will work together with the local government to realize the “coast innovation concept”.

5. Forming a new community

In the future, since disaster victims are moving into public housings, the formation of new communities will become an issue. While constructing temporary housings and disaster municipal facilities, we will give due consideration and support to community formation.

6. Regenerating the regional economy

The reconstruction of local industries and businesses, which are the core or regional economic revitalization, is indispensable for ensuring peaceful lives and in order to realize economic growth, we will work harder on taking necessary measures.

We will support the maintenance of commercial facilities, the effective utilization of temporary facilities and the financing of town planning to rebuild companies and shopping districts as the foundation of businesses. We will also provide nationwide support, including the dispatch of senior citizens and specialists, for the development and management of commercial facilities. In order to revitalize the autonomous and vibrant regional economy, we will promote the growth of main industries that will benefit businesses outside the region, such as fishery processing, food manufacturing, manufacturing industries, agriculture, forestry, fishery and tourism. We will focus on these areas by promoting sightseeing in the Tohoku region heavily impacted by the earthquake and will reconstruct the sales channels for processed fishery goods.

In addition to promoting new locations of companies, such as manufacturing companies, that utilize the subsidies for local companies in the areas affected by the tsunami and nuclear disaster, we will develop new products using regional resources. Furthermore, we will support the development of technology and sales channels while also implementing projects and utilizing all policies and system to support positive efforts and challenges of small and medium enterprises, exceeding the current reconstruction support.

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7. Restoring and maintaining the infrastructure

We will continue to do our utmost to restore and improve the infrastructure including roads, railways and highways, which are indispensable for the regional reconstruction. The Tokiwa Expressway will also be opened before the Golden Week.

8. Diversified health and living support for victims to regain mental and physical health in line with the progress of reconstruction

We comprehensively examine the strengthening of support measures for victims in response to arising problems in the progress of reconstruction such as prolonged living in temporary housings after evacuation, relocation to permanent housing or the migration to new areas.

Furthermore, in order to prevent the isolation of evacuees and ensure appropriate support according to mental and physical conditions, we have introduced effective measures such as health care and support for elderly people and support the implementation of general health promotion measures. In addition to supporting care taker, we will consider disseminating health management information at the new housings and we will offer learning support for children and students.

9. Reconstructing the regional medical care

We will further promote the revitalization of medical and nursing care as an indispensable “town function”. In particular, in addition to promoting the return of nursing staff and while promoting reemployment, we will promote collaboration among local medical facilities, consider further legal measures and take effective measures to support doctors working in the disaster areas.

10. Countermeasures tailored to actual conditions

In addition to dealing with new problems occurring in affected areas of evacuees such as housing and waste disposal, we will carry out crime prevention measures and tackle the shortage of equipment and materials. For the population affected by the disaster, we will respond with various measures to actual circumstances such as the rising demand of labor force and lodging buildings and will therefore secure human power for the rebuilding industry.

11. Responding to changes in administrative demand

We will respond to changing administrative demands during the reconstruction progress and develop a system securing necessary personnel to prevent hindrances for businesses.

12. Preventive Measures against damages by wild birds and animals

Since wild birds and animals also hinder the reconstruction, we will additionally continue conducting emergency measures such as monitoring habitats and capturing wild boars or other animals while also maintaining intrusion prevention fences. We also support further preventive measures on birds and animals such as purchasing traps or other capturing activities.

13. Utilizing the G-space project for the reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster

The G-space project enables accurate and efficient surveying and mapping techniques, earthquake prediction technology, early tsunami detection technology and evacuation guidance technology by using satellites. The G-space information center and the disaster prevention system will contribute to disaster prediction and responses as well as restoration and reconstruction by collectively managing G-space information. Regarding the restoration and reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake, we aim to realize a safe and secure society by cooperative utilization of the advances technologies of the G-space system and ICT. In addition, we plan the nationwide and foreign deployment of the G-space project to develop disaster prevention measures for the anticipated Tokai earthquake.

14. Combining the reconstruction with economic growth via ICT

Nowadays, ICT is an indispensable aspect of the social infrastructure, and in contributes to the restoration and reconstruction of afflicted areas as well as the support of victims. Therefore, the use of ICT is indispensable. Based on the lessons learned from the earthquake and nuclear power plant accidents, we will adopt a new reconstruction and disaster prevention mechanism based on ICT as a starting point for economic growth.

Especially, regarding the damage done to municipal and medical facilities, it is urgent to create a strategic victim support system combining various aspects such as local government clouds and a

medical information cooperation system. In addition to maintaining civil and medical services, we will quickly develop a wide-ranging integrated disaster prevention system and local government continuity plans.

Regarding the upgrade of the infrastructure such as roads, tunnels and bridges in the affected areas, sensor ICT was introduced in the maintenance cycle to accumulate big data. We will support local economies via training experts for analysis and securing service staff while also disseminating these efforts nationwide.

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In addition, the realization of smart cities, triggered by the nuclear accident and the relocation of citizens, contributes to solving environmental and energy problems. Utilizing ICT for the reconstruction, during which economic revitalization can be realized but which also generates social problems, greatly contributes to improved living standards of people by solving social problems and creating economic growth and employment. We will therefore make maximum use of ICT to improve national civil services.

Reconstruction after the nuclear accident disaster

15. Revitalizing Fukushima by “collaboration”

By utilizing the combined power of the cooperation between the national government, prefecture, municipality and residents, we will realize a revitalized Fukushima by publishing a future map of the entire evacuation area at an early stage while advancing the housing construction for victims who wish to return to Fukushima.

16. Measures for contaminated water and waste disposal

We will proceed to urgently conduct safe and steady measures regarding the disposal of waste and contaminated water, such as the prevention of scattering of radioactive materials, promoting research and development and collecting worldwide expertise.

17. Maintaining intermediate storage facilities

We will carefully proceed with the development of intermediate storage facilities while cooperating with local residents and securing their understanding. We aim to start with the transportation of contaminated soil in January next year while also considering a safe and efficient plan for waste disposal, personnel and materials related to contaminated water operations and the transportation to intermediate storage facilities related to the reconstruction of surrounding municipalities.

18. Efficient decontamination after the nuclear accident

In order to realize the immediate return of disaster victims, we will carry out efficient decontamination parallelly to the reconstruction while emphasis is placed on actual individual doses. We will take precise measures for decontamination while coordinating it with radiation protection measures.

Therefore, we consider radiation reduction technology and decontamination methods in cooperation with local municipalities and will verify the plan and its acceleration based on the opinion of experts.

19. Treatment of designated waste

With regard to the treatment of radioactive material and contaminated waste (designated waste), we will urgently carry out efforts to promote disposal, including measures against ramifications, to resolve the concerns of local residents and while gaining their understanding. We will carry out these measures not only in the prefecture of Fukushima but also in all five affected prefectures, based on the considerations of municipal mayor meetings and expert councils.

20. Cancelling evacuation designations

We will implement measures to carefully deal with radiation anxiety in accordance with scientific and objective criteria in order to cancel evacuation instructions.

For this purpose, we will support the improvement of the needed living environment and support individual dose reduction activities. We will also support the creation of community generated employment by promoting the attraction of companies and the resumption of farming.

21. Nuclear damage compensation

Nuclear damage compensation is indispensable for rebuilding the livelihood of affected areas for residents returning home in the future or residents wanting to start a new life. Therefore, we will try to complete compensation payment based on the related law as soon as possible.

In addition, we will further strengthen our support for independent living, by creating jobs, attracting companies and restarting farming.

22. Measures against damage caused by rumors

Based on the fact that rumors cause great damage, we will disseminate comprehensive information to local residents and the world about the decontamination progress, maintenance of intermediate storage facilities and the cancellation of evacuation designations.

Furthermore, rumors cause great damage to local products. In addition to publishing results of the inspection of radioactive substances, we are also planning to introduce "secure seals" (dose-tested certificates) and posters to expand the consumption of local products from the disaster-affected areas, expand sales channels both inside and outside of this region, attract guests and support industries damaged by rumors.

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23. Responding to nuclear disasters and ensuring the reliability of nuclear power plants regulatory bodies

The Nuclear Regulator Committee operates in compliance with the latest international standards issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In order to further improve its work, we will receive evaluation services on nuclear material protection measures and nuclear regulations, as well as on the hiring and training of personnel with advanced knowledge on atomic energy and radiation. In addition, by training the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Committee and improving the necessary system such as the review and inspection system and the nuclear disaster prevention system, we will improve and empower the entire Nuclear Regulatory Organization.

At the same time, we will further strengthen the structure of the cabinet office responsible for nuclear disaster prevention and will continue to provide support for disaster prevention measures, such as the development of disaster prevention equipment and materials to be provided for relevant local governments and the conducting of disaster prevention drills.

Furthermore, in order to establish a new philosophy of regulatory work by the Nuclear Regulatory Committee, we will develop and deepen the present organizational philosophy with “regulatory principles” and will carry out bold reforms of the nuclear regulation culture.

24. International knowledge sharing on nuclear power

We will promote international sharing of knowledge gained from the experience of the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident in order to contribute to improved nuclear regulation and securing safety in Japan and other countries. Additionally, by investigating and announcing the influence of radioactive substances diffusion on human bodies and ecosystems over a longer period, we contribute to the safety of citizens’ lives and fulfill our responsibility to the world and future generations. Furthermore, via international personnel exchange, we will strengthen the training of human resources and energy specialists in our country.

25. Accelerating measures and R&D on the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster

We will accelerate measures concerning the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident by expanding existing measures such as environmental monitoring and support for local residents. Regarding nuclear power plants, we will quickly establish and disseminate decontamination methods such as post-processing of assorted plants, waste disposal and radiation visualization technologies. Also, the decommissioning of the Fukushima nuclear power plant reactor is one of the most important issues for Japan to recover from the Great East Japan Earthquake. Rather than leaving this task to the power plant operator, the state will take the lead of the reactor decommissioning. In the future, in order to steadily advance the disposal of fuel, debris and radioactive waste and to accelerate the decommissioning, we will gather the knowledge of not only domestic but also overseas researchers and engineers on the development of essential technology. Therefore, we will unite the knowledge of Japan and other nations and develop research bases while also accelerating human resource development and R&D necessary for waste disposal.

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Realizing economic revitalization

Increased corporate earnings will create jobs and raise wages. And expanding consumption will improve the economy. We strongly advance the three pillars of Abenomics and will create a “virtuous economic cycle”.

Further ridding ourselves from deflation

26. Further expanding a virtuous economic cycle

In order to ensure ridding ourselves from deflation, we strongly promoted the “three pillars” which include the determination to set the economy as our highest priority. We aim to further expand the virtuous economic cycle by increasing employment and income while simultaneously achieving fiscal rebuilding.

27. Monetary easing to get rid of deflation

To get rid of deflation as soon as possible, we set price targets (2%) comparable to the ones of developed countries in Europe as well as the United States by policy-based collaboration of the government and BOJ, while also considering the stability of the government bond market. We carried out monetary easing measures with different dimensions.

We will continue to respond appropriately and in a timely manner while keeping a close eye on market trends. Regarding the amendment of the “Bank of Japan Law”, we will keep an eye on the market situation while continuing to consider future options. In addition, we will strongly promote active currency and economic diplomacy towards agreements on international macro policy coordination centered on Japan, the US and Europe, and we will boldly tackle the stabilization of international negotiations to prevent crisis.

28. Flexible economic fiscal management

We will promote flexible and effective economic and fiscal management, implement flexible policy responses and make every effort to revive our economy. After the general election, we will promptly take economic measures and take successive actions. We will give due consideration to price trends, such as high energy prices and a decline in rice prices, as well as the consumption situation and take concrete measures, including support for small-sized enterprises as well as energy investment and respond to increased costs to improve the future economic development.

Growth Strategy

29. Reconstructing the Japanese economy – Establishing a new model of a “hybrid economic nation”

Getting rid of deflation is regarded as the policy issue with highest priority, and immediately after the inauguration of the new administration, we established the “Japan Economic Revitalization Headquarters” responsible for formulating fiscal policies in cooperation with the Economic Council. In June 2013, the Abenomics were formulated as a “Japan revival and growth strategy”, in December 2013 the “Industrial Competitiveness Strengthening Law” was enacted and the “Japan revitalization strategy” was also revised. In order to regain a “strong economy”, we aim to shift from a “decreasing equal distribution policy” to the principles of “creating wealth by growth” and “belonging to the countries with the best companies in the world”. We will become a nation “fostering the maximum potential of individuals” with expanded employment and income.

At the same time, in order to open the way for prosperity, we will incorporate overseas economic growth into the development of our domestic economy and will create a national economic model

resistant to domestic and international financial and economic changes. In other words, we aim to be a strong “hybrid economic nation” and “industrial investment nation” leading to the creation of new added value in the country, rather than being a sole “trade nation” with synergistic effects. For the revival of the Japanese economy, we aim to expand employment and income by bold monetary policies, aggressive fiscal policies and a growth strategy that evokes private investment to achieve a nominal economic growth of 3% and real growth of 2% in ten years.

30. Expanding the industry, creating employment and enhancing the whole economy – becoming a new GNI major power

In order to create employment, enhance the entire economy, consumption and economic activity, Japanese companies will supplement the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) with the Gross National Income (GNI).

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As Japanese companies actively spread their domestic and international activities, we will create new overseas bases while employing a strategy that allows us to acquire more national wealth by the globalization of the Japanese economy, regional industrial concentration, the renewal of companies and personnel via policy guidance including the tax system and the creation of domestic wisdom.

Specifically, we will develop global human resources, an educational environment to gather the world’s “brains” in Japan, an appropriate living environment, international competitive companies and develop great worldwide income. Thereby, we will create an “virtuous capital cycle” regathering wealth for the domestic market and creating new businesses and employment.

To promote economic partnership agreements and build a solid international resource strategy, we will enable strategic foreign investment and promote the “international deployment strategy” with different dimensions to expand industries and personnel to foreign countries so that Japanese companies can incorporate the development of economic markets of developing countries in, for example, the Asia-Pacific region.

31. Executing the “Japanese Industry Revival Plan”

The “Japan Industry Revival Plan” is implemented to revive the manufacturing industry and to strengthen industrial competitiveness. Therefore, we have worked on promoting advanced facility investment and concentrate on innovative research and development. In addition, we will promote efforts to regain “Japan’s ability to earn” by strengthening corporate governance, accelerating the creation of ventures and establishing the “National Innovation System” as mechanism to create businesses with innovative technologies. We will also promote efforts to nurture advanced personnel by promoting the further activation of women and realizing various working modes. We will take necessary actions contributing to economic growth and convenient livelihoods by creating a safety net and promptly obtaining of financial resources.

Also, we will regain the local competitiveness of Japan by preventing overseas runoffs, carrying out deflation measures, overcoming power and energy constraints and strengthening the innovation infrastructure while also concentrating on industrial companies leading to expanded employment. In

doing so, we will set up our country as the “world’s strategic special zone nation” by carrying out regulatory reforms to enable the easy operation of companies.

32. Executing a “Strategic Market Creation Plan”

Our growth strategies are based on discussions at the “Industrial Competitiveness Conference” of the Japan Economic Revitalization Headquarters and the government thereby clearly indicated “social challenges” Japan faces and the need to respond with a “preferred social image”. In the future, we will mobilize various policies, such as regulatory reforms, tax reductions and a funding environment to create this social image. From a medium- to long-term perspective, we will carry out the “Strategic Market Creation Plan” summarizing international advantageous fields for Japan to become a competitive developed country and will encourage private investment of companies.

Specifically, regarding the social issues the world and Japan are facing, we will support growth markets in which “Japan has international strength” and in which the “the global market is expected to grow”, such as “clean energy”, “next generation infrastructure” and “agriculture and tourism”. After specifying the industries and markets necessary for the realization of economic growth, we formulate a “process chart” to concentrate on the intensive introduction of core technologies and we will steadily implement policies to deregulate R&D. Parallely, we will focus on system reforms to realize new market creation. For example, we will try to realize initiatives such as the revitalization of the public insurance service industry, strategic development of ITS as well as the promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries food exports to realize a hybrid society.

33. Promoting a corporate tax reform

In order to improve the competitiveness of the Japanese economy, we will implement a corporate tax reform focusing on growth orientation. From the next fiscal year on, we will reduce the corporate tax rate to 20% by securing permanent financial resources and reforming the structure to share the financial burden more widely. While reforming the corporate tax, consideration will be given to the impact on SMEs.

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34. Promoting unremitting regulatory reforms

We will constantly review and balance overdue issues concerning the consumer administration, including the correction of excessive regulations, to realize an increased latent demand and support the development of economic activities. We steadily conduct “international market surveys” to eliminate institutional obstacles and to balance differences with other countries. We will review regulations and operations in order to simplify corporate activities based on the strategy to achieve the world’s most advanced system.

Regarding the establishment of new regulations under a new legislation, we will continue conducting thorough reviews to ensure the safety and security of citizens as well as to prevent hindrances for free and vigorous economic activities. Regarding the restrictions of various businesses, we will implement a “Refining Policy” to continue diligent reviewing and reduce regulations that impede the conversion of industries. In addition, we will reorganize the authorities in each ministry to strengthen the competitiveness and revival of the Japanese economy. Therefore, it is also necessary

for companies to challenge new businesses in various field without being restrained by regulations. In January this year, we have established a regulation elimination system and a company special exception system to enable new businesses via this system. Furthermore, we constantly and quickly review various regulations and support new challenges by companies.

35. Promoting a cooperative agricultural reform

Regarding the cooperative agricultural reform (such as the central association system), we will deepen the discussion based on the promotion of the reform for cooperative agriculture and agricultural committees compiled by the ruling party in June this year.

36. Promoting a regulatory reform to recover the convenience of citizens' health care

Regarding the healthcare field, we will promote regulatory reforms contributing to the improved convenience of citizens by recovering the public health system via a new "Insurance Co-Payment Expense System" (provisional name) and offering patient recuperations.

37. Promoting a regulatory reform contributing to diverse work styles

We will reform regulations hampering diverse work styles by promoting the creation and expansion of employment and making maximum use of private employment services to realize a society in which all workers, including women, young people and elderly people, can be active.

38. Establishing a new medical welfare corporate system

In order to provide comprehensive and efficient medical and nursing care services for citizens, we will establish a new medical welfare corporation system managing various hospitals and social welfare facilities in the same area as one group.

39. Worldwide breakthrough of national projects of Japan

We will acquire the world's highest-level innovations and technologies in the fields of renewable energy, environmental energy technologies and smart community energy network technologies (It should be noted that, regarding energy innovation, the battery industry constitutes an economic core field and we will therefore strengthen its expansion and human resource development and offer a management support system to become a base for next-generation smart LIB innovations). With policy-based finances, the government strongly supports the international expansion of Japan's excellent infrastructure-related industries, service industries and content industries and cooperate with these industries to prevent "bidding losses" in competitions for orders by globally disseminating railway technologies such as the Shinkansen, water supply and sewerage membrane technologies, water leakage countermeasures technologies, lifeline systems including electricity or gas and advanced medical technologies and devices. We will actively support international expansion as packages including technologies, know-how and products. In particular, we will further encourage public-private partnerships (PPP) on the increasing demand for infrastructural development in Asia, Latin America or other regions and use this cooperation for Japan's growth. Together, we will actively train and utilize project management experts whose roles have become more important in recent years.

40. Acquiring strategic international standards

In order for Japanese industries to compete advantageously in the international market, it is essential to acquire “international standards” for industrial products and collect accurate information on “which standard is applied to what kind of industrial product”. It is also vital to promote standardization and start mass production according to market trends.

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Therefore, the government takes the initiative to collect such information, and at the same time, the government and industries closely cooperate on the “standardized public-private strategy” to establish a system to acquire international standards and create an authentication infrastructure by forming tags between the government and industry. In particular, in addition to promoting the utilization of the “New Market Creation Standardization System” that enables rapid standardization of advanced technologies and will be established in July this year, we will promote the use of renewable energy, smart grid technology and advanced manufacturing. Regarding “Japan’s strength” fields, such as materials or automatic driving technologies, we will actively work on ensuring maximized efficiency.

In addition, via providing technological assistance in Asia and emerging countries where growth rates are remarkable, we will establish “strategic standard acquisition” to position the excellent technologies and products as Asian and international standards. While also focusing on Japan’s intellectual property system, we will strengthen the training of experts to realize the acquisition of strategic standards.

41. Creating “national wealth” via intellectual property

Strategic resources are important, and for Japan, this is creativity. “Intellectual property”, as a gift of creativity, is exactly the source that generates “national wealth”. Based on a firm intellectual property strategy, we will realize the “world’s best intellectual property nation”. In order to support the acquisition and utilization of IP as a national strategy, first of all, we will further develop the examination system of the JPO to be able to promptly protect results of R&D on the national and international sphere based on intellectual property rights. In response to the rapidly increasing foreign literature, we will promote the “acceleration of examinations and approval” and will also enable faster reviews in other countries. In addition, we revised the “Design Law” and “Trademark Law” to strengthen Japan’s industrial competitiveness.

Aside from promoting the effective utilization of unused patents at universities or other institutions, we will strive to develop a support system to sufficiently secure and train global intellectual property personnel and cooperate with research institutes such as universities which can offer intellectual property human resources with expertise and experience. In addition, we aim to attract world-wide research and development bases.

The leakage of advanced technology, established in our country but not protected as intellectual property, greatly detract from our national interests. Therefore, we will try to prevent the leakage of technology and improve the trade secrets protection system. In addition, we will further strengthen countermeasures against pirated copies.

42. Promoting the “Cool Japan Strategy”

We will promote the “Cool Japan Strategy” and aim to create true Japan original content while preventing others to copy Japan’s manufacturing skills, including the globally boasting Japanese animation. Specifically, we promote the construction of MICE facilities such as large-scale exhibition halls and international conference centers, establish the status of the Green Carpet of the Tokyo International Film Festival in Asia and upgrade Akihabara as the center of the global content industry. We will carry out these measures not only regarding tourism, but also as an opportunity to become the host country for global events.

We also globally disseminate Japan’s appeal (soft power) such as our culture, tradition, food or clothing. Therefore, we provide support investment by the “Overseas Demand Development Organization” and also provide experts and advice. Additionally, we will accelerate and boost the global dissemination of the characteristics of our culture such as JAPAN brands or Japanese traditional crafts. In addition, by expanding the overseas development of broadcasting contents and promoting the distribution of e-books, electronic magazines or electronic signage (digital signage), we will support the expansion of the digital content industry and increase the vitality of the overall economy. Particularly, regarding the overseas deployment of broadcasting contents, we will make maximum use of the “Broadcasting Program Export Association of Japan” (BE AJ).

We will facilitate and promote rights processing contracts, including overseas development, and will develop official entities responsible for the management of rights (such as enhancing the video content rights processing organization). Furthermore, we will not only create a system for contents such as animation, manga or games, but also to generate profit by “event management” and “sales methods”.

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In addition, we will also provide comprehensive support, including financial support, for studying abroad, overseas training and content creation to nurture creators and producers who can generate products that will be demanded in foreign countries.

In addition to promoting R&D on content platforms originating in Japan, we will support the utilization and development of robot manufacturing technology, such as Japanese live support robots with cultural characteristics and sensibility.

43. Realizing a “lifelong active society” via the active contribution of elderly people

We will make full use of the personal abilities and experiences of people facing the age of 100 and who are still willing to work by preparing an environment enabling to actively work a lifelong. We will promote employment support as well as entrepreneurship support and create options to actively participate in the society in order to realize a “lifelong active society”. For this reason, and in order to ensure that all applicants can continue to work until the age of 65, we support small and medium-sized enterprises based on the enforcement of the “Revised Elderly Employment Stabilization Law”. We will support companies hiring people who wish to work after the age of 65 or retirement.

In addition, we also intend to strengthen the support for reemployment of elderly people seeking a “second career”. Furthermore, even after retirement in one enterprise, employment and social

participation are carried out according to age, motivation and physical fitness and we will create an environment for elderly people to contribute to our society with their abundant knowledge and professional experience. In order to maintain this, we will advance the operation of the Silver Human Resource Center and promote diverse working styles by securing employment opportunities for the elderly.

44. Becoming the No. 1 financial market in Asia and the world's leading financial operation market in five years by vigorous economic companies and national assets

We will build a vibrant financial capital market securing fair competition conditions and still offering sufficient competition. First of all, regarding the structure of the Japanese economy after the end of deflation, we will establish a virtuous financial market and economy and will develop appropriate human resources and a business environment to become the number one international financial center in Asia. In doing so, we will seek to achieve sustainable growth in the real estate investment market by expanding the target assets of real estate funds such as J-REIT.

Therefore, we will review the simple and easy-to-understand securities taxation system promoting the transference "from savings to investment". We promote the use of NI SA introduced in FY2004 (tax exemptions for dividends on equity investment up to one million yen and up to five million yen each year) and promote the spread of the JPX Nikkei Index 400 by reactivating private financial institutions, strengthening securities markets and asset management markets, establishing the "Japan general exchange market" and creating a new special zone to attract foreign investment. Regarding the handling of recruitment and solicitation regulations for future commodity trading, we will respond appropriately by facilitating cutting-edge exchanges and taking the convenience for users into consideration. Furthermore, we aim to rebuild corporate and capital market legislation to enable citizens to contribute to a healthy economy and economic growth.

45. Promoting a corporate governance reform

In order to encourage listed companies to strive for sustainable growth based on a sound entrepreneurial spirit including fiduciary responsibilities and accountability to shareholders, we will formulate principles (corporate governance code) to ensure corporate governance. This code and the "Japanese version of the stewardship code" are set up as principles for institutional investors in February 2014 and we thereby aim to improve corporate value to investors and to realize a virtuous market of expanding returning investments over a medium to long-term perspective.

46. Realizing a fair and transparent financial market

In order to improve the reliability of the financial system, we have strengthened regulations on insider trading including the introduction of regulations on information transmission practices and operations of discretionary investment companies. We have made necessary amendments, including strengthening sanctions on false statements in reports, and continue to strengthen the financial inspection and supervision system by enhancing the appointment of financial inspectors (people with experience of financial business) and fortifying the assistance for overseas authorities. By also enhancing the functions of the SESC, we will try to optimize a fair and transparent financial market.

47. Reviewing public or semi-public funds

Based on the size and nature of each fund, public and semi-public funds in Japan will be sophisticated in terms of their operations and risk management.

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48. Improving the corporate environment to maintain and strengthen Japan's competitiveness

While the global economy is shifting from the concentration on the United States towards a multipolar system, Japan is still a composition with numerous competing players. Therefore, we will speed up the current business environment review to strengthen companies regarding their expansion and predictable transparency. We will create an environment that will not hamper the consolidation and elimination of enterprises in various industries and strengthen the foundation of industrial competitiveness necessary for our country to keep up with global competition.

Furthermore, we aim to prevent the hollowing out of the Japanese industry and will therefore improve the relative position of the Japanese economy by attracting foreign companies. Specifically, in order to promote advanced research, we will deepen the special economic zone system to realize sustainable cities, establish international content bases, strengthen urban revitalization and encourage local governments to attract domestic and foreign companies as well as research facilities. In addition, we will improve the settlement and investment environment of the industry by enhancing the efficiency of logistical functions to support regional core industries.

Since the mentioned measures are not an immigration policy, we will create an environment for foreign researchers with experience and skills to be active in Japan from the viewpoint of strengthening and improving the value of our labor force. In order to ensure that foreign nationals with advanced abilities and qualifications, expected to contribute to economic growth in Japan, are able to enter our country smoothly, it is necessary to review the annual immigration rate and to shorten the residence period from five to three years.

While keeping in mind regional revitalization and taking the damage of the supply chain due to the disaster into consideration, we will circumvent less efficient company management and a decrease in international competitiveness. Therefore, we will implement urgent and intensive support measures to promote the dispersion of key factories.

49. Supporting the creation and activities of venture businesses

Ventures and existing companies are both important for economic growth, and we will therefore support the angel tax system and other new measures to further exploit the strengths of Japan and support the creation of new businesses.

We are considering to hold a "venture creation conference" (provisional name) and establish a system to continuously create ventures with solid technical and management capabilities. By collecting the government's total power, we will embrace and support the venture environment in Japan. In doing so, we will strictly select the most eye-catching research results.

Also, in this process, we will select “promising development fields” and secure “excellent human resources” to support the creation and growth of venture companies. With regard to the angel tax system, based on the current situation that its dissemination is not progressing, we will simplify its usage for enterprises and other entities working on town development and village revitalization. We also strongly support the independence (spin-off) of ventures from large companies and second business establishments by small and medium-sized enterprises. We also revised the law to connect new and growing companies, such as venture companies, with investors on webpages and we will establish a mechanism to collect small funds from a large number of investors (cloud funding).

50. Creating new employment by creating social and community businesses

During unprecedented disasters, such as the Great East Japan Earthquake, it is essential for Japan’s “bonds” to exert great power for restoration and reconstruction and we therefore reaffirmed the importance of cooperation. On the other hand, regarding town and community development, many regions struggle to solve a variety of inherent problems such as environmental problems, low birthrates and an aging population. Therefore, by utilizing the “strength of local bonds”, based on the cooperation NPOs, local residents and regional companies rooted in communities, we will introduce social businesses and community businesses which can provide services tailored to each area and thereby aim to improve services for local residents and meanwhile create employment.

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51. Increasing and supporting the conversion of small and medium-sized enterprises as the foundation of our industry

The decrease of domestic production sites and the hollowing out of the industry due to a declining purchasing power of the whole nation is a life-and-death problem for small and medium-sized enterprises dependent on domestic demand. Also, in order to restore the supply chain damaged by the earthquake and in order to create a strong management body, it is necessary to eliminate squandering in enterprises and develop new businesses. For that reason, we will strengthen the expert consultation system to eliminate unprofitable departments in companies, create new departments and develop a system that facilitates support funds. For small and medium-sized enterprises, we will build a structure that mutually complements management resources via collaborating corporate groups that fortify the management foundation of companies. We will also support conventional industries such as the manufacturing or transportation industry.

Furthermore, even in the case of business transformation of companies to a completely new field, we will develop a system for management stability (management know-how, product development, IT conversion, etc.) to enable medium to long-term prospects instead of short-term ones. In addition, in order to strengthen the management foundation of SMEs, we have significantly relaxed application requirements for the business succession tax system via the tax system revision in FY2010 and we will promote this system to spread its utilization. Regarding the taxation of small and medium-sized enterprises, we will consider the tax balance of individual business operators, family companies and salaried employees by including the employer compensation system. In addition, the establishment of small and medium-sized enterprises is linked to an increase in

employment by thoroughly promoting and supporting the revitalization of individual business owners, business succession and the revitalization of financial foundations by various types of funds.

52. “From Japan to the World” – Supporting the globalization and overseas expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises

In Japan, there are many companies not globalized despite their high productivity, especially small and medium-sized enterprises. With highly competitive companies globalizing, productivity will become even higher and this will eventually lead to Japan’s economic growth and increase domestic employment. In order to bring those leading companies from the domestic level to the global, we set up the “overseas development strategy” corresponding to the one-stop service of the government. We will strengthen our system to support marketing, capital procurement, human resource development and risk taking in correspondence with All Japan. To fundamentally expand support for intellectual property including the reduction and exemption of patent fees, JETRO provides advice on educational activities that provide opportunities for exports and overseas expansion to small and medium-sized companies, tax accountants and regional financial institutions. In addition to involve accredited support organizations such as small business diagnostic experts, we will actively support marketing using OBs of large companies, such as trading companies.

53. Strategic regional development of headquarters and branch functions

To stop the erosion of industries, we will give incentives to new locations of industries in strategically selected areas and promote the regional development of industrial activities as a remedy for crisis management. Also, it is important to increase “work” in rural areas which is indispensable for realizing local creation. Therefore, we will support the establishment and expansion of offices and R&D bases by incentive taxation to advance the functions of regional company bases, including via investment of foreign companies, to encourage the relocation of headquarter functions to provincial areas which are currently concentrated in the metropolitan area, to strengthen the position of local struggling companies and to create high-quality employment. We will consider including taxation measures as to encourage the establishment and expansion of offices and R&D bases.

54. Promoting BCP (Business Continuity Plan) of companies

Based on lessons learned from the damaging of the supply chain due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, we will strengthen our support system for companies to formulate more effective BCPs to prepare for emergency situations and improve their BCM (Business Continuity Management).

In addition, although conventional BCPs have been concentrated on measures for companies in disaster affected areas, we will also encourage to broaden the content of BCPs to support disaster areas by strengthening the maintenance of nationwide supply chains. We will also support the shift from “individual corporate BCPs” to “corporate collaboration BCPs and BCM”.

Also, as a support on formulating BCPs, we will establish a system to disclose the content of our emergency assistance to the disaster area and how to prepare for emergency situations.

55. Promoting the practical use of innovative pharmaceuticals and medical devices

We promote R&D on and the dissemination of innovative pharmaceuticals and medical devices made in Japan, such as regenerative medicine or medical care robots. Regarding drug lags and devices lags, our efforts to accelerate approval have been successful and the problem has almost been resolved. In addition, we will further speed up the examination process, aiming for the realization of “zero” examination lags, and will expand our Pharmaceutical Affairs Council to support the lag elimination. Furthermore, since there is no effective mechanism or pioneering strategy for innovative pharmaceuticals, we aim to commercialize pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, such as regenerative medicine or products for life-threatening diseases (rare cancers, intractable diseases, etc.), faster in Japan.

In addition, we will evaluate for medical insurances to appropriately cover innovative pharmaceuticals and medical equipment and will enrich the human resource development system related to the development of pharmaceuticals. Aside from accelerating global development by promoting international joint clinical trials, we will promote international harmonization of various guidelines via organizations such as the ICH consisting of regulators and industrial representatives and aim to expand the structure of PMDA in Japan, the United States and Europe as an organization responsible for top-class reviewing and safety measures.

Furthermore, in order to dramatically accelerate the practical use of innovative medical technology, we will continue implementing a reliable mechanism for cooperative research management by the Japan Medical Research and Development Organization (AMED), to ensure high-quality international clinical research trials.

56. Promoting a growth strategy for the pharmaceutical industry based on our health policy contributing to national medical care

We will support the pharmaceutical industry to create added-value medicines by innovations and further contribute to national medical care. Therefore, we will promote industry-academia cooperation and open innovation by drug discovery networks. To support the overseas expansion of the pharmaceutical industry, we promote the use of the research and development taxation system and dissolve criteria for creating new drugs. We encourage the full-scale introduction and permanent use of innovative products and will take measures contributing to a stable supply of basic medicines. In addition, we will adhere to the highly transparent drug pricing system based on market-oriented pricing that appropriately reflects the role of generic products. Furthermore, to improve medical efficiency and maintain the public health system, we will promote the spread of generics and promote self-medication (individual health management).

57. Promoting business class nursing care

We regard high quality nursing care services responding to various needs as a new growth field and support diverse private services, including private insurances, responding to specific needs that cannot be handled adequately by public mechanism.

58. Promoting the international development of Japanese medical care

For the international expansion of medical equipment and medical services, it is necessary to foster human resources, such as doctors and nurses, in other countries. Therefore, in addition to promoting the safety of patients, we will further promote initiatives, including the simplification of licensing and approval procedures of Japanese medicines and medical devices in foreign countries, to support the development of the public medical insurance system, promote the use of private insurances as well as medical care related businesses, while also promoting international cooperative clinical research and clinical trials.

In order to receive safe medical services in Japan, we will work on various arrangements such as medical enterprises and enhance the system to accept foreign patients at medical institutions and create a mechanism for foreign tourists to obtain information on medical institutions.

59. Promoting *monozukuri* leading to the creation of new “products”

In addition to exploiting the strengths of traditional *monozukuri* contributing to the growth of the Japanese economy, we anticipate the needs of the current era and people as a necessary step to create new “products” entering the world market. In other words, we believe that not only domestic but also “foreign consumption” will play a crucial role in our new national economic model. To create a new way of *monozukuri*, it is important to combine ideas and technologies as a means to connect many people by “borderless” “products”, such as “Facebook” and “Google”. To strongly promote the creation of world-class “products” in Japan, we will also create an information dissemination platform for “products”-creating industry.

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60. Becoming a touristic nation

After the Great East Japan Earthquake, we will rebuild and strengthen touristic destinations as well as the tourism industry in general throughout Japan. We will especially focus on areas affected by the earthquake who suffer heavily due to rumor damage and a sharp decline in foreign visitors. It is an important pillar of our strategy for Japan’s growth to become a touristic nation and we will work with the public and private sector on achieving 20 million foreign tourists until 2020, the year of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, and 30 million tourists in 2030. Specifically, in cooperation with the public and private sector, and to increase domestic and overseas visits to Japan, we will promote a strategic Visit Japan Project that stipulates a nationwide system to strategically invite tourists to all regions. We are planning a variety of measures to reinforce traditional and natural touristic sites, the relaxation of visa issuance procedures as well as the acceleration of immigration examinations. We advance international tourism exchange, the dissemination of multilingual translations, the attraction and holding of international conferences and promote integrated resorts (IR) such as casinos. Furthermore, we will increase the convenience of duty-free procedures for foreign travelers and expand the number of duty-free shops in rural areas. In addition to simplify the acquisition of vacations, it is also important to enhance the information provision, carry out town planning that takes the specific landscape into consideration, create tourist hubs by using road stations and improving the display of information and maintain existing facilities. In order

to promote regional revitalization by sightseeing, we will improve public transportation facilities and public transportation in general, including cruise ships, to enable smooth traveling. We will also develop attractive touristic spots and thereby cultivate the tourism industry. We will consider a comprehensive contract with NHK on the reception fee of hotels.

61. Activating the real estate market

We will try to revitalize the real estate investment market including real estates in local cities to utilize private funds for the promotion of earthquake-resistant and energy-conserving offices and houses and to escape from asset deflation by a high-quality real estate stock. To that end, we will realize a virtuous market by improving the institutional aspects of the real estate investment market that also contributes to the revitalization of the Japanese economy. Furthermore, we will promote its transparency, diversify real estate objects and investment, involve regional financial institutions and allow the entry of overseas funds.

Also, we will revitalize the second-hand housing market by rebuilding unused or vacant houses and stores nationwide and will promote efforts to improve the quality of “residential building trading businesses” accompanied by a partial revision of the “Residential Building Trading Businesses Law”. In addition, we will promote the overseas development of the Japanese real estate industry.

62. Creating a “scientific and technological innovation nation”

We aim to become the “nation most suitable for innovation in the world” as a driving force for earthquake disaster reconstruction and will therefore reinforce the development of human resources, accumulation of budget, related institutions and the general research system to strengthen science and technology bases. We also include security, diplomacy, economic and fiscal regulation and a regulatory reform into a comprehensive and strategic science and technology innovation policy and the Prime Minister will act as a commanding center for these policies.

In particular, based on lessons learned from the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, we will try to strengthen political decisions of and scientific advice to the Prime Minister.

By formulating a “Fifth Basic Act on Science and Technology” aiming to consolidate the sustainable development of Japan and the world, we will raise the total government investment on research and development to 25 trillion yen and we will try to secure the necessary budget by strategically redistributing large-scale science and technology funds. Regarding research fraud, we will promote unremitting efforts to enable effective responses by clarifying rules in advance to support researchers on their challenges.

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63. Reconstructing the functions of a true “commanding center” as a powerful driving force for science and technology policies

In order to further develop a society and economy using less resources in the future, it is an urgent task to realize innovations and their increased usage by citizens and private corporations. Until now, the disadvantage of the vertical structure of the administration is remarkable since research on the

same topic has been conducted various times by different agencies and other similar cases have been observed within ministries.

In order to realize a domestic and foreign expansion of innovations, and since science and technology is important for different industries, we established a system to eliminate squandering and efficiently allocate budget as a national strategy by reorganizing the “General Science and Technology Conference” to a “General Science and Technology and Innovation Conference” and by strengthen the function of the commanding center. In the future, in order to promote further scientific and technological innovations, we will broaden the functions of the Prime Minister by further strengthening the official residence as a “scientific and technological innovation commanding center” and will promote domestic and foreign development by formulating the “Fifth Basic Plan on Science and Technology”.

In particular, based on the framework of various foreign countries and the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we intend to fortify the function of the Prime Minister on political decisions of and scientific advice on innovations and related policies. By strengthening the collaboration among related agencies, we will further advance the elimination of the vertical structure of ministries and agencies, concentrate budget allocations on powerful authorities and develop human resources capable of conducting appropriate evaluations and system reorganizations. For example, Japan plays a leading role in iPS cell research and the large-scale project on elementary particle field ILC. We will therefore combine the knowledge of the industry and academia as a national strategy for specific fields such as regenerative medicine and priority fields such as energy creation, conservation and storage.

64. Promoting academic and basic research to foster young researchers

In order to create innovations, we will support academic and basic research widely, patiently and in the long run and will also foster and support young researchers who will be future leaders.

In order to constantly create new worldwide assets of knowledge, it is essential to further promote research conducting facilities which facilitate the spontaneity and creativity of researchers and parallelly expand scientific research. We will greatly expand competitive funds including expense support for projects to secure the diversity and continuity of these projects. At the same time, we will secure indirect expenses up to 30% in all competitive funds and further promote institutional improvement to simplify the acquisition of funds.

65. Strengthening R&D capabilities

To strengthen our national R&D capabilities, we will implement the following measures.

- (1) We will foster excellent researchers responsible for innovative research and will therefore expand our permanent financial support for graduate students, introduce medium- to long-term internships, establish stable career paths for researchers and will advance appropriate management of human resources. We will thereby create outstanding research, administrative and professional personnel.

- (2) For attracting high-ranking researchers from all over the world and to improve their treatment responding to the international talent acquisition competition, we will position Japanese research institutions as centers for international experts.
- (3) We will maintain the worldwide highest-level research environment by providing investments in universities, including private facilities, and will reform the governance of universities to strengthen our R&D capabilities.
- (4) We promote research activities producing innovative results. Compared to the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) who created the internet and GPS, Japan's defense related R&D expenditures are significantly subordinate to other major developed countries. With regard to the limited conversion of defense technologies to consumer technologies (spin-off), we will promote high-risk research, dual use technologies and other innovative achievements to create social and economic high-value innovations. For that reason, we introduce the "Innovative Research and Development Support Program (ImPACT)" to advance original research and select innovative research themes with great impact in the future under responsibility of an authorized program manager. In addition, we will train specialized human resources for research evaluations.
- (5) We will establish a research and development corporation system enabling the creation of the world's highest standard innovations. Also, based on the transition to the new system and the cooperation of the industry, academia and government on R&D, we will build places (innovations hubs) to hone talented people and strengthen the competences of R&D corporations. Regarding the creation of region-originating innovations stagnating due to the "sorting of businesses", we will match universities nationwide with small and medium-sized enterprises to enable the cooperation of researchers and entrepreneurs. We will thereby create bases for R&D where universities, research institutions and companies gather. To strongly advance the transition from research to commercialization, we promote the creation of rural research facilities by using science and technology as driving force.

In addition, in order to strongly promote innovation and the practical application of life science in the medical field, it is necessary to establish a new examination system for competitive research topics, allocate indispensable funds and realize a system for the overseas development of life science. With regard to brain research, we will make full use of our strengths and strategically promote research to understand the full range of brain functions and to overcome mental neurological disorders, while taking the situation in Europe and the United States into account.

66. Institutional reform to realize innovations

In order to create new industries and employment, we have selected important fields centered on integrated science and technology and conducted innovation conferences to depart from basic research (commercialization, practical application). We have established the "Strategic Innovation Creation Program" (SIP) exceeding the framework of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare and have allocated resources for priority projects over the past several years. Since innovations cannot

only be realized by companies alone but only via industrial-academic collaboration, we will carry out a drastic system and regulation reform to no longer impede innovation led by the commanding center of the Prime Minister.

Specifically, in order to fundamentally strengthen our R&D capabilities, national research and development corporations and related ministries and agencies will cooperate efficiently, while taking into consideration the overall system and organization of independent administrative agencies, to maximize R&D achievements. Therefore, we will (1) set the major premise of achievements (achievement mission) on the interests of citizens, (2) position national research and development corporations as research institutions tackling issues difficult for universities and companies to deal with under the national strategy, (3) review business operations regarding improved efficient. We will thereby establish a standard level to ensure an improved procurement method and we will review the limit of voluntary contracts to smoothly conduct research and development. Parallely, we will build a national innovation system by strengthening the industry-academia collaboration functions (“bridging” functions) of public research institutions.

In addition, based on the international strategy of national R&D corporations, we will enable these corporations to create global top-level achievements of science and technology innovations in the international competition. We aim to submit the “Specified National R&D Law” (provisional name) to take special measures on business operations and strictly judge achievements based on the status of the reform of these corporation.

Furthermore, to promote the utilization of the open innovation and R&D tax system and to enhance entrepreneurs and human resources, we will enable graduate students and young researchers to conduct perennial research. Based on risks of the commercialization of innovative technologies, we will reform our financial policy to supply money, enhance support for ventures and will also reform the intellectual property system. We will strongly promote further reforms such as regulations and public systems to realize the priority of government procurement for new technologies and the industry-academia-government collaboration, including SMEs.

As the race of countries to acquire international standards is becoming fiercer, we implement the “Public-Private Standardization Strategy” in May this year to summarize concrete measures in close cooperation of the public and private sector. In particular, we promote rapid international standardization by utilizing the “New Market Creation and Standardization System” and aim to forward strategic international standardization activities by public-private partnerships while also strengthening the cooperation with Asian countries. We also regard Japan’s advanced technology core industry as a unitary system, from construction to operation as well as the contribution to human resource development. We will greatly strengthen overseas export and deployment activities by public-private partnerships.

67. Promoting core technologies as the basis of sustainable growth and security in Japan (national strategy on core technologies)

We will support natural disaster observation, predication and countermeasures technologies, marine area surveillance and observation technologies, marine resource surveying technologies, space exploration technologies such as *Hayabusa* or manned and unmanned explorations (technologies requiring long-time research and development), nuclear fusion technologies and next-generation supercomputers since these field are accompanied by a great development risk difficult for private companies alone to handle. These technologies do not only firmly secure our nation, including our comprehensive security, but also contribute to the maintenance and development of our industrial competitiveness and also contribute to the realization of a safe and secure society.

Based on recent changes in our security environment and intensified global competition, our nation will continue to strongly conduct research and development of such core technologies from a strategic long-term perspective. Also, the Nobel Prize for blue LEDs, nanotechnology and material science and technology is a great achievement of Japan. Since it is our duty to support key industries and various fields of research and applied science, we will promote research on innovative material throughout Japan.

68. Creating international R&D centers

In order to create innovations, it is necessary to establish “places” for universities, public research institutions and industries to gather and collaboratively engage in research and development. In particular, to further strengthen open innovation in Japan’s strong fields, we strongly promote initiatives aimed at the formation of international innovation hubs as “places” for talents with knowledge, ideas and know-how to gather on innovations and technologies.

To enable Japan to acquire worldwide talents, it is essential to form a world-class research environment that attracts excellent researchers not only from Japan but also from foreign countries. Aside from establishing “World Premier International Research Center” (WPI) for international research networking, we will also promote the “Science and Research Frontier Promotion Project” to develop world-leading academic research and accelerate technological development for state-of-the-art experimental facilities, for example for elementary particle research such as the “International Linear Collider (ILC)”. It is also important to build a research and development base for the world’s most advanced iPS cell research. For this reason, we will fundamentally strengthen our support for universities and public research institutes conducting superior research and educational activities surpassing global standards.

69. Strengthening international science and technology activities

We will try to further improve multifaceted international collaboration including personnel and research exchanges to transfer knowledge worldwide and exploit the vitality of the world. In order to contribute to solving serious global problems, we will further strengthen our cooperation with other countries and actively facilitate the sustainable development of the world. We will greatly fortify science and technology diplomacy, such as science and technology cooperation by using

ODA, and respond to the rapid development of science and technology capabilities of emerging countries. We will advance science and technology necessary for the existence of our nation while keeping synergistic effect and the realization of mutual benefits in mind.

Also, we will strengthen our international network via the strategic overseas dispatch of excellent young researchers and building research bases both in Japan and abroad. We will promote collaboration and cooperation between domestic universities conducting excellent educational and research activities and overseas universities and use these these educational and research activities for diplomatic strategies. Furthermore, in addition to establishing a system to collect and analyze overseas trends, we will strengthen the management of security-related technologies. Meanwhile, we will actively utilize our technology contributing to our own security and the international nuclear nonproliferation regime.

70. Promoting a strategic space policy

The development of our space system will be arranged based on the “Basic Law on the Space” by securing the necessary budget to ensure Japan’s international presence and national interests, promoting space science and constant research and development to improve the quality of people’s lives and upgrade security responses and industrial development. We will especially focus on the development and maintenance of the rocket transport and satellite system. It is important to strongly enhance the development and utilization of space operations and allocate resources for priority projects by implementing a strategic space policy.

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Therefore, we will strongly cooperate with the Cabinet Office Space Policy Committee authorized for the budgeting and arranging of personnel and we will actively utilize strategic ODA for securing sea lanes and resources to promote space science and the space industry as an essential aspect to the key policies of the Prime Minister regarding Japan’s security, such as the maritime and space policy.

71. Developing a new rocket type

In order to secure the autonomy of space activities in Japan and maintain the industrial bases, an international competitive space transportation system is required. For this reason, the public and private sector will work together to develop a new rocket type by a comprehensive system integrating the rocket aircraft and terrestrial system at the Tanegashima Space Center. We will aim to launch the new rocket type for the first time in 2020.

72. Promoting the International Space Station and National Space Exploration Project

The International Space Station (ISS) program in Japan is an international joint project in the space of unparalleled scale in human history and is a symbol of international cooperation. In particular, the Japanese astronauts, including astronaut Wakata, are living the dreams and hopes of citizens. We will continue to positively promote the ISS project and will sponsor the 2nd International Space Exploration Forum on international space exploration as a challenge for humanity, while making the most of our strengths.

73. Promoting our arctic policy as a national strategy

The Arctic is the region where the effects of global climate change are most prominent and the Arctic Ocean sea ice has been decreasing in recent years. Concerns about the global climate and ecological impact of environmental changes in the Arctic region are also becoming a major international problem.

On the other hand, due to the decreasing sea ice, global attention is also given to this region for new economic activities such as shipping routes via the Arctic Ocean and the awaited resource development of various substances.

The international situation regarding the Arctic is rapidly developing, and we will therefore formulate a “national strategy on the Arctic” from a multilateral perspective to take a leading position in the international community, tackle the Arctic problem and the government to take unified strategic and diplomatic responses while also letting the science and technology policy fulfill active international contributions.

74. Strengthening the technical development of next-generation aircrafts

In order to position the aircraft industry, which is expected to experience a doubled demand in the next 20 years and is expected to grow greatly, as a growth industry comparable to Japan’s automobile industry, it is necessary to strategically and strongly promote measures for aviation science and technology.

Specifically, we will promote advanced technological development, such as engine efficiency improvement technologies, directly connected with the improvement of international competitiveness, strengthen the domestic industrial infrastructure and build a structure to unify the industry, government and academia to gather technological capabilities for innovation creation. By doing so, we will contribute to the development of next-generation aircrafts ahead of other countries and with high performance and excellent prices.

75. Promoting an ICT society

ICT has dramatically improved the convenience of people’s lives, including streamlining businesses and improved services in various fields. In the future, as the global industry changes, we will further advance ICT and at the same time develop the world’s highest-level ICT infrastructure for the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo. We will promote the “ICT conversion of the whole society” to enable each citizen to receive the benefits of ICT, including local residents, companies and foreigners visiting Japan. For example, we will introduce smart grid leading to an improved power supply efficiency, create smart cities, introduce traffic ITS, utilize big data for management innovation of rural bus routes, utilize automobile related information and implement e-governance. We will furthermore use ICT for education, the traceability of agricultural as well as forestry and fishery products. Furthermore, we will inspect the aging of our infrastructure by sensors and by utilizing the G space project and will thereby secure water resources and general resource exploration by remote sensing. Via ICT, we will also disseminate linguistic translations, super high

4K and 8K resolution and digital signatures and will thereby greatly improve the convenience of the lives of citizens while also reducing the environmental burden.

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We will further expand investment on the introduction of ICT teleworking and telemedicine to increase employment, medical treatment, emergency care and nursing care. We will contribute to the advancement of health and promptly proceed with the standardization of new success models solving various problems. ICT will be useful in a variety of fields such as the analysis of big data in the industrial sector, including agriculture and tourism, and the marketing of open data for governmental and public services and we will therefore optimize our ICT investment for the whole society. We will promote economic growth via ICT by promoting the development of ICT personnel.

76. Diffusing multilingual translations

The number of foreign nationals visiting Japan has reached the highest record ever and even more visitors are expected at the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, but the “language barrier” is a serious hindrance to experience our rich culture and the charm of our nation. We will widely disseminate multilingual translations which became feasible by the development of ICT, the use of 4K and 8K televisions and digital signage to eliminate the “language barrier” and thereby contribute to regional revitalization by enabling foreigners from various countries experience the “hospitality” of regional tourist destinations.

77. Promoting information literacy education

It is very important for citizens to acquire the ability to master right information while the utilization of the internet spreads to all sectors. We will develop information literacy education and educational activities in various places such as PTA, schools or communities.

78. Promoting the collaboration with government CIOs (Cabinet/Chief Information and Communication Officers)

Our party, in cooperation with government CIOs, will conduct a thorough review of government operations and the reconstruction of e-government under a unified philosophy. We will review the current situation, set a plan to achieve our goals and publicize our progress and evaluation.

We will develop a data system that can be utilized in various sectors, such as the industry or individual citizens, and will thereby improve the convenience for the people while contributing to economic growth.

Furthermore, we aim to reduce our operational costs by 30% by reducing the number of government information system and converting them to cloud government information systems. We also introduce clouds in local governments and aim to double the number of cloud-based municipalities. In order to realize this, we will drastically increase the quality and quantity of government CIOs and promote the introduction of CTO (Chief Technology Officer) to support the government CIOs on technical aspects.

79. Cyber security and economic growth

In order to protect our citizens from frequent cybercrimes and to further strengthen cooperation between ministries on this topic, we will establish a system demonstrating comprehensive power, contributing to economic growth by priming investment and realizing the diversion of government offices. Especially, the National Police Agency, Ministry of Defense and Japan Coast Guard will quickly construct a dynamic defense and backup system similar to the one of the United States.

In addition, we will take immediate steps to ensure that all information equipment and multifunction devices of government agencies are under strict security surveillance.

We will construct laboratory facilities (cyber ranges) that can be widely used by the industry and universities for cyber security training and development and thereby improve the security level of the whole nation via an advanced cyber security qualification system similar to the United States.

We will promote human resource development and career path improvements via a practical curriculum in cooperation with the industry and universities. Together with these measures, the cyber security industry creates employment opportunities as a growth industry and creates high-quality security technology, products and services and delivers them to government agencies as well as the private sector. We will contribute to economic growth by promoting measures to create new businesses and a sound development of the industry.

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80. Strengthening the international competitiveness of the ICT industry

ICT is a strategically important sector since it significantly contributes to the creation of new wealth and the efficiency of production activities and improves the convenience of our citizens' lives. It is essential to foster a high-profit ICT industry with a strong presence in the international market and to use it as a driving force for the growth of the Japanese economy and that also contributes to the international community.

But at the same time, since the innovation and utilization of ICT in our nation are not necessarily proceeding well, we will strategically proceed with our efforts to realize Japan as the world's most advanced ICT nation.

Regarding the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, we aim to be a country respected in the world and will therefore realize the sophistication of multilingual translations to eliminate language barriers for foreign visitors to experience our rich, safe and secure living environment. Additionally, we will also realize an inexpensive and comfortable communication environment by improving free public Wi-Fi and promoting the use of open data as tourist information, while also supporting the creation of an innovative ICT service industry.

We furthermore aim to develop next-generation television ahead of the world, establish new receiver and broadcasting systems responding to bi-directional transmission and high picture quality smart television (4K, 8K televisions) by converging the TV and internet service and thereby securing international competitiveness of Japanese content productions. As part of the Cool Japan strategy, we will promote the overseas development of broadcast contents disseminating the attractiveness of

each region and our whole nation and will also globally expand Japanese culture and food industries, parallelly contributing to the cultivation and expansion of inbound tourism.

Since the overseas expansion and development of Japanese ICT technology is also important, we will actively encourage the adoption of the terrestrial digital broadcasting system of Japan which has already been adopted in South American or Central American countries. We will support the transition of digital broadcasting in our country, deepen our technical cooperation relationships on ICT and open the way for market development of Japanese products in various sectors.

Also, regarding the remarkable development of the field of mobile phones, we are aiming for an early realization of 4th generation mobile phones exceeding the improved LTE (3.9 generation). We will assign frequency and lead international standards by fulfilling the development of attractive applications and promoting global expansion.

We also conduct social projects such as the regional revitalization by utilizing ICT to solve problems in Japan such as the educational environment, social security, medical care, employment, administrative costs, energy, aging and disaster prevention. While promoting the homogenization of the domestic market, we will as well promote an early overseas development.

81. Creating new industries by promoting the G-space project (Geospatial Information)

In order to realize a G-space society, the government has established a general commanding center organization to promote the utilization of G-space information, including the ICT conversion of local governments. We aim to establish a semi-zenithal satellite system autonomously sustaining its position.

By providing G-space social infrastructure for other countries, we contribute to the international community by supporting developing countries while also generating economic growth in our nation. Specifically, in order to strengthen Japan's industrial competitiveness, we will promote the establishment of electronic reference points in other countries and support projects utilizing semi-zenithal satellites.

82. Securing resources and sophisticating the maritime disaster prevention system by the G-space project

Japan is a large nation and its exclusive economic zone is said to be the sixth largest in the world. By linking the "Basic Law of the Sea, the "Basic Law of the Universe" and the "Basic Law on Promotion the Utilization of Geospatial Information", we accurately grasp the terrain of our nation's ocean, the continental shelf and deep sea in metric units and can generate precise location information of hidden resources.

In addition, by developing a system constantly monitoring the movement of the ocean bed plate and the height of tsunamis in centimeters, we will also use advanced technology for earthquake prediction, tsunami detection and disaster prevention and mitigation.

Fiscal restoration

83. Fiscal structure reform with focus on next generations

In FY2012 and FY2013, we reviewed the swollen expenditures due to the political influence of the Democratic Party's administration, including the "natural increase" of social security expanses. While continuing to thoroughly examine cost effectiveness and eliminating squandering, we will promote the efficiency and prioritizing of expenditures to enable flexible financial responses and create funds for our growth strategy to advance disaster prevention. We will increase the tax revenue by implementing policies aimed at the growth of the Japanese economy, such as focusing on tax allocation.

By implementing these measures, we will halve the primary ratio and balance of national and local governments to the GDP (level of FY2010) until FY2015. We will stick to the goal of gaining a profitable balance. And until the early 2020s, we will steadily lower outstanding debts and the GDP ratio of the central and local governments. We will formulate concrete plans to achieve the target of profitability in fiscal year 2020. In addition, in order to achieve both the realization of our goal and the implementation of new measures, we will establish the principle of securing permanent financial resources for our new policy, while taking the impact on future growth into consideration.

Based on the policy described above, we will proceed considering the "Fiscal Consolidation Liability Law". At the same time, depending on the trends of the international economy, such as the European debt crisis, we will respond flexibly to prevent serious impacts on the lives of our citizens.

84. Securing the stability of our nation's government bonds

It is extremely important to secure confidence in government bonds and we will endeavor to issue government bonds which are moderate towards fiscal consolidation. In addition to implement appropriate government bond management policies, we will also prevent "day x" on which government bond prices collapse, assuming all risks.

85. Drastic reform of the tax system to realize a safe society

Our party aims for a drastic reform of the tax system, including the raised consumption tax, and we have already clarified this goal of a "basic tax system revision" in the general election and the Upper House election pledge in July 2010.

Since the fiscal crisis is worsening, fiscal finance has remarkably lacked its responsiveness in recent years, and it has become difficult for financial resources to respond to essential sectors, such as social security, security measures, international competitiveness enhancement, human resource development and the correction of regional disparities does not advance, so that the financial structure currently hinders Japan's present and future. On the other hand, to establish a sustainable social security system under the trend of a rapid declining birthrate and aging populations, we must build a system providing the necessary social security services while suppressing the burden imposed on people paying taxes and social insurance fees.

Based on these aspects, for the future of Japan, the next generations and the current national life, we have concluded a three-party agreement on a social security and tax reform together with the Democratic Party, who did not keep their promises of 2009 to the people, and the New Komeito. Thereby, and based on future discussions of the National Congress on Social Security System Reform, we will implement and publish a plan of a sustainable social security system with balanced benefits and burdens on the premise of stable financial resources, generated by the increased consumption tax rate.

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In addition, since the consumption tax is raised and flexible responses of the national finances become feasible, we will carry out measures, such as growth strategies for the Japanese economy, by focusing on the allocation of funds for growth areas and advancing disaster prevention.

(The use and timing of the raised consumption tax)

Based on the consumption tax law for the drastic reform of the tax system to secure stable resources established in August 2012, the consumption tax rate will be raised to 10% in two steps while also revising the tax rate. In order to balance economic revitalization and fiscal consolidation, we will raise the consumption tax rate from 8% to 10% in April 2017.

In particular, since the government can respond flexibly from FY2014 and beyond, we will focus funds on growth strategies and advanced disaster prevention, to realize the growth of the Japanese economy by even distribution.

Regarding the use of the raised consumption tax, it will cover half of the expenses of a raised basic pension and cover the full amount of expenses of an increased social security benefits, measures against a declining birthrate as well as medical and nursing care.

(Considering low-income people as well as small and medium-sized businesses)

Regarding the raised consumption tax, we will introduce its rate of 10% with the understanding of the citizens and related businesses. For the purpose of its introduction, we will promptly consider targeted items, classification accounting and stable financial resources.

We will continue to provide and significantly expand social benefits, tax breaks and tax exemptions for low-income families. Regarding the smooth and proper transfer of the consumption tax, we will continue to carry out thorough measures

(Considering the general lives of citizens)

Since the consumption tax rate is scheduled to be raised to 10%, due consideration is paid to the purchase tax amount burden of medical institutions and patient and we will realize the impartiality of the burden based on transparency. Together with the opinions of medical personnel and insurer, we will examine the financial resources of the medical insurance system to enable appropriate measures. We will continue to provide social benefits according to the income of families to limit impacts of the tax reform and tax exemptions have been significantly expanded.

Regarding the personal income taxation, it is necessary to reconsider various deductions and the tax rate structure. Since the foundation of our society is “self-help”, the role of family support must also be appreciated correctly. Based on this viewpoint, we will comprehensively consider a neutral tax system for workers. Also, we will restore deductions for minor dependents and arrange child allowances.

In order to improve the competitiveness of the Japanese economy, we will implement a corporate tax reform emphasizing growth orientation. From the upcoming fiscal year onwards, by reforming the tax structure to share the financial burden more broadly, we will reduce the effective corporate tax rate to 20% after securing permanent financial resources in the next years. During the reform, consideration will be given to the impact on SMEs.

Regarding automobile taxation, we will continue to review the relevant tax system on the national and regional level, secure stable financial resources, reduce the financial burden and simplify the tax system while also aiming at the greening of the general tax system.

Concerning the eco-cars acquisition tax reduction, we plan to switch standards and set new priorities until FY2015. Also, the automobile acquisition tax will be abolished when the consumption tax rate reaches 10%. Based on the outline of the tax reform of the ruling party in 2012, we set an environmental performance tax (environmental performance ratio) to maintain and strengthen the acquisition of green automobiles.

- (A) Taxation rates are based on purchase prices and will be examined together with deductions and tax exemptions. The tax rate will vary between 0% and 3% according the fuel consumption standards based on the Energy Conservation Law. We will examine and reflect the specific fuel consumption standards for tax rates to enable a smooth transition of the fuel economy standards in 2020 based on the Energy Conservation Law.
- (B) The scale of tax exemptions for environmental performance shall not affect local finances and we will therefore secure stable financial resources elsewhere and consider its average use per year.
- (C) Regarding the greening of the automobile taxation (displacement amount) via introducing the environmental performance ratio, we further clarify the purpose of the environmental performance ratio, prioritize certain automobile with tax exemption and will strengthen the related department in accordance to the environmental performance and greening taxation.
- (D) By designing special institutions, we shall consider the opinion of a wide range of stakeholders while also considering technological developments to further promote greening. From the viewpoint of promoting greening via vehicle taxes, we will also consider establishing greening ministries.

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- (E) We will review the automobile weight tax in the following aspects.
 - a) In line with current eco-car tax reduction, we will revise the specific criteria for eco-car tax cuts. We will also establish a basic and permanent structure of eco-car tax reductions.

- b) Regarding the automobile weight tax, while considering financial resources required for the maintenance and renewal of roads and promoting disaster prevention and mitigation, we take the financial burden of tax payers and beneficiaries into consideration. We also clarify that part of the tax revenue is used for pollution health damage compensations.

Regarding the local tax systems, and in order to promote decentralization, we will protect the tax revenue from economic fluctuations and implement a mechanism to stabilize tax sources. Specifically, as part of the drastic tax system reform and the revised consumption tax, we will raise the local consumption tax in April 2017 and review the taxation system of regional corporations. Regarding the tobacco tax, we will conduct comprehensive examination on tobacco and we will examine the impact on tobacco farmers and retail stores.

Regarding the liquor taxation, we review possible tax rate reduction among different alcoholic beverages belonging to the same classification to realize equal taxation of similar liquors and we will position alcoholic beverages as fiscal materials. In doing so, we will consider simplifying the tax rate structure and reviewing the definition of each alcoholic beverage as necessary.

By promoting low carbonization, we will advance the greening of the entire tax system. As for countermeasures against global warming, it is necessary to promote both energy-originated CO2 emission control and its reduction. By implementing various measures to control energy-originated CO2 emission, special measures such as the tax rate for petroleum and coal will be enacted.

On the other hand, regarding forest decline measures, it is necessary to set up forests and forestry as a national strategy since they greatly contribute to land conservation and global warming prevention, and to promote forest maintenance such as afforestation and thinning as measures to reduce CO2. Therefore, as stipulated in the tax law established in August 2012, we will examine comprehensive forest decline countermeasures and secure financial resources for regional global warming countermeasures as soon as possible.

In order to improve the convenience for citizens and the general tax payment structure, we implemented the “Law on Specific Identity Numbers for Administrative Procedures” (promulgated in May 2013) (common name: My Number Law) and we will thereby try to improve social welfare services including pensions and further optimize income taxation. While increasing the security, transparency and efficiency of administrative services, and while taking measures to protect privacy into consideration, we will distribute personal number cards for free and will endeavor to enhance the “my number system”.

At the same time, the government CIO (Chief Information Officer) supervises the safety of the government information system in collaboration with the NISC (National Information Security Officer) and we thereby strive to establish a highly efficient, reliable and economic system. Regarding personal number cards, we will enable a future-proof and extensible mechanism for private business operators and will conduct research on the use of smartphones and biometrics for this purpose.

It is against the so-called “Revenue Agency Initiative” that the civil servants of the National Tax Agency collect the annual insurance fee since this duty obliges the Japan Pension Organization as a civilian conductor.

86. Tackling the incorrect use of the My Number System

In order to smoothly introduce the My Number System as the basis for the social welfare and tax system, we will strive for a fair ICT society. We will also expand the use of this system while considering the protection of personal privacy. By introducing the My Number System, we will extend the information system, use it more effectively and realize online services for the public and private sector.

Regarding personal number cards as the foundation of identity verification, we will distribute the cards free of charge for the time being and will construct an immediate confirmation system of health insurances by enabling the integration with existing cards such as health insurance cards from 2016 onwards. We strive to optimize medical expenses, improve the convenience of citizens and contribute to productivity improvement.

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Energy Resources

87. Diversifying the energy supply structure

Japan heavily relies on energy resource imports and Japan’s economy is largely affected by global energy trends, such as crude oil prices. Since Japan is a resource scarce nation, energy security is one of our big challenges. In order to deal with this, it is necessary to diversify the energy supply structure.

As one of the domestic top priority issues, we intend to maximize the introduction of renewable energy such as sunlight and wind power and to promote thorough energy conservation. We will promote the new expansion of highly efficient LNG and coal-fired power plants with a small environmental burden, while also promoting technological development for further improved efficiency and lower carbon emissions. As a means to control the CO₂ emission of thermal power plants, we will reinforce research on the effective and inexpensive practical use of CO₂, and we will also make effective use of existing oil-fired power plants aiming at reducing the environmental burden of existing thermal power plants. At the same time, by implementing the power system reform to be described later, we will proceed with creating a mechanism to form highly efficient power plants in a wide variety of areas.

In order to ensure stable and inexpensive fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal and natural gas imports, we will develop strategic resource diplomacy supported by Japan’s state-of-the-art technology and we will thereby diversify our resource supply sources. We also plan to form an efficient maritime transport network to realize a stable and cheap energy resources supply chain. In addition to efforts to secure fossil fuels, we will seek our outstanding advanced energy technologies to improve energy efficiency and fuel conversion in the industrial, transportation and civilian sector. We promote the

introduction of gases with low CO2 emissions, such as natural gas and LP gas, which become the “last fort” of energy supply at the occurrence of disaster and promote the shifting from fuels.

Petrol stations play an important role for the “public infrastructure” and we will continue supporting the use of petroleum by securing a stable supply.

88. Promoting the development of domestic resources and efforts for commercialization

Japan, as resource scarce nation, will further promote the cooperation of the industry, academia and government to increase domestic energy resources by, for example, improving marine exploration, extraction technologies and the independent development of mineral resources. We will strategically proceed with steadily securing rare earth and metals which are indispensable for developing and manufacturing international competitive high-tech products.

We will promote recycling businesses (recycling of rare metals) to efficiently collect low-cost rare metals (so-called urban mines) of discarded machineries in Japan and stipulate these as domestic resources. Furthermore, the existence of mineral resources, including rare metals and rare earths, has been confirmed in the exclusive economic zones of our nation, such as the waters surrounding Okinawa or Minamitori Island, and we will therefor consider exploration. We will further advance resource exploitation bases on remote islands.

On the other hand, due to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident, our reliance on thermal power plants has increased. Therefore, we will conduct diplomatic development (co-resource exploration, technical support, etc.) with diversified countries and suppliers. Regarding natural gas, the core raw material for thermal power plants, we will strategically reduce procurement costs by new imports of shale gas from North America.

In addition, it has been confirmed that natural gas and methane hydrate are also buried in the ocean around our nation, and therefore, further exploration, investigation and R&D for the practical application such as mining technology and cost reduction will be carried out. In the future, our nation will take the initiative and will develop technologies to commercialize these resources by the end of FY2018.

89. Accelerating the adaptation of the reform of the energy supply structure to create employment

The Great East Japan Earthquake exposed the vulnerability of Japan’s energy system. To ensure the safety and security of our citizens and to strengthen a stable energy supply system required for economic growth, we will review our energy policy so far and will advance necessary power system reforms.

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We will carry out a drastic reform to realize a major turnover of the electric market system, that has been unchanged for the last 60 years, in three stages. (1) We will expand the wide area system (legislation established at the extraordinary Diet session in 2013 and will be implemented in 2015) by simplifying the relocation of electricity companies across areas and to secure a stable supply for example during disasters. (2) Next, we will carry out the “total liberalization of retail entrance”

allowing household to freely choose electric companies (legislation established at the ordinary Diet session in 2014 and to be implemented in 2016). (3) To enable everyone to fairly use the electricity distribution network, we will secure neutrality and independence by converting the electricity distribution department of electric power companies into separate companies to “secure further neutrality of the electricity distribution departments by legal separation” and fair electricity charges by a “total liberalization of retail fees (both will be implemented between 2018 and 2020. We aim to submit the bills to the ordinary Diet session in 2015). In addition, we will carefully consider the series of reforms not to interfere with the lives of citizens and economic activities.

By completing the three-stage power system reform and promoting an integral reform of the energy supply structure, we will not only to ensure the stable energy supply but also ensure the safety and security of citizens lives and we will therefore promote future economic growth, strengthen our economic foundation and create new employment.

90. Realizing an energy-saving society

In order to realize an energy-saving society while maintaining economic growth, it is necessary to continue implementing energy saving measures in the industrial, transportation and civil sector. Therefore, we will support the introduction of innovative energy-saving equipment by private enterprises, the creation of a platform for detailed energy conservation consultation of small and medium-sized enterprises and the high insulation of housings and buildings. In addition, we will promote smart energy consumption via smart energy management systems such as HEMS / BEMS.

91. Promoting renewable energy and realizing an independent energy distribution society

By the “Renewable Energy Introduction Acceleration Act” established in January this year, we will realize an “independent” energy distribution society. While working on the expansion of renewable energy such as wind, geothermal heat, biomass and hydropower, we will further promote businesses related to renewable energy by establishing an investment fund for these projects.

In addition, by focusing on renewable energy, we aim to realize a stable energy supply by constructing a distributed energy society via an energy supply system rooted in communities.

Therefore, it is necessary to (1) realize renewable energy dissemination via an appropriate fixed prices purchase system and cost reductions via mass production, (2) promote smart energy saving products and systems as well as the introduction of smart meter and HEMS / BEMS (demand response), (3) improve the efficiency and introduction of household fuel cells (energy farms), (4) introduce next-generation automobiles (electric vehicles, plug-in hybrid vehicles, fuel cell cars, etc.), (5) strengthen support measures to encourage co-generation (co-generation of heat and power) including fuel cells, and (6) establish a supports system for highly efficient petroleum equipment.

In addition, we will promptly deal with the current problem of connecting renewable energy to the power supply system, including an institutional review, and (7) to improve the transmission network, we will stabilize the system by introducing large storage batteries, (8) since the storage battery sector is one of Japan’s strong technical field, we support further R&D to promote large-scale storage batteries to strengthen our competitiveness and promote its introduction.

Furthermore, in order to achieve regional revitalization by introducing a new energy distribution system, it is necessary to establish an environment for the realization of smart communities, the installation of solar power plants and storage batteries in public facilities and the installation of highly efficient power generation technology for waste incineration facilities, while also promoting the introduction of sewage and biomass power generation.

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In addition, we will take comprehensive measures and promote the spread of efficient regional energy distribution systems.

92. Realizing economic revitalization via technology in the resources and energy sector

By expanding renewable energy and decentralizing our energy system, the creation of new power generation businesses and retail businesses, based on the first fundamental reform of the resource and power system for 60 years, will be expected. By maximizing the potential capacity and high-technical capabilities of local and private enterprises, new business entities will be created as the driving force for the economic revitalization of our nation. As a result, employment is expected to expand dramatically.

Since energy consumption is expected to increase, we will diversify the technology of smart communities by using Japan's renewable energy, which is the world's highest level, and nuclear power technologies that enhance the safety of facilities, based on the lessons learned from the Fukushima accident. In order to create many new jobs by linking related technologies and human resources, for example of small and medium enterprises in Japan that boast our high-tech capability, we regard this field as the next-generation basic sector for the export industry. By developing new collaborative system and strongly supporting exports, we will transform Japan from a resource-scarce nation (importing country) to a resource-rich nation (exporting country making full use of resource and energy technologies) to realize economic revitalization and create employment.

93. Photovoltaic power generation space platform – promoting research on the Space Solar Power System

The photovoltaic power generation space system, with large-scale photovoltaic power generation equipment, is placed in outer space and in order to realize this magnificent plan, based on the research results on advanced radio transmission technology, we will develop a demonstration plan by using the experimental module “Kibo” installed at the Japanese space station and we will promote R&D on the future use of energy generators.

94. Recovering the trust in our nuclear policy

The accident at the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, due to the Great East Japan Earthquake, caused a threat of radiation to the entire world, not only to Japan, due to the enormous damage. Our party, which has been promoting nuclear power so far, apologizes for causing such an accident and we would like to express our sincere condolences to those who are still affected by the disaster.

For our party, based on the fact that the convergence of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident is unchanged, we do our utmost to thoroughly investigate the cause of the accident.

Regarding nuclear safety regulations, priority is placed on the expert judgment by the authorized independent Nuclear Regulatory Committee concerning personnel affairs and budgetary and in particular, the “safety first principle” (including measures against terrorism) will be the foundation of future energy policies. Based on these aspects and judgements, if nuclear power plants comply with the new regulatory standards, we will proceed with restarting these power plants. At the same time, the nation will carry our maximum efforts to gain the understanding of local municipalities.

Meanwhile, we will reduce our dependence on nuclear power as much as possible by energy conservation, the introduction of renewable energy and high-efficient thermal power plants. Via this policy, we will utilize nuclear power as an important basic power source contributing to the stability of the energy supply and demand structures, with the premise of ensuring the safety of nuclear power.

We will continue to examine issue-facing nuclear power policies, such as improving smooth decommissioning and use of nuclear power under electric power liberalization and we will continue considering crisis management for nuclear power plants, human resource development and establish a unified responsibility system for nuclear power companies and nuclear reactors to achieve the world’s highest level of technology on radioactive waste and spent fuel (volume reduction, reduction of half-life, etc.). By building an international cooperation system, we will gather the wisdom of the world and examine underground site so that no risk of large-scale evacuation exists. We will do our utmost with sincerity and good faith to regain confidence in our nuclear policy.

95. Securing radiation workers and businesses to ensure security based on the “safety first principle”

In order to ensure the independence of the Nuclear Regulatory Committee, and since the safety of radiological personnel and their peace of mind is important, we will realize personnel exchanges with international organizations, universities and research institutes both inside and outside of Japan and enhance the training system.

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In addition, we will enhance the treatment of the personnel to gather talented people with high-level technical expertise by appropriately evaluating capabilities via the qualification system and creating a payment system commensurate with abilities. Furthermore, regarding radiation related workers, such as workers at nuclear power plants and decontamination workers, we will ensure the qualifications and skills of workers, secure the abilities of supervisors and managers of radiation related work by creating a national qualification for “radiation related workers” (provisional name). We will create new radiation related employment by increasing the number of qualified personnel and reviewing the qualification examination system and will thereby contribute to the public’s peace of mind by disseminating correct knowledge on radiation and dispatching qualified workers to ensure the acquisition of correct knowledge on radiation.

In addition, we will accelerate R&D to reduce the half-life of highly radioactive waste as soon as possible to fulfill our responsibilities to the present and future generations. We will carry out dyeing and proper disposal of designated waste as a responsibility of the state.

96. Creating new employment in nuclear power plant areas

Local governments can use the Special Zone System and Regional Revitalization Act as a source of local demand and supply to create new employment in nuclear power plant areas. By doing so, the relevant ministries and agencies cooperate to tackle regulatory reforms, regional revitalization and support regional efforts. We will also consider new necessary system.

97. Renewing the fast-generating reactor “Monju” as an international research base

As solutions for future energy problems, countries such as Russia, China and India are developing fast-generating reactors for an accelerated reduction of radioactive waste. It is recognized as being able to contribute to the reduction of half-life and in France, the operation of the developed ASTRID, a sodium-cooled fast reactor, is scheduled for 2025. In order to advance this plan, we have concluded cooperation agreements on fast reactors, including the utilization of the “Munju” reactor since May 2014 and “Munju” has fulfilled the great expectations of the international community.

Regarding “Munju”, we will further respond to such expectations of the international society and reduce radioactive waste. In order to promote R&D and “Munju” as an international research base for reducing half-life, and based on thorough reflections, verifications and reforms of past efforts and the recommendations of the Nuclear Regulatory Committee, we, as the government, will take the responsibility to overcome related issues while reviewing and implementing appropriate compliance with control standards for entities related to “Munju”.

98. Promoting R&D on high-temperature gas reactors

The installation of nuclear power plants in emerging countries, such as countries in Asia, is expected to continue to expand and based on the TECO Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, Japan has an important responsibility to positively contribute to ensuring the safety of nuclear power in the world.

High-temperature gas facilities are inherently safe and do not only utilize heat generated by nuclear reactors but also from hydrogen production by making full use of the merit of extracted high temperatures and research is steadily advanced internationally on these next-generation nuclear reactors.

In response to the growing worldwide demand for high-temperature gas reactors, we will promote R&D on high-temperature gas reactors with inherent safety, while also creating international collaboration since Japan can offer world-leading technical expertise.

99. Realizing a “hydrogen society”

In the future of secondary energy, hydrogen is expected to play a central role in addition to electricity and heat. In order to realize a “hydrogen society” that utilizes hydrogen for everyday life and industrial activities like stipulated in the Basic Energy Plan of the Cabinet of April this year, we will promote diverse technological developments and cost reduction, while also advancing the strategical

development of institutions and a related infrastructure to implement highly feasible technologies in our society.

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Female Employees

We aim to create a society for all women to fully demonstrate their individual abilities.

100. Realizing a society for women to shine

We aim to realize a society for all women to live with confidence and pride, to fully demonstrate their power and for all women to shine.

Utilizing the potential power of women is an important key for the success of our nation's growth strategy. For this reason, while cherishing family and regional ties, we will reform men's consciousness, review working styles and we will let women participate in our society according to their lifestyle and life stage. We will also realize a flexible and diverse society to enable women to achieve self-realization.

(For women to shine in the world)

To reduce the proportion of women leaving employment after giving birth until 2017 and to increase the proportion of women in leading positions in all fields to 30% by 2020, we will accelerate the annual average growth of female officers and women in managerial positions by five times. In addition, we will double the number of female entrepreneurs until 2017.

(For women to shine in regional areas)

By taking advantage of the experience and wisdom of the baby-boomer generation, we aim to train 200.000 child rearing aid workers and train 10.000 female workers engaged in the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry every year. Within three years, we will hold a women's social entrepreneurial summit in Japan.

(Frontier of female activities)

We select the 100 best practices for women to be active in reconstruction and disaster prevention and will broadly introduce women to get involved in disaster prevention throughout the country. We will support female researchers by improving the nursing environment at universities, improving the compatibility of research and childbirth by nursing care and support women's research capability to achieve the first female Nobel laureate in Japan. In addition, we aim to double the number of female candidates in our party for national elections.

Regarding companies and NGOs concerned with international cooperation, we pay attention to the success of women and strengthen public-private partnerships. We will further strengthen our support for female employees active in international organizations and strive to improve their status while also advancing the workplace environment after maternal leave.

(Improving the social infrastructure for success of women)

In the next fiscal year, we will formulate indicators regarding women's participation. By 2017, we will double male housekeepers and men's childcare participation time and aim to double the *rikejo* (science girls) as enrolled students. Also, concerning automotive fields (such as buses, taxis or trucks) where women's activities have been low, we aim to double the number of employed women who wish to actively get involved by improving workplace environments for women to feel more comfortable and increase the attractiveness of these working fields for women.

Regarding the construction industry with only low engagement of women, we work on improving the workplace environment and the appeal of the industry for women to actively support motivated female workers. Within five years, we will promote these efforts based on the "Action Plan on Doubling the Number of Employed Women" and we aim to submit the bill to the Diet.

101. Improving women's employment rationale

By resubmitting a bill to promote women's succession to the Diet and endeavoring to establish it as early as possible, we will create a society where working woman will be able to fully demonstrate their individual abilities. As support for women, especially for mothers during child rearing, we will establish a support system for companies to actively engage in reemployment and expand the Mothers Hello Work project. By also promoting the provision of learning programs for later life stages, we aim for a society in which women can continue working.

Based on the new family image and vision, we will promote an awareness reform and improve the imbalance of couples by enabling couples work together and share household chores (collaborate and share) and by enhancing workplaces for an improved work-life-balance.

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In addition, by implementing the "*taikijidou*¹ Relief Acceleration Act" and steadily implementing the "New Childcare Support System", we will establish licensed nursery schools, childcare centers and further quantitatively expand after school clubs for children. By promoting various measures, we will support local governments on improving the working environment of women.

We will accelerate efforts to promote the spread of teleworking as a means for ensuring women's desired style of employment.

We will establish the "Women's Challenge Support Act" to support reemployment by making full use of their experiences such as household chores or child rearing. Additionally, we formulate a "Treatment Improvement for Working Women Act" to improve the treatment of non-regular employees and support full-time employees. We furthermore aim to establish the "Law on Comprehensive Support for Women's Health".

102. Supporting the employment of young people

While the number of young workers declines, the raised job recruitment ratio due to economic recovery and declining unemployment rates offer an opportunity to improve the employment of

¹ Translator's note: *taikijidou* are children on waiting lists for example for kindergarten or day care.

young people. We will take legal efforts to enable young people doing their best regarding job hunting to succeed and to establish an employment system taking the future into account.

Especially, in cooperation with public institutions and universities, we will take efforts to not isolate those who could not find a job after college graduation. We will therefore improve vocational education to acquire skills and practical knowledge, enhance career education, expand internship opportunities including long-term internships and improve the quality of training focusing on practical training at companies. We will also support regular employment of elder freeter (25 to 44 years old), improve human resource development in cooperation with the industry, academia and government and offer employment support for NEET by utilizing regional youth support centers. Thereby, we will also be able to reduce the shortage of employees in regional enterprises and industries such as the construction industry. In order to smoothly supply personnel for industries, the employment system and job seeking matching system will be improved and human resources will be properly placed by a sound competition through the mobilization of the labor force to realize a “proper placement society”. We will also promote the development and securing of young engineers by, for example, enhancing the appeal of the manufacturing industry.

Realizing regional revitalization

We strongly support regional initiatives to realize “regional revitalization” and for regions to play a leading role. We will rectify the excessive concentration of the population in metropolitan areas, secure the living environment in each region and thereby maintain a vibrant Japanese society in the future.

103. Implementing a “Policy to Promote Voluntary Efforts of Rural Areas”

(Creating grants with a high degree of freedom)

Local government will play a leading role for local revitalization by promoting responsible efforts aside from individual efforts by local residents. For this reason, we will promote decentralization and create grants with a high degree of freedom enabling local governments to maximize autonomy and independence.

(Offering grants to support voluntary efforts)

Based on the fact that local revitalization is the basis of Abenomics, we will use grants, as immediate measures, to support regional efforts to stimulate consumption, revitalize regional economies and issue regional certificates.

(Correcting the disparity between the district of Tokyo and other regions)

Based on the basic stance to treat all areas equally, we will further cooperate with initiatives to promote the fortifying of all regions, regarding industrial life, the acceleration of disaster recovery and the improvement of the environment for disparate areas.

(Designating “Regional Creation Special Zones”)

By support local government to designate “Regional Creation Special Zones” from next year onwards, we will create new industrial employment in regions, reform the agricultural committee to realize regional creation by a regulatory reform, like the reform the Hyogo prefecture already adopted, and create a new “high motivation development model”.

Specifically, we will encourage local governments to promote social enterprises and to propose regulators reforms on industrial sectors making use of unique regional resources, including the primary industry, and we will offer tremendous assistance to new industries (secondary industry).

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104. Implementing “Policies to invite “work” and “people” to regions”

(Creating a society for women to shine)

We aim to realize a society for all women to shine and realize their wishes regarding how to work, how to live and to fully demonstrate their individual ability. Therefore, it is necessary to promptly establish a bill to promote the occupational success of women and to improve the treatment of working women by offering reemployment assistance and taking advantage of their experiences in domestic affairs and child rearing. We also promote the conversion to regular employment and strongly advocate employment support to get women involved in fields where they showed only low participation.

(Overcoming the population decline)

We will strengthen pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing support, accelerate the elimination of *taikijidou* and increase male housework. We will tackle the declining birthrate by comprehensive measures, such as strengthening consistent pregnancy, childbirth and child rearing support, accelerating the elimination of *taikijidou*, encouraging the participation of men in housework and child rearing and supporting the hope of marriage and child rearing for young working people. We will steadily enhance the childcare support system by a new system until April, when the consumption tax will be raised.

(Constructing a system to recruit human resources)

We will establish a company recruitment system to realize relocation to local areas. In order to promote the migration to rural areas, we will establish an information provision system and consultation system for working and residential life supports. We will also establish a “regional cooperation unit” to connect young people and companies willing to contribute to local revitalization.

(Restoring bustling rural areas)

We will revitalize the agricultural, forestry and fishery industry making full use of local resources and characteristics, promote brands of home town specialties and expand sightseeing and urban-rural exchanges to regain bustling rural areas. In addition, we will provide tailored support to small and medium-sized enterprises, as the foundation of regional economy, by promoting the introduction of

IT products, improving the productivity of service industries and realizing a virtuous cycle beneficial for rural areas.

(Realizing local creation by revitalizing regional universities, expanding local employment and developing human resources contributing to regional communities)

We will expand local employment by supporting regional universities as bases for knowledge with outstanding features and strengths, training personnel contributing to regional development, improving research and development and supporting regional activities such as think tanks and local schools. In addition to strengthening education to promote the possession of pride and attachment to the home regions of people, we will cultivate personnel contributing to regional revitalization by enriching education at vocational schools or high schools.

105. Implementing a “Policy to solve regional problems in line with local characteristics”

(Forming attractive local cities)

We will secure healthy and comfortable living conditions and sustainable urban management in local cities. For this reason, we will promote development based on compact networks and form an attractive economic and living area by strengthening city functions and reconstructing the public transportation network.

(Maintaining rural fishing villages)

We will maintain the safe lifestyles of rural fishing villages in the future. Therefore, we will uphold small bases and service functions (medical and nursing care, commerce, logistics, etc.) necessary for daily lives and establish regional management organizations maintaining local areas and providing living services.

106. Enhancing regional tax finances

In light of the difficult circumstances of local finances, we will enrich and strengthen regional financial resources. Parallely, as part of the drastic tax system reform and corporate tax system reform, we aim to construct a local tax system with stable tax revenue and ubiquity of tax sources by raising the regional consumption tax, reviewing the statutory rate of local tax allocation and considering reviewing the taxation of local corporations and enterprises.

In addition, we will promote decentralization and endeavor to enrich local tax revenues to form the foundation enabling rural areas to demonstrate autonomy by “initiatives to tackle regional creation”. While also giving due consideration to cities, towns, villages and municipalities, we will endeavor to enhance the local tax allocation system while taking the administrative circumstances of new municipalities into account.

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107. Investigating the large city system

In addition to implementing local revitalization measures based on the role of designated cities, we will consider introducing various large city systems.

108. Reviewing the ideas of small towns and villages

We will continue to improve measures for depopulation for small town municipalities in rural and mountainous regions where the population continues to decline and proceed discussing new support mechanisms.

Support for small and medium-sized businesses

109. Revising the “Basic Law on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” and establishing a “Basic Law on the Promotion of the Development of Small Businesses”

Currently, taking various measures is not possible due to the delineation stipulated by the “Basic Law on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises”, and conversely, the law will become a barrier for business expansion and cannot cope with structural change. Therefore, we amended parts of the “Basic Law on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises” last year at the ordinary Diet session to clarify basic principles and policies for small-scale companies and have newly established a meaningful first step for small businesses.

Based on the revised “Basic Law on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises”, small and medium-sized enterprises and ventures with the power to grow can gather financial resources and personnel easier and receive benefits according to the growth stage of the company. In addition, small enterprises, the key players of regional economy, are currently in a weak position in various aspects such as cash flow, overseas development or opening new businesses. At the ordinary Diet session this year, the cabinet decided a “Basic Law on the Promotion of the Development of Small Businesses” as the next step.

Based on the Basic Law on the Promotion of the Development of Small Businesses, we will steadily concretize its spirit and implement small-scale corporation promotion measures. In particular, the implemented economic measures will encompass subsidiary assistances for small businesses, broad support for the development of sales channels for small-scale enterprises to try to expand their commercial area, including consumers. We will provide further specific support measures for small enterprises as the key players of regional economies, including funds, support for exhibitions and business conferences and support for regional joint ventures.

110. Establishing a bill to create demand for small and medium-sized enterprises

A bill to create demand for small and medium-sized enterprises has not yet been submitted to the extraordinary session of the Diet but will find demand of the public sector for small and medium-sized enterprises by utilizing local industrial resources and promoting the development and creation of sales channels for small town specialties. We will identify the demand for products and services of SMEs in different regions.

111. Establishing a new regional growth model

Economic growth of regions with their own characteristics leads to an overall economic boost in Japan. Therefore, we set up a new regional growth model with the keywords “region”, “small

business agriculture” and “business innovation” to set up growth strategies at the prefectural level and create new industries in regional areas leading to the expansion of employment.

In order to capture current trends (globalization, ICT, longevity, environment, etc.), we set up a council of the industry, academia and government at prefectures and decided on business fields we will support in the next five years.

Also, to expand employment, income and to revitalize the regional economy by improving the productivity of the service industry, we will promote initiatives such as the reinforcement of the “Service Industry Productivity Council” and restructuring it as a national campaign.

112. Supporting the operation of regional corporations and creating employment

In order to ensure the steady economic recovery by overcoming rising energy prices or imported raw material prices and promptly realizing economic revitalization, it is important to expand new business opportunities and offer real perspectives of economic recovery of small and medium-sized enterprises.

We will try to improve the access of SMEs to certification support organizations, consolidations of local offices in each province of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry as well as other support organizations. We will also enrich and strengthen our SME policy by verifying its effects and improving the usability and convenience of small and medium-sized enterprises support webpages to increase the demand of small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, we aim to institutionalize a mechanism to reflect the opinion of local companies on the policy implementation of the government by utilizing the “Regional Industrial Competitiveness Council” established in each region.

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We will actively use support personnel, support centers or certified support organization such as tax accountants, regional financial institutions, industrial coordinators and business consultants to promote the vitality and uniqueness of regional areas and support initiatives creating “bonds”. Based on the fundamental mission of regional financial institutions to return funds to the regions, this will encourage regional revitalization by initiatives and proactive efforts toward community-based finances.

In addition, regarding local agencies and local governments conducting orders for public works and procurement of goods and services, we will seek to maximize the consideration of local SMEs receiving these orders and we will try to optimize contracts with emphasis on “quality”. Furthermore, we will realize a boost of the purchasing of local products by large-scale retailers recently expanding significantly.

113. Enriching the finances of small and medium-sized businesses and enhancing regional financing functions

In order to support the finances of small and medium-sized enterprises affected by rising raw material and energy costs due to the depreciation of the yen, we will steadily provide safety net functions and expand the supply of risk money. We will also enhance credit guarantees in the event of a disaster

and improve regional financing functions. We will also continue providing financial support for SMEs involved in the reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Moreover, with the termination of the “Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Finance Facilitation Law”; it is important for regional financial institutions, in collaboration with external experts, external organizations and credit guarantee associations supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, to proactively engage in the supply of risk money and consultation according to the growth stage of companies and support the development of new businesses, growth, and business revitalization. Therefore, we will encourage regional financial institutions to work on community-based financing and promote the utilization of the Regional Economic Revitalization Support Mechanism.

In addition, in order to promote voluntary efforts of regional financial institutions, we will urge these institutions to provide concise and easy-to-understand information on their efforts for regional users.

114. Promoting the financing of small and medium-sized enterprises independent of personal assurance guarantees

We will improve methods to replace personal assurance guarantees such as ABL and have formulated and announced “guidelines on guarantees of management” on December 5th 2013, including contents, such as offering incentives for the initiations of fulfilling certain conditions including the separation of corporate and individual assets. Furthermore, these guidelines establish a loan practice urging SMEs with guaranteed obligations to create a financial framework to receive loans without personal guarantees and leaving certain assets to the guarantor at the time of implementation.

115. Imparting a fair and equal trading environment

We will realize a fair and equal trading environment to not forfeit unwarranted orders, discounts and contracts for small and medium-sized enterprises trying hard to challenge large companies. Also, we continue pursuing thorough measures regarding the smooth and appropriate transition of the consumption tax. Since the three-party talks last year, we have argued that our party should take effective measures regarding the distribution between large-scale retailers and suppliers not subject to the “Subcontractor Act”. We will strongly promote measures concerning the substantial discount compulsion carried out by powerful businesses and protect SMEs from “bullying subcontracting” by powerful business operators.

Additionally, we will prohibit displays now showing the consumption tax transit and take special measures regarding the obligation to indicate the total amount (permission of the tax-price display only for a limited period of time). We will simplify the pass-on of prices while paying attention to the administrative burden of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Also, by the strict implementation of the “Law on the Prevention of Proceeding Payments of Subcontractors”, the “Guidelines for Promoting Proper Subcontract Transactions” and by thoroughly corresponding to the “Subcontractor Ingenuity Temple”, we will promote the optimization of invoices.

Regarding the impact of large-scale retailers on local retailers (punishment for the abuse of superior positions), we will implement appropriate guidelines.

116. Support for advanced technological development and “selling goods” for small and medium-sized enterprises

Recruitment and R&D conducted by SMEs alone puts a heavy burden on the management in terms of human resources and finances. Therefore, while ensuring the convenience of small and medium-sized enterprises, we will secure budget for subsidies to support service innovations and facilitate the formation of regional support networks for SMEs. We will also encourage prefectural research institutes and regional universities to cooperate with small and medium-sized enterprises on research and development.

For small and medium-sized enterprises to grow, it is necessary to develop “selling goods” and opportunities for “goods to be sold” and to acquire personnel able to develop “eye-catching” “selling goods” based on “ideas” of human resources. Therefore, we will improve the functions of consultants for small and medium-sized enterprises and create an environment allowing people who offer “selling goods” and people “wanting to buy” to match.

117. Strengthening the sales promotion from regional areas to “the whole nation of Japan” and “the world”

We will support and encourage local companies and producers to devote themselves to the creation of products demanded by national and foreign consumers with confidence. In doing so, we will eliminate regulatory barriers to enable flexible responses to business challenges from within and outside of Japan, based on geographical aspects. Additionally, we will support sales promotion from rural areas to the world by offering support for the utilization of ICT technologies such as BtoC and BtoB matching sites while also providing financial support and maintaining sales channels and bases. Via a consistent support system for regional companies to develop prototypes and realize commercialization and sales, we will establish high-productive areas not only boosting the domestic market but also capturing the demand in Asia.

118. Developing regional cooperation of small and medium-sized businesses for the revitalization of regional economies

Regional cooperation of small and medium-sized enterprises is indispensable for the development of regional economies. On the other hand, regarding the development of SMEs, we must develop new products and will further develop an environment to promote products in the domestic market and foreign markets. Especially, regarding research and development, it is not an exaggeration to say that “consultants”, with wisdom and experience, as a link between selling points of individual SMEs and the needs of consumers are important to secure the development necessary for the fate of corporate management.

We will strengthen our training programs in, for example, certified support organizations, to develop advanced support personnel capable of responding to specialized management tasks. Therefore, we will improve our professional skill development by reviewing training contents at schools and formulating management improvement plans. In addition, we will establish a “Human Resource Development Study Group” (provisional name) to strengthen the collaboration of educational research institutes at universities and small and medium-sized enterprises in communities to nurture and secure the necessary personnel. We will also develop a cooperation system of the government and educational institutions for the development of experts and human resources.

Additionally, we will promote a fortified management bases of the construction, transportation and shipbuilding industry to support the regional economy and therefore secure and train the necessary staff.

119. Responding to the impact of the depreciation of the yen

We will take immediate measures by closely monitoring the impact of the yen depreciation on businesses in sectors directly suffering from a significant cost increase of fuel. Specifically, we will drastically increase energy-saving investment support for small and medium-sized enterprises as well as energy-intensive industries.

120. Strengthening the matching of regional universities and industries

To fully demonstrate the talent and capabilities of graduates from local universities and industrial high schools, we take fundamental measures to strengthen the organizational functions of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other organizations and urgently develop a system to “cultivate people in regional areas”.

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As a result, in order to realize a win-win situation for students, enterprises and communities, the industry, academia as well as the public and private sector collaborate to develop a new graduate support system enhancing the matching of highly specialized personnel and regional industries and companies. At the same time, by promoting local investment, we will strengthen our support for technical innovations and R&D by local research institutes and local enterprises and advance the cycle to regionally return techniques and know-how generate in individual areas.

121. Activating compact urban development and shopping districts

Due to “weak shoppers”, the expectations of local residents on shopping malls as a “leading community function” is increasing more than ever. By restoring the bustle of stations and central urban areas, we will not only revitalize the regional economy but also shopping districts and we aim for town planning for elderly people to realize a peaceful life in an aging society. We will use the angel tax system for management guidance and training for new business development in shopping districts. We will also promote the effective use of vacant shops and unused areas and will utilize town development companies to maintain public transportation facilities, arcades, parking lots and bicycle lots and will also install energy-saving street lights. We will provide both soft and hardware support for ambitious efforts to accelerate and strengthen the revitalization of shopping districts and

central urban areas. In particular, we will continue securing subsidies for the promotion of local shopping districts.

In addition, while reconsidering the support system for shopping districts, we promote the creation of communities (compact cities) considering social issues such as aging, safety and security or the environment and will proceed to create “familiar and comfortable shopping streets in line with local circumstances”.

122. Enhancing central urban areas

In order for regional areas to become healthy, it is essential to revitalize central urban areas as a key element of the regional economy. We will rearrange central urban areas as a place for various people and industries to interact and reproduce central urban areas as the face of the town and as a site to disseminate the attractiveness of the region to the world while also improving the convenience and necessary functions for consumers in an aging society.

In order to stimulate private investment in central urban areas while promoting regional motivation, it is necessary to promote the use of vacant land and stores by taxation, strengthen the management foundation by giving town development companies legal status, promote broad coordination beyond the regional area and construct new cooperative relationships to make full use of the vitality of large stores and revitalize towns. By doing so, we will broaden the foundation for the revitalization of central urban areas while tailoring these efforts to the conditions of towns, including small towns.

Revitalizing regional areas

123. Revitalizing regional communities

For regional regeneration, we support groups and other organizations conducting community-based activities such as neighborhood associations or self-governing associations. We will establish the “Basic Law on Community Activities” to support community activities in each village, elementary schools or school district by local community associations or NPOs carrying out familiar group activities to revitalize rural areas.

Also, in order to settle more residents in rural areas, we will promote the concept to settle in autonomous regions to strengthen mutual cooperation of the central city and neighboring cities, towns and villages, based on the idea of “aggregation and network” with regard to various policy issues to activate rural regions.

In addition, we will promote human resource support by, for example, dispatching private adviser to create distinctive and proud regions and support the improvement of regional personnel.

124. Enhancing measures for depopulated areas

Under the leadership of our party, the “Law on Promoting the Independence of Depopulated Areas” has been significantly expanded and strengthened. In addition to making use of depopulation funds for businesses demanded by people in depopulated areas, we enable measures in line with the actual circumstances of depopulated areas and added target facilities to these funds such as securing doctors or community buses. Furthermore, by the decentralization reform, we will transfer the affairs and

authority of private passenger transportation to local governments to relive the means of traveling by creative ingenuity according to the real circumstances of rural areas and will therefore ease the operational rules for private passenger transportation from now on.

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Regarding depopulated areas, we promote logistic networking for core settlements, improve the settlement environment by ensuring daily life services and promoting the regional industry and we will invigorate villages and sustainable home delivery supporting daily life. We will do our utmost to prevent depopulation in the future.

125. Establishing and promoting a nationwide migration center (provisional name)

In order to promote the revitalization of rural areas, it is an urgent matter to create a new flow of citizens to rural areas and stopping the concentration on the capital Tokyo. To promote the migration and exchange of residents and employment to rural areas, we will set up a “nationwide migration center” (provisional name) providing information, consultation and life support. In addition, in order to provide comprehensive information for residents (vacant housings information, etc.), work (recruitment information, UIJ job information, etc.) and living support (medical care, nursing care, education), we will cooperate with local government, related ministries and agencies to create a webpage providing all this information.

126. Expanding “Regional Cooperation Volunteers”

We will endeavor to substantially expand “Regional Cooperation Volunteers” that play a major role in revitalizing rural areas and promoting the re-settlement from urban to rural areas. Therefore, we hold a nationwide “Regional Cooperation Volunteers Summit” where regional cooperation volunteers and receiving municipalities meet and conduct case reports as well as PR activities to widen the appeal of the system.

We also support efforts of local governments by enhancing and strengthening in cooperation with local communities to promote the recruitment of citizens to rural areas.

127. Promoting next-generation ICT for optimizing regional creation

For the future of regional creation, further utilization of ICT, as the source of innovation, is an essential foundation. We will utilize ICT in the field of town planning, agriculture (measures against wild birds and animals), education, medical care and administrative services of new municipalities and business associations. We will promote the expansion of ICT in fields such as the development of public wireless LAN, teleworking, tourism and disaster prevention to create a flow of citizens to rural areas and improve the living environment of local residents, improve regional productivity and expand employment.

128. Disseminating information on the charm and attraction of regional areas

We will widely disseminate information on the attractiveness of each region of Japan and thereby contribute to local creation via promoting Visit Japan and Cool Japan. In addition to promoting efforts to produce broadcasting content and information for the purpose of revitalizing regional areas and continue to support overseas broadcasting, we will disseminate local contents via various media

and we will work on resolving technical issues related to the utilization of broadcasting and communication technology.

Furthermore, in order to enhance and strengthen international TV broadcasting such as of NHK, we will promote activities for to realize multilingualization and improve awareness.

129. Improving the regional ICT infrastructure

To improve the ICT infrastructure and business environment of all regions, companies and individuals, we will promote “ICT conversion of the whole society” to enable everyone to receive the benefits of ICT everywhere.

We will develop broadcasting networks indispensable for providing information closely related to the lives of citizens, such as the high-speed broadband infrastructure in disadvantaged areas, depopulated areas or remote island, mobile phones and disaster information.

At the same time, we will promote the development and expansion of the mobile usage environment with the aim to create new businesses.

130. Developing new postal businesses to secure universal services and improve the convenience of local residents

Based on the revised “Postal Privatization Law”, the development of new businesses is enabled for citizens to realize the benefits of privatization and the three postal services. We will improve the convenience of local residents by ensuring universal services and we will review the operation of the Japan Post Bank and Japan Post Insurance.

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131. Promoting local Abenomics and support for community-based companies

We will establish a regional roundtable consisting of the industry (business entities), academia (universities, etc.), money (regional financial institutions) and the government (local governments) to promote a regional economic innovation cycle. Based on the “Founding Support for Businesses Law” (industrial competitive strengthening law”, we will utilize local resources and funds to promote the “local 10.000 project” to launch about 10.000 community-based enterprises with high employment combined with regional settlement. Specifically, due to offering regional economic creation business grants for local governments to subsidize the initial investment cost of private enterprises, we will provide support for self-sustainable companies engaged in commercialization by receiving loans from regional financial institutions.

Regarding the local production of energy, we will construct a regional energy distribution system which will be disaster resistant, autonomous and sustainable. We will furthermore introduce a market of 7.5 trillion yen (funds) open to the public by retailing electricity. We will promote the “energy distribution infrastructure project” creating a virtuous economic cycle and local employment while also promoting forestry.

132. Constructing a “Regional Economy Global Circle”

We will establish a “Regional Economy Global Circle” to strengthen the cooperation of local governments, JETRO, SMEs and infrastructure development organizations. Specifically, we will connect JETRO and small-to-medium businesses to the joint database (local health creation platform) of all municipalities that the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication launched in FY2012. JETRO will utilize information of local governments to strengthen efforts to attract foreign companies to local regions and to develop overseas sales channels for local products while SMEs hold data on excellent regional businesses and we will thereby make full use of this for regional promotion measures of local governments.

In addition, we will obtain timely information on aspects such as “home remodeling” at various locations and will strengthen our support for expanding sales channels and business development of SMEs.

At the same time, parallelly to local production and consumption, we will promote the vitality of regional economies by expanding demand via the dissemination of regional brands nationwide such as sales of special products.

133. Healthy development of the regional construction industry and securing profits of enterprises while improving the treatment of workers

To support the regional economy and employment, in the case of a disaster, we will strengthen the prospects and improve the environment of the construction industry to enable construction companies, active at the forefront in the case of a disaster, can hire young people. And, to ensure the young generation, responsible for the future of the construction industry, to enter the construction industry with peace of mind, we will secure wage levels, thoroughly improve social welfare and improve the environment to also enable women to enter. In particular, in order to improve the treatment of construction workers and craftworkers in this field, the total amount of public construction labor unit price has been raised by 23.2% in two years, but our party will continue to work on securing appropriate wages at public construction sites.

By the revision of the Public Construction Quality Assurance Law, mainly realized by our party, we will support construction companies playing an important role at orders for public constructions, by ensuring the quality via the “amendment of the three stakeholders” and including public demands in regional areas such as disaster response and winter snow removal work. For example, we will improve the bidding system of national and local governments, by setting appropriate plan prices, strengthening dumping countermeasures, leveling construction times and promoting the use of the bidding contract method to enable regional construction companies to stably accept orders.

134. Securing regional high-quality construction and production by collecting “Investments in the Future”

To facilitate the sustainable management of the local construction industry and by facilitating funds for the construction industry, we offer support for prioritized initiatives to secure and nurture leadership personnel, responsible for improving productivity, solving problems of the management

of the construction industry and preparing local disaster prevention measures. We have created a system to support companies' efforts to acquire the necessary construction machinery used in the case of a disaster to secure the quality of the construction industry supporting the development and safety of local areas. We will advance the social infrastructure as the foundation for growth and safety and security and aim to achieve equal development throughout the nation by making full use of regional characteristics.

Furthermore, we will proactively promote PPPs and PFIs to further utilize the power of the private and public sector and to promote the revitalization of regional areas. Therefore, we will establish basic laws for the maintenance, operation and renewal of social capital via the cooperation of the public and private sector.

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Also, we will accelerate efforts focused on businesses related to airports, water supply, sewerage, road concessions (private enterprise management, create business opportunities for regional private enterprises, efficiently manage social capital, improve services and promote overseas projects.

In order to promote overseas development, we will utilize top sales, overseas transportation and urban development project support organizations (JOIN) to improve the overseas development of fields such as superior civil engineering, construction technology, transportation systems, urban infrastructure and disaster prevention technology and while also contributing to the world.

135. Promoting comprehensive barrier-free improvement measures

In addition to promoting community development, we will realize a society for elderly people, disabled people and everyone else to move easily and use facilities, while keeping the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in mind. Based on the "Barrier-Free Law", the state, regional areas and stakeholders will unite and promote comprehensive barrier-free measures for public transportation, buildings or roads. Therefore, we will steadily promote the development of barrier-free facilities taking the characteristics of various obstacles into consideration, such as the elimination of steps in public transportation facilities or railway stations and the introduction of barrier-free home doors and vehicles. In addition, we will promote information display and provision, while considering characteristics of various obstacles, to enable easy information acquisition by various means.

We also promote support measures for projects by municipalities based on the barrier-free basic concept. Regarding "barrier-free minds", we will the understanding and respect for various individualities in cooperation with elementary or junior high schools and different further education facilities.

Regarding the information provision for elderly people and disabled people, it is necessary to provide ICT devices and services, create dubbed television productions of foreign language broadcasts and enhance commentary broadcasting for news or breaking news. We will promote barrier-free information access by providing ICT equipment and services tailored to citizens.

136. Increasing the asset value of housings and promoting living according to life stages as well as centralized urban development

The deregulation of the housing taxation loan support system is a pillar for expanding domestic demand and position housings to create national wealth and economic growth in all industries and comprehensive ad we will thereby realize a “stock society” allowing residences to remain assets. We will transfer the assets possessed by the elderly people to the working generation, promote the acquisition of houses without financial burden, aim for increase the demand for housings as a pillar for domestic demand and will also allow young people to acquire housings with low financial burdens. We will implement measures to simplify the acquisition of housings via the utilization of the elderly’s assets to acquire a long-term living environment tailored for each life stage and various working and living styles. In addition, we will promote superior long-term housings (200 years housings) which are earthquake resistant and energy saving to prolong life expectancy of existing stocks and maintain and increase asset value. We will also promote renovations such as barrier-free reconstruction, promote the installation of elevators in residential complexes and develop a market for second-hand housings.

We will strive to disseminate smart houses to improve energy efficiency and reduce CO2 emissions. We attempt to acquire high-quality housings and revitalize housing investments by lowering the interest rates of housing finance organizations and create an eco-point system for housings. Regarding areas surrounding major cities with a remarkably aging population, we will advance child rearing support and welfare facilities, and promote efforts to revitalize regional residential functions such as large-scale housing complexes. We promote urban center revitalization to enable parenting households and elderly people to live in a safe and healthy manner. We will furthermore promote the development of child rearing and welfare facilities in proximity to residential houses. Along with that, we will promote the supply of rental houses as peaceful places and promote two or three household residences.

In light of a low birthrate and aging society, we promote the comprehensive utilization of the housing stock of elderly people, liquidation, consolidation of living support functions such as child rearing facilities and train station to build a sustainable, healthy and secure social system. We promote next-generation life support such as community development including public transportation, ultra-small communities’ mobility and to efficiently use energy in towns and buildings regarding energy saving, generation and storage.

Also, by utilizing domestic timber, we are working on improving the regional environment and revitalizing the economy. We will also review the examination procedures for small and medium-sized construction shops and companies to ensure the support of improving their technical capabilities.

137. Revising the national land formation plan

Regarding serious issues such as a rapid population decline, a declining birthrate, an aging society, huge disasters or structural problems of regional areas and the whole nation, it is necessary to tackle local revitalization and land toughening. Therefore, based on the “compact network” concept, we will refine the individuality of each area and we will revise the national land formation plan to enable the flow of people, products and information by cooperation of regions with different characteristics.

138. Promoting measures for remote islands and peninsulas

Concerning the Amami peninsular, the population is expected to decline sharply in the future and it will be necessary to maintain the diversity of our national land and for remote islands and peninsulas to play an important role in national land conservation. Based on this, in order to promote settlement in these regions via interregional exchange and industrial development. To realize sustainable development of peninsular areas, we will extend the “Peninsular Promotion Law”, legally terminating in March 2015, and extend its content to carry out peninsula promotion measures.

We will further strengthen the promotion of remote islands by expanding island activation and revitalization subsidies (soft business grants) based on the fact that remote island play an important national role in protecting the interests of our nation and citizens.

Since air routes to remote islands play the same role as national highways on the mainland, we will enact the “Remote Island Air Route Maintenance Law” to establish the basic means of transportation (routes, airways) and enable human flows by correcting logistic disparities. Also, for people forced to commute regularly, for example high school students, we will support learning by offering financial support for school expenses, school fees, securing medical professionals and supporting maternity health care measures. We will also reduce the burden on vehicle inspections at remote islands, improve drift garbage countermeasures and correct information gaps. Furthermore, we will enhance disaster prevention measures and expand measures for oil transportation costs.

Regarding Amami, we will enhance grants to support regional voluntary measures while harmonizing these measures with the ones of Okinawa. For Ogasawara, we will support the maintenance of ships to improve transportation access and services by FY2016.

Based on the fact that remote islands face the bordering area of our nation, they play an important role in protecting our exclusive economic zones and national defense. In order to secure their safety, we aim to establish the “Special Law on Remote Island Border Preservation” to ensure the adequate maintenance of ports and airports, promote settlement and strengthen support for the regional industry.

139. Expanding the grant to realize a strong and independent Okinawa

Based on the “New Okinawa Promotion Law”, by partializing funds, we deduced the land acquisition costs by transferring 50 million yen in 2012. Aside from the “Okinawa Promotion Special Measures Law” and the “Special Measures Law Concerning the Effective and Appropriate Use of Land for Stationed Military”, which was amended and reviewed to fully reflect our party’s assertion, a new

promotion plan has been formulated and concrete measures have been implemented. In addition, until 2015, we will revise the “Okinawa Promotion Special Measures Law” to further expand the country’s support measures, including the establishment of special zones for revitalizing the economy and finance.

Regarding the construction of a second runway at Naha Airport, which can be regarded as an eye-catching aspect among all promotion policies, it is considered to be an extremely important project for tourists and the formation of an international logistic base and we will steadily work on opening the runway in FY2019. In the future, we will make full use of industrial measures to realize the international logistic base as hub connecting Asia and Japan and we will promote measures for the tourism industry and the cultural industry as well as expand the pre-acquisition system of public land and introduce sophisticated medical functions. We will promptly and effectively use stationed military sites land, scheduled to be returned to Futenma, as residential area to realize a “strong and independent Okinawa” so that Okinawa will become a growth model of 21st century Japan.

Also, with regard to the Okinawa Science and Technology Graduate School, opened in line with the basic idea to become “the best in the world”, we will conduct educational activities and research on outstanding science and technology and secure excellent intellectuals to promote the formation of industrial clusters.

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Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Industry

140. Strategy to double the agricultural and rural income in ten years – mobilizing policies toward strong agricultural villages

Agricultural and rural areas provide a beautiful and rich nature and countryside while stably supplying food for citizens and protecting Japanese traditional culture. It is a cornerstone of the development of our nation. On the other hand, agricultural workers age (average: 66 years old), agricultural income decreases (halved in 20 years), abandoned cultivation areas increase and depopulation progresses.

We will create strong agricultural and rural villages full of vitality by total regional participation to enable work distinguished by business size and as part-time job, regardless of age. Therefore, we will carry out an agricultural and rural policy based on the ten-year-strategy that incorporates the healthy growth of the economy, maximizes regional power and self-sufficiency and double the income.

First of all, as a basic policy, we will promote the aggregation of farmland, and in the next decade, we will create an efficient farming system with 80% agricultural land use and will promote the reuse of abandoned cultivation land based on its conditions. In addition to maximizing the utilization of agricultural land, we will accelerate the compartmentalization and generalization of large farmlands as well as upland field irrigation and will improve agricultural productivity by doubling the number of new farmers, balance generation gaps and improve family management and college farming. We will create a structure for diverse workers and companies to coexist. In order to contribute to the

economic growth of the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry by technological innovation, R&D will be strengthened while utilizing state-of-the-art technology.

In addition, we will reinforce measures against wildlife damage, such as halving the number of wild birds and animals and introducing secure earrings. We promote agricultural commerce and industry collaboration, local production and consumption of the sixth industry. By incorporating the expanding food market in Japan and the world, the market size of the sixth industry will be expanded to 10 trillion yen (currently about two trillion yen) in 2020 and we aim to double the income in rural areas by the growth of Japan's agriculture, forestry and fishery industry. By utilizing the protection system, we aim to increase employment and the value of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and foods in line with the traditions and characteristics nurtured in rural areas. In addition, we will steadily expand the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and foods to 1 trillion yen (currently 550 billion yen) by 2020. We will also secure employment in agricultural and mountain villages, maintain regional community functions, promote the symbiotic connection of urban areas and farming villages, improve the income in rural mountain villages and regain the bustle of rural areas. In order to promote the multifaceted functions of the agriculture and rural areas, we steadily promote the legalization of "Japanese style direct payment system".

Our item-specific policies are the following. (1) We will promote the utilization of land-use agriculture (paddy fields) to expand the production of wheat, rice and soybeans responding to the domestic demand and will encourage one farmer to work on ten hectares on average. (2) Regarding animal husbandry and dairy farming, we will strengthen our production base and competitiveness and realize the growth of this industrial sector by the collaboration of related business operators to establish livestock clusters (highly profitable livestock farming system) which will improve the profitability and expand domestic fodder production and consumption. (3) Regarding the mechanization and scale expansion of the production and distribution system of vegetables, fruit trees and flowers, we plan to increase the shipment volume of vegetables for processing by 50% in the next ten years, realize horticulture housing complexes, strengthen measures for higher quality and create a low-cost but high-profit production structure with diverse workers and production areas. Thus, to double the income of motivated areas and individual, we carry out effective policies by utilizing on-site capabilities and based on the "Basic Law Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas", we will create agricultural and rural villages where "farmers can feel the joy of producing" agricultural products while also maintaining food security and the multifaceted functions of rural areas.

141. Maintaining and improving the food self-sufficiency ratio

We aim to train personnel and secure technology for food security which will be achieved by introducing the philosophy of food self-sufficiency and we will therefore promote production by utilizing local autonomy and creative ingenuity.

In FY2014, we set a new realizable food self-sufficiency rate target with FY2017 as the target year of both the calorie base and production value basis and we aim to achieve next-generation food and farmland by an agricultural and rural area basic plan. Based on this food, agricultural and rural areas

basic plan, we will secure agricultural resources such as water, agricultural technology and agricultural worker to achieve food self-sufficiency.

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142. Promoting the Japanese direct payment system

In order to ensure multifaceted functions such as agricultural and rural village land conservation, water source conservation and natural environment conservation, we will steadily implement the Japanese direct payment system under the “Law on the Promotion of Multifaceted Functions”, which will contain joint activities for the management of regional resources such as waterways and farm roads. Aside from supporting these activities, we encourage structural reforms such as the agricultural land accumulation of farmers. Furthermore, with regard to transition to direct payment system in rural areas in FY2017, we will enrich the fourth phase of measures and will support the continuation of agricultural production in disadvantaged areas.

143. Plan to utilize 80% of agricultural land (agricultural land accumulation)

The Agricultural Land Management Agency (agricultural land accumulation bank), newly established in each prefecture, will work on utilizing 80% (currently 50%) of agricultural land.

In addition, we plan to enhance and strengthen our financial support for agricultural lenders, such as organizational cooperation funds. Furthermore, by regularly reviewing the farmers and farmland plan via regional discussion, we will clarify the future management body and promote agricultural land accumulation.

Also, we will promote agricultural rural development projects and the agricultural intermediary management project.

144. Eliminating abandoned cultivation land (countermeasures against abandoned land)

We will prevent cultivation land from being abandoned and will fully utilize abandoned farmland that can be reused as agricultural land in the next ten years.

Specifically, regarding the reuse of abandoned farmland, we will utilize the agricultural intermediary management system based on the farmland law. In addition, we will support the reclamation work and soil preparation of abandoned farmland. At the same time, we will promote the prevention and reuse of abandoned cultivation land to improve the production infrastructure.

145. Agricultural rural development project (accelerating the aggregation, generalization and upland field irrigation of agricultural land)

To realize the plan to “use 80% of agricultural land by workers”, and based on the agricultural rural development plan, we will promote disaster prevention measures to extend agricultural water facilities and aim to improve value-added production. (1) We will construct pipeline irrigation canals and underground irrigation to accelerate the accumulation of agricultural land. (2) We promote the generalization of paddy fields to introduce highly profitable crops. (3) Aside from introducing upland field irrigation, we aim to advance the maintenance and repairing of aging water facilities. (4) To prevent damages by earthquakes or heavy rainfalls, we will promote anti-earthquake measures such

as water storing facilities, reservoir ponds and low-level drainage countermeasures. (5) We will improve and maintain farm roads to prevent accidents during agricultural work. Furthermore, regarding the infrastructure development costs for municipalities, we will reduce the financial burden on farmers and lower the interest rate to zero for farmers' contributions to land improvement. In addition, we will complement the regions' high profitability by promoting the introduction of small hydroelectric power generators. Additionally, we plan to promptly restore agricultural land affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and realize an advanced model of agricultural areas by large-scale partitioning.

146. New plan to increase the number of farmers (drastically increasing agricultural workers)

We will double the number of new farmers (from 10.000 to 20.000 per year) and within ten years, we will expand the number of workers younger than 40 years engaged in agriculture to 400.000 workers to balance disparities between generations, improve family management and to create a structure for diverse workers, farming villages and enterprises to coexist.

We will enhance agricultural employment, financially support youth employment, create funds for adolescent farmers and support measures for agricultural management education. In addition, we will support new farmers to secure farmland by utilizing the agricultural intermediary management organization. We will strengthen our support for Super L funds (super lending funds), taxation and investment to diversify the agents engaged in agriculture, while taking large-scale farming family management, settlement and enterprises into consideration and thereby leading to an improved management. We will promote conversion to realize 50.000 corporations, approximately four times as much as 2010.

In addition, we will actively utilize the capabilities of female managers for the development of rural agriculture and promote the creation of human resources while also reviewing farmland plans and settlement farming. We will also improve the management efficiency of small farmers by incorporating college graduates into farming communities. We will also cultivate environmentally conscious agricultural workers.

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We encourage companies to participate in agricultural production, usage rights and agricultural contracts and will utilize the sales channels and management know-how of companies.

Our party will also establish an agricultural graduate school.

147. Improving the safety net

We will consider introducing an income insurance system as a safety net to respond to income decreases due to declining prices.

148. Realizing the growth of the agriculture industry by technology (promoting research and development and the utilization of technology)

To realize the growth of the agriculture, forestry and fisher industry by technological innovations, we will contribute to increasing wages and carriers in rural areas by strengthening R&D and the utilization of Japan's excellent state-of-the-art technology. By promoting R&D to develop new

technologies, we will create new varieties of products leading to an increased demand for value-added domestic agricultural and livestock products as well as vegetables, respond to business needs and improve livestock and measures regarding climate change. We will promote conducting research and the introduction of a production system for agricultural and livestock products corresponding to large-scale farming and labor saving by utilizing state-of-the-art technology such as computer technology.

For the sake of “rich and healthy eating habits”, we will develop high-quality agricultural and livestock products and foods. To accelerate the reconstruction of afflicted areas, we will promote the development of radioactive material countermeasure technology for agricultural land.

149. Reforming the rice policy

While fully responding to rice price declines in 2014, the government will set production targets until 2018 in cooperation with producers, farmers and related organizations to ensure allocating production quantity targets according to demand.

At the same time, we promote the introduction of strategic crops such as rice, wheat and soybeans to fully utilize paddy fields and to furthermore improve our food self-sufficiency rate and reduce rice production expenses. We will also make efforts to expand trading and accelerate export.

Aside from these efforts, we will also carry out the following measures to resolve the concerns of rice farmers, secure the income of paddy field agricultural workers and ensure the farming production for the next years.

(1) Emergency countermeasures in 2014

We will realize direct payment for rice (7.500 per 10 are) and support the cash flow until the end of the year. Furthermore, we will improve the operation of grants to enable rice-producers to receive canola subsidies (insurance system compensating incomes when rice prices fall) annually. Regarding the prepayment for the smooth transition of subsidies, non-interest loans are available. We are requesting JA to carry out additional payment as soon as possible to prevent a rushed selling of rice produced in 2014, to stop rice prices from falling and to ensure a stable supply of rice for a long time.

(2) Financial and economic measures

As measures for rice farmers affected by the declining rice price, and to secure the rice production for 2015, we will offer grants for the introduction of different types of machines as well as varieties of works and to lower production costs. We will support loans to the introduction of machineries necessary to expand the production, storage and use of rice and fodder. Also, we will expand support for people engaged in the agglomeration, accumulation and consolidation of farmland (machinery for workers, facility maintenance, utilization of the agricultural intermediary management system). We will support measures concerning the organization of farming villages so that more farmers can join handcrafting.

(3) Measures for the rice production in 2015

We will create a mechanism for rice producers to sell rice as fodder and will continue to implement support to secure rice as fodder (direct purchasing of rice for foddors from rice producers – target of producing 600.000 tons in 2015). In addition, we will include the “production of rice for fodder” in the basic law. If the production of rice for fodder is not meeting the production quantity target, we will allocate additional subsidies for the production in additional prefectures (5.000 yen per 10 are). To enable motivated and talented people to engage in farming, we will relax the related requirements (abolishing the requirement scale and eliminating the incorporation plan for village farming).

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We will expand the rice demand and promote exports to expand the rice market. We will consider promoting measures to voluntarily shift to the production of rice as fodder and to exporting if necessary, while considering the influence of the weather, and even if the production is in accordance with the demand.

150. Expanding the production of soybeans and wheat to meet the domestic demand

In the next decade, we will secure the domestic demand by doubling the farmland introducing new varieties of crops such as wheat and soybeans to meet the increased demand of wheat bread and noodles.

We also intend to strengthen production capacities to respond to the demand by a stable supply and expanded production. We will introduce a new variety of crops and cultivation techniques, and improve co-drying preparation facilities to promote the production of soybeans and wheat to meet the demand of consumers. We will improve our productivity by introducing mechanized systems, apply fertilizers tailored to specific field conditions and promote measures against drainage. In addition to accumulating agricultural land for workers, we will promote the unification of fields to blocks and rotation of cultivation to realize a stable production and a highly profitable structure.

151. Strengthening the production and industrialization of livestock and dairy farming

In order to ensure that producers can continue to operate safely, we will strengthen the production and realize the growth of the dairy farming industry in Japan.

To create value-added livestock and create demand, regional agents such as fodder production organizations (contractors, etc.), dairy workers, meat processing companies and agricultural organization collaborate in livestock clusters to increase regional profit and improve productivity (promoting the construction of a highly profitable livestock farming system). We will support efforts by livestock clusters to develop necessary machinery and facilities to improve the profitability.

To withdraw from the dependence on imported fodder and base livestock farming on domestic fodder production, it is necessary to improve dairy farming management and the productivity of grassland and cultivate fodder production companies. We will promote the production of diversified domestic fodder including rice and eco-fodder and support the management of motivated producers.

We will support livestock breeding (dairy farming, beef breeding, fattening, pig breeding, egg chicken breeding) by stabilizing livestock dairy farming management according to the characteristics of each region.

152. Reforming the production structure in response to changes

We aim to increase the vegetable shipment capacity for processing by 50% over the next ten years by promoting mechanization, scale expansion, rationalization of distribution and a new distributions system to strengthen the quality assurance for various agents. We will create a low-cost but high-profitability production structure for each production area.

In order to expand the domestic vegetable demand, we will implement a structural reform for the production distribution system. We will try to improve the management of vegetable farmers by promoting vegetable price stabilization measures.

We will promote measures to maintain the infrastructure for the production of high-quality fruits to cope with unplanned periods of plantation farming. We will also promote the maintenance and improvement of the share of processed fruit products, such as domestic fruit juice, by promoting higher quality, local production and consumption as well as tertiary industrialization. Furthermore, to withdraw from fossil energy dependent facilities, we will promote the utilization of local wood energy by introducing large-scale horticultures and plant factories and promote energy-saving equipment, such as heat pumps. Thereby, as part of emergency measures regarding the rising fuel price, we will shift to a management structure not easily affected by surging fuel prices. At the same time, we will promote the development of new varieties local products and value-added production via the sixth industrialization.

Based on the newly established “Flower Promotion Law”, and in order to flexibly respond to the domestic and overseas flower demand, we will promote initiatives to strengthen the domestic flower production and supply system while also disseminating the appeal of domestic flowers and promoting overseas exports.

153. Promoting community-based special crops

Based on the “Tea Promotion Law”, we aim to expand the tea production from 85.000 to 95.000 tons in the next ten years by expanding the domestic and overseas demand. Regarding sweetening resource crops, we will strengthen our production system and implement management support measures to secure regional employment. By ensuring managerial stability, we will improve the quality and production stability, take efforts against unprofitable periods, improve the defrosting measures and alleviate the impact of surging fuel prices and promote the conversion of the business structure to respond to difficulties.

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We will steadily promote sugar cane production projects by offering funds and establish a mechanized integrated system to improve the efficiency of sweetening resource crops and potato production. We are planning to establish an appropriate system of Hokkaido upland crops by

supporting the cultivation of cotton and vegetables and maintaining the crop rotation system to promote production according to regional demand.

154. Halving the population of wild deer, boars and monkeys

We aim to halve the population of wild deer, boars and monkeys, that cause severe damages to living areas, agriculture and forestry, in the next ten years. Based on the “Special Measures Law Against Wild Birds and Animals Damage”, we will promote initiatives to set up hunting troops in affected municipalities and the number of organizations engaged in wildlife damage measures will be increased to 1.000. We will promote comprehensive measures for regional issues, including strengthening support for related organizations. In addition, we will strengthen capture measures and population control based on surveys of wild birds and animals, promote the dissemination of sophisticated knowledge and technological know-how leading to the mitigation of these problems. Furthermore, we will support the maintenance of shooting ranges to secure hunters and install processing and incineration facilities for captured animals.

Since the damage is getting worse and concerns about the effect on the public interest functions of the forestry industry rise, we will promote flexible responses by municipalities during hunting periods, set hunting areas and secure training coordinators to mitigate the damage in cooperation with the forestry industry.

155. Promoting value-added domestic agricultural and marine products

By promoting local production and consumption as well as food security, we will further expand the market size of the fishery industry to 10 trillion yen in 2010². We will also actively utilize agriculture, forestry and fishery industry growth funds to increase value-added agricultural and marine products while also promoting “local production and local consumption” by incorporating the growth of food-related industries expected to expand in the future.

Based on this, we intend to thoroughly prevent the spread of infectious diseases to domestic animals and pets to protect the safe farming environment and ensure consumers’ confidence in food safety.

By the collaboration of the agricultural industry, local producers and the sixth industrialization, the first, secondary and tertiary industry cooperate in utilizing the rural production protection system to realize value-added fishery products and foods and increase employment. In addition, we support local efforts toward local economic growth by local farming products and will build a network for various business operators, such as local agricultural and forestry workers, fishermen and tourism operators to jointly work on marketing. We will develop and secure personnel familiar with agriculture, forestry and fishery. By developing dietary education as a national campaign, we will develop gratitude for meals and the ability of citizens to select meals. In addition to promoting the symbiotic connection of urban and rural residents, we support urban agriculture by establishing the “Urban Agriculture Promotion Basic Law” and regarding landscape protection, we will promote effective utilization of agricultural land and sustainable management. At the same time, we will raise citizens’ awareness of agricultural and rural areas and expand the system to familiarize children with agricultural and rural areas.

We promote the return of profits to rural areas by introducing renewable energy, promoting rural revitalization, establishing full-year agriculture via “gardening house complexes” utilizing renewable energy and improving stable production and distribution. We support the local supply and demand for school meals or restaurants and promote the domestic cultivation of *kanpo* crops as well as organic agriculture, forestry and fishery. We will develop a system to produce agricultural products for a stable domestic supply in Japan by a harmonized agriculture. In addition, we will develop a stable production and distribution system for *jivi* (wild animal meat). Furthermore, we will strengthen our support for “food loss and food leftovers” to be reused as fodder or biomass.

156. Implementing a strategy to double overseas exports per item and county

Based on specific export targets by country and item, we will develop a realistic strategy to double the export of agricultural, forestry and fishery products and foods by 2020 (1 trillion yen). We will set export expansion targets per country and item based on the food culture of the export destination and establish an export groups for original Japanese items.

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Also, in order to ease the hygienic concerns of partner countries, we will strengthen negotiations and try to improve the export environment by abolishing import restrictions of other countries while wiping out damages caused by the nuclear accident. Furthermore, by establishing “Japan Brands”, we will create an annual supply system for wholesale markets for agricultural products and support the overseas expansion of the Japanese food culture, food industry and processing technology. We will promote the export of domestic agricultural, forestry and fishery products via the cooperation with overseas Japanese restaurants. We will also strengthen the provision of information on the “Japanese food culture” to foreigners and overseas officials and actively utilize agriculture, forestry and fishery growth funds.

157. Revitalize the agriculture and forestry industry affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident

We will do our utmost to revitalize the agriculture and forestry industry affected by the Great East Japan earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. We will promote thorough measures to remove designated sludge, regenerate agricultural land and gardening facilities and regenerate coastal disaster prevention forests on the premise of the state’s responsibility.

We will properly and promptly carry out compensation payments for the TEPCO nuclear power plant accident.

We will also utilize the funds established in the prefecture of Fukushima to support the resumption of farming, for example in evacuation zones. In addition to developing a thorough decontamination inspection system for rice, livestock products, vegetables, fruit trees or shiitake mushrooms, we will take all possible measures to provide safe food to consumers and eliminate damages caused by rumors. Furthermore, we will do everything possible review food safety standards and values of radioactive substances.

158. Realizing a strong forestry and expanding the domestic timber utilization

In order to realize the economic growth of the forest industry, and to increase employment and income in rural or mountain villages, we will carry out comprehensive efforts to expand the self-sufficiency rate of domestically produced timber to 50%. To accelerate the dissemination of CLT (Cross-Laminated Timber), which is expected to be utilized for medium-sized or high buildings, we plan to formulate comprehensive general building standards and create construction know-how by FY2016. In addition, we will promote the development and dissemination of new wood products such as fireproof wood.

Based on the “Law to Promote the Utilization of Domestic Timber in Public Buildings”, we will actively promote and support the use of domestic timber in public buildings (schools, etc.) and the public civil engineering sector. Furthermore, we will expand the use of timber in houses, factories, warehouses, offices or construction sites (such as guardrails) and will actively utilize domestic timber for the earthquake reconstruction of private and public housings.

Also, in order to disseminate the use of wood in traditional and new buildings to the world, we will promote the usage and quality of wood for constructions and also for facilities related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

We will furthermore promote festivals and experimental learning (at schools, etc.) to educate about the goodness of forests and trees, cultivate the understanding of Japanese architecture and thereby nurture wooden building engineers and the growth of forestry. We will strongly advocate measures against illegal logging to ensure the use of exclusively legal timber based on the “Green Purchasing Law”.

159. Promoting the utilization of woody biomass

In order to secure the revitalization of mountain villages, including the expansion of employment and wages in mountain areas, we will actively promote the use of woody biomass for energy generation and other materials such as cellulose nanofibers, pellets for power plants and firewood for boilers and stoves, to secure a stable energy supply by woody biomass power generation facilities utilizing unused thinned timber.

160. Developing diverse personnel and human resources to support the forestry

To secure young new workers in forestry, we will promote green employment, the development of human resources for the forest management of municipalities such as forest general manager (forester), forest management planner and forestry technicians while also promoting the improving of training by various institutions such as forestry associations or forestry enterprises.

161. Measures to promote mountain villages

In order to strengthen the regional activities of mountain villages and support the multifaceted functions of forests (forest management, responses to invasive bamboo, etc.), we offer grants for forest maintenance and other regional and forestry activities as measures to maintain the multifaceted functions of mountain villages.

To reactivate mountain villages in light of a declining and aging population, a decline in the living standard and intensified wildlife damage, we will extend and enhance the “Mountain Village Promotion Law” to strengthen our support for the production, distribution and selling system of special forestry products expected to be highly profitable and diversify the cultivation by including mushrooms, medical herbs and charcoal.

162. Establishing a stable supply system for domestic timber according to demand

We will establish a stable and efficient supply system for domestic timber according to demand by concluding agreements with logging supplier and lumber producers and developing wood processing facilities such as lumber factories and stock yards. In order create an efficient system, we will proactively advance forest management development and management consolidation, support the introduction of high-performance forestry machinery and develop and disseminating high-level material collecting technology.

163. Clarifying forest owners and boundaries

In order to prevent foreign capital to acquire parts of forests, we will utilize the measures stipulated by the “Forest Law” to accelerate cadastral surveying, share forest information with municipalities and promote electronic conversion to promote the clarification of forest owners and boundaries.

164. Promoting countermeasures against the reduction of forests

As a measure against forest reduction, and in order to secure an upper limit of 3.5% of forest reduction, we have expanded subsidies for measures such as afforestation, lower cutting and thinning. We will construct a mechanism for reforestation by especially promoting efforts to expand the supply and use of domestically produced timber, including thinned timber, and will expand the support measures for a stable supply of seedlings to advance reforestation. In addition, we will promote the development of forests with less pollen while also promoting the proper maintenance of forest water sources by public entities and a sound management by public forestry corporations. We will promote the improvement of the road network necessary for the maintenance of forests and advocate efforts to extend the functioning of existing facilities such as forest road bridges.

Regarding countermeasures against global warming, it is necessary to promote both measures to control CO2 emissions as well as measures for forests as absorbing sources. Therefore, regarding the implementation of various measures to control CO2 emissions, we revise of the petroleum and coal tax rate as global warming countermeasures. On the other hand, as for measures for forests as absorbing source, forests greatly contribute to the conservation of our national land and the prevention of global warming. It is therefore necessary to set up forests as a national strategy and promote forest maintenance, including afforestation and thinning, as a countermeasure to reduce CO2. Therefore, based on the revised tax law established in August 2012, comprehensive consideration will be made as soon as possible on securing financial resources for forest reduction and global warming countermeasures.

165. Promoting the export of timber and wooden products

Based on the “export strategy by country and item”, we will actively support the export of timber and wooden products to spread the goodness of our national wood and wood culture to foreign countries. As part of that, we aim to expand the use of domestic materials at overseas diplomatic facilities and embassies.

166. Creating disaster-resistant forests

In order to protect the lives and livelihood of citizens from heavy rainfalls, earthquake and other disasters, we will promptly restore destroyed areas. Aside from dams and other damage prevention measures, including landslide countermeasures, we will also advocate the toughening of our national land by promoting healthy disaster-resistant forests and maintain coastal disaster prevention forests to alleviate the damage of tsunamis.

167. Managing forests contaminated with radioactive materials

We will steadily support the management of forests contaminated with radioactive materials and compensate the production of special forest goods, including shiitake mushrooms.

168. Promoting inter-city cooperation and the compact-plus network

By promoting the cooperation among cities to maintain the population in certain areas, we will promote efforts to form an urban area that will serve as the foundation for the maintenance and improvement of “regional economic growth” and strengthening of “elementary urban services”.

The declining and aging population of local cities in our nation is becoming a severe problem.

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To maintain the vitality of these areas, we will promote town development that simplifies live by providing core functions, such as medical care and welfare services, as well as residential and commerce areas by forming compact cities while making effective use of existing facilities and networks.

Also, regarding depopulated areas, we will renovate old school and former village facilities, and utilize small facilities, accessible by walking, that offer indispensable functions for everyday life, such as shops and clinics. To improve and maintain living functions, we promote sustainable community development by connecting neighboring small towns and villages by a network and funding services to resolve issues related to the decline and aging of the population.

169. Accelerating the revitalization of the fishery industry after the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident

We will do our utmost to accelerate the revitalization of the fishery industry after the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident. In addition to accelerating the restoration and reconstruction of related industrial facilities, such as fishing boats, fishing ports, fishery farming facilities, ice-making and refrigeration facilities, we will take flexible measures according to the actual progress of restoration and reconstruction and while taking the voices of the disaster area into account. Regarding the fishery processing industry, we will support efforts, such

as developing new products using regional fishery products and developing new sales channels, and will also carry out direct damage countermeasures, such as mitigating the self-restrained fishing due to the nuclear power plant accident and countermeasures against rumor damage. In addition to implementing these measure by doubling the funds reliably, we will support the rebuilding of the fishery industry with full power.

We will also thoroughly monitor radiation in the Pacific Ocean and the ocean floor.

170. Promoting surging fuel price countermeasures for the fishery industry

In order to protect the fishery management from soaring aquaculture fodder and fuel prices, we will take measures to enable the survival of the fishery industry under the responsibility of the national governments, such as issuing supplementary funds for soaring fuel prices, supporting fuel-saving oil activities and introducing energy-saving equipment. We also aim to continue heavy oil and light oil tax refunding measures to ensure the stability of the fishery management.

171. Securing the income of fishermen

To further stabilize the management and income of fishermen, we will enhance and strengthen the “fishery mutual aid system” and “fulfillment plus system” and will rethink as well as eliminate requirements for motivated fishermen to join. In addition to supporting the popularization of the Japanese fishery ecolabel and the brand names of fishery products and thereby enabling a high-quality fishery production capable of sustainable development, we will revise mechanisms to involve fishermen into price setting and will thereby work towards further pride and motivation of fishermen. In addition, we are revising the loan system to enable fishermen and the fishery management to swiftly and smoothly obtain necessary funds and we will also expand the system to allow unsecured and unguaranteed people use it.

172. Become a fisherman! Support for an increased new employment in the fishery industry

We will inject new power into the fishery industry, which is the core industry in rural areas, and activate fishing villages. Therefore, we will create a system that transmits detailed information to newly hired workers and we will also expand and strengthen the support of the national government for organizations, such as fisheries corporations or fishery-related organizations, to accept new employees and conduct on-site training and seminars.

173. Relaxing the regulations for the fishery industry and construction of fishing boats

We will implement and reinforce new support measures to enable the construction of profitable fishing boats and ships, consistent with sustainable resource management, low-cost and high-efficient production, ecology, energy saving and labor saving, while also promoting these measures for older fishing vessels. Regarding regulations such as fishing boat standards and qualifications for workers, we will revise these based on the fact that safe navigation and operation is possible and proactively promote deregulation in line with the current state-of-the-art.

174. Expanding the consumption of domestic fishery products and promoting local production

Since the consumption of fishery products has drastically decreased, we are promoting local production and local consumption initiatives, including the supply of school lunches, willing to use fishery products. We will further enhance and strengthen efforts to cultivate fish as part of eating habits from childhood onwards by introducing experiential fishery at education facilities.

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We will promote a coordination system that serves as a bridge to marine products supply, based on the “domestic fishery products distribution promotion project”, and matches the needs of the producing and consuming side. In addition, we promote the collaboration of the agricultural commerce and fishery industry to solve the issue of clogging fishery products distribution, develop raw material processing technology for fishermen and fishery cooperatives. We will support ambitious activities such as fishery processing companies working on the utilization of unused fish and expanding the consumption of fishery products as well as the expansion of sales channels.

175. Reinforcing wholesale markets as an important base for the distribution of fishery and marine products

We aim to enhance the function of wholesale markets, as an important base to link producers and consumers via face-to-face interaction. By building an integrated distribution channel (supply chain), we will promote the establishment of facilities related to logistics, information flow and advanced hygiene control. We will strengthen our support for management stabilization measures in order to promote retailers and expand the consumption of marine products in a stable business environment.

176. Improving the sanitation management of the fishery industry and at fishing ports to promote export

In order to increase the exports to countries seeking high safety standards for imports such as the EU, we will improve sanitary control of fishing ports and the whole production and distribution chain of fishery products. We will also introduce and disseminate the HACCP system, actively support processing corresponding to the system, improve the distribution chain, accelerate the accreditation of HACCP by the EU and simplify inspecting procedures for exports. Parallely, we will support detailed marketing in target countries and special fishery products. We will also increase the income in the fishery industry and activate fishing villages by promoting the export of marine products contributing to the stabilization of local fishery product prices and steadily expanding the domestic marine product consumption.

*HACCP: Hygiene management method to monitor and record all processes of raw materials from production, manufacturing to shipping and to prevent the occurrence of harm to the products.

177. Strengthening the resource management of the aquaculture and fishery industry to ensure a stable supply of marine products

We will position the maintenance of fishing grounds and the cultivation of fishery products as a social infrastructure project to secure a stable food supply and create a frontier for fishing ground improvement projects as well as seed and sewage discharge projects according to local circumstances by steadily promoting resource management plans, restoring low-level fisheries and supporting fishery management in general.

In addition, we will also promote the creation of *satoumi* with abundant marine resources in our beautiful seas and ocean.

Aside from restoring and providing stable supplies of eel and salmon, we will provide a stable supply of other highly demanded items, such as tuna, by introducing new technologies, including sea surface farming. We will support the development of diverse aquacultures and will strengthen fishery management, with emphasis on profitability while considering the environment, by steadily increasing aquaculture and fishery exports.

Also, Japan has its own steep topography and rich rivers. We will promote measure to develop mainland water fishery by improving the environment of fishing grounds and lakes.

178. Protecting citizens' safety and our national interest by strengthening diplomacy and implementing measures against illegal operations of foreign fishing vessels

Since safe navigation and operation in the waters surrounding Japan are threatened by foreign fishing vessels, the government is advancing strong diplomatic negotiations and strengthens measures against damages to ensure the safe operation of Japanese fishers. We will resolutely respond as an independent state to unjust obstructive activities related to human lives such as extreme environmental protection groups and fishing restrictions on fishery resources, such as bonito, tuna or whales, due to unfair pressure. We will conduct resolute diplomatic negotiations to protect the public's security and our national interests and Japan will take the leadership on working on international resource management and whaling issues based on scientific research to enable a sustainable use. We will also develop overseas fishing grounds via international cooperation and offering ODA. Especially regarding research whaling, we will arrange a system to implement research whaling as a national project.

In trade negotiations with the WTO or on EPAs and FTAs, we are working on enforcing international rules to protect the achievements and pride of our predecessors as our national interests and strengthen the international competitiveness of the fishery industry, an important core industry in rural areas. Also, regarding coral fishing boats in the Ogasawara waters, we will deter illegal operation and strictly control foreign fishing boats.

179. The state, not the fishermen, is responsible for managing difficulties by fishing restrictions

The state is responsible for fishing restrictions and resource management according to regulations stipulated by international treaties but fishing is possible regardless of government permissions. We will give consideration to minimize the influence on the fishery management and provide management stabilization support to fishery companies whose income decreases and will also advance “the reduction of international ships”.

The fishery industry is indispensable for improving the food self-sufficiency rate and to provide a stable supply of high-quality marine products for consumers. Based on the importance of the fishery industry, we will continue to consider measures to improve the financial structure to carry out the disposal of past debts, due to the deterioration of the business environment of the fishery industry caused by international economic fluctuations, and realize a healthy management.

180. Promoting the strengthening of safe and rich fishing villages and fishing ports

We promote the toughening of fishing villages and ports to be prepared to tsunamis and the Nankai Earthquake.

We will proactively promote disaster prevention and mitigation measures for fishing village. In addition to promoting sanitation management measures and the ecological development of fishing pots, we will actively promote the maintenance of fishing ports with consideration to safety and aging facilities measures to enable resistance against natural disasters, such as earthquakes, tsunamis or typhoons.

We do not allow to ignore small fishing ports.

We will also promote rich and safe fishing villages with well-balanced living environments by, for example, improving the treatment of wastewater. Also, by advancing the “beach revitalization plan” on all nationwide beaches, we will improve the income of fishermen and restore beaches by securing and fixing it.

* The Nankai Earthquake is a large earthquake originating in the boundary of the Nankai trough and the surrounding area.

181. Further supporting the multifaceted functions of the fishery

In order to further support the fishery industry and fishing villages activities providing multifaceted functions, such as important roles as “guards” of the territory and border of Japan, health rest and exchanges and education, we aim to expand and strengthen “measures for the multifunctional business of the fishery” and offer “grants for the revitalization of remote islands”.

182. Establishing the disinfection of pests and damage countermeasures

We closely cooperate with various research institutes and neighboring countries to deal with harmful organisms such as large jellyfish, Northern sea lion, seal, ascidian, gummi or cormorant, occurrence

mechanism of pests and red tide damages which cause damage to the fishery industry beyond imagination. We will prevent and minimize the occurrence of fundamental fishery damages such as eradication of pests and promptly provide information related to pest occurrence and disinfection for fishermen.

183. Ensuring a beautiful and vigorous living in agricultural mountain and fishing villages
- We plan to consider establishing a “Agricultural Mountain and Fishing Village Planning Law” (provisional name) as a mechanism to create a settlement environment, including regional infrastructure, welfare and education (grand design for agricultural creation), that supports the aggregation and networking of settlement functions to realize beautiful and vigorous agricultural mountain and fishing villages, where young and elderly people can live peacefully and safely.

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Safe and peaceful living

It is a central duty of politics to protect the life and property of citizens from disasters, crimes and terrorism. We will become the “safest nation in the world” once again. And by establishing a stable social security system and regenerating education as the foundation of the nation, we promise security for the future.

Measures on security and terrorism

184. Promoting security measures and recommendations in order to regain “the world’s best safety”

The number of penal code offenses recorded last years has been decreasing to a certain extent and has been halved compared to 2002, the worst record year in the past. However, in recent years, problems are becoming obvious such as the deterioration of the private safety system, the capacity crackdown on volunteer probationers and the seriousness of the threat of cyber-crimes since evidence is difficult to collect on these crimes and currently, our citizens cannot feel “world’s safest”.

Therefore, our party formulated a strategy to become the “world’s safest nation in May 2013 and cabinet has decided to steadily promote various security measures to become the “world’s safest”, also in anticipation of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

185. Enhancing the support for private safety systems

Private safety systems have dedicated activities, such as crime prevention volunteers and voluntary probationers, to support Japan’s safe and good public so far. The existence of such private safety systems can be regarded as a culture that Japan should be proud of.

However, recently, volunteers and probationers have become quite constant and the average age also rises, so challenges for the future are emerging. For this reason, our party supports private volunteer street crime prevention activities, promote the installation of street lights and security cameras in shopping streets, reduce the burden on guards, enrich rehabilitation support centers and thereby aim to strengthen the private safety system for a future sustainable private sector.

186. Reinforcing measures against crimes requiring new measures such as cyber-crimes

In recent years, the threat of cyber-crimes and cyber-attacks has become more severe, and in addition to cases of organized crime groups threatening civil life, we also have to be able to respond to terrorist attacks abroad, nuclear terrorism and terrorism on sports events.

Regarding these crimes, it is difficult to gather evidence and intelligence compared to traditional crimes. Therefore, our party is working on eliminating illegal and harmful information in cyberspace, actively utilizing the Japan cyber-crime countermeasures center (Japan version of the NCFTA), advancing investigation methods and strengthening information analysis systems. We will take every effort to prevent cybercrime, organized crime and terrorism by strengthening the overseas information gathering and security system.

187. Establishing a reliable security infrastructure

There is a series of incidents threatening the safety and security of citizens, for example seniors suffering from fraud, including financial fraud, women's safety is threatened by stalkers and prisoners commit crimes again. Our party aims to strengthen the necessary system to the safety of civic life, such as improving the skills of consultation workers, establishing a wide-area information management system and improving the skills of corrective staff.

Furthermore, there are cases, like the Senkaku Islands and surrounding waters, where it is urgent to strengthen warning guard, and we therefore aim to strengthen the legal and police department system necessary to firmly protect the national and citizens' security by a reliable security infrastructure.

188. Strengthening cyber-security measures

While entering an era we said to be an "internet-based society", IT utilization in all sectors of socio-economic activities become indispensable, while cyber-attacks on important infrastructures, and crossing national borders, are directly linked to the theft of technical information, government intelligence and corporate sensitive information and citizens' lives are increasingly threatened.

In order to comprehensively and effectively promote measures on cyber-security, our party took the initiative in establishing the "Basic Law on Cyber-Security".

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In the future, based on the philosophy of the law, we will accelerate the training of personnel to support cyber-security measures and advance technological capabilities while strengthening the organization within the government and cooperating with various entities, including private companies, to support the government. We will promote comprehensive cyber-security measure to enable citizens and companies to safely use ICT and to create a rich and convenient society.

In addition, we will build a comprehensive framework via international cooperation of governments such as Japan, the United States and the ASEAN countries in the cyber field, via bilateral and multilateral policy dialogues and effective cooperation with foreign countries as well as efforts and participation in international conferences.

For this reason, we are currently improving the budget of the NPA, Ministry of Defense and Japan Coast Guard, currently inferiors to the budget of other advanced cyber countries, to expand our cyber

defense force and establish a dynamic defense system comparable to the United States. We will create a back-up system as soon as possible and will procure appropriate information equipment and multifunction devices for the government and government agencies from the perspective of cyber-security.

In addition, from the viewpoint of national security, we will actively introduce technology from advanced cyber countries and at the same time, we will allocate budget to nurture our own cyber-security technology.

Strengthening our territory

189. Protecting the lives and property of citizens – accelerating “toughening for a strong and supple Japan”

We will protect the lives and property of our citizens from various natural disasters such as the Nankai Earthquake or the Tonankai Earthquake, which is a future expected earthquake around the capital area, as well as other disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, heavy rains, heavy snowfall or volcanic eruptions. We will therefore advance disaster prevention and damage reduction as well as quick recoveries and reconstructions. In order to respond to the urgent need to counter the aging of our social infrastructure, we will accelerate earthquake-resistant housings and buildings, road, ports and embankments and ensure the facilitation of emergency transportation routes, escape routes and tsunami evacuation facilities. At the same time, we will improve disaster prevention, including the rescue system and strengthen the observation and information transmission system as measures to mitigate the impact of disaster.

In addition, in anticipation of safe and secure Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, we will maintain and strengthen the functions of the capital while also promoting the toughening of the whole country by forming multi-axis land stripes such as the Japan Sea Land Shaft and establishing dual-line logistic networks. Aside from taking efforts to toughen the country as a means to promote the medium to long-term development of regional economies, we will create employment and aim for international contributions by promoting a tougher nation. In particular, we will enhance the “National Territory Toughening Basic Law”, established in June 2014.

Based on the establishment of the “Basic Law on Infrastructure Longevity”, formulated in November 2013, we will promote guarantee security and protect citizens’ lives and property by properly inspecting, repairing and updating infrastructural facilities such as aging bridges, ports or rivers. During the Great East Japan Earthquake disaster, local outsourcing organizations played a major role in the smooth emergency restoration of the Tohoku Regional Development Bureau, restoring emergency transportation roads by the operation “filling the gaps” and dispatched the TEC-FORCE from across the country. Regarding local agencies, we will properly review the division of roles and duties, further strengthen their capacities to respond to wide-area disasters without transferring duties to specific private organizations and local entities will be closely engaged in residents’ activities.

In addition, in order to promptly reopen roads to ensure the traffic of emergency vehicles in the event of a large-scale disaster, we will reinforce our system by enhancing the personnel structure of road

managers as well as equipment and materials. In accordance with the “Tsunami Countermeasures Act”, we will promote drills to raise awareness of tsunami disaster prevention.

190. Promoting citizens-friendly, competitive and disaster-resistant town development

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and to prepare for further large-scale disasters, we will advance the earthquake resistance of houses and buildings, including public transportation facilities and densely built urban areas, promote further disaster prevention measures and proceed with the maintenance of facilities such as underground systems, wide-area networks, escape routes for the case of tsunamis, storm surge measures and tsunami evacuation facilities.

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In order to respond to landslides, like one that occurred in the prefecture of Hiroshima, as well as floods and landslides due to torrential rainfall, which occurs frequently in recent years, we properly revised the “Landslide Disaster Prevention Law”, established at an extraordinary Diet session, to improve landslide disaster prevention measures by improving the Sabo Dam, strengthening the flood control by utilizing dams and improving super embankments, while keeping local opinions on the construction of such projects in mind. Regarding heavy snowfall, greatly exceeding in recent years, we will utilize a temporary subsidy system to cover snow removal expenses of municipalities and promote emergency disaster prevention public work to prevent regional isolation.

In addition, we will implement comprehensive measures to promote disaster-resistant town planning by advocating wide-area disaster prevention bases, the construction of a disaster management system, strengthening weather, earthquake and volcano monitoring functions as well as emergency earthquake or landslide warning information. Furthermore, aside from supporting efforts to toughened cities, we will secure a safe environment for bicyclists and pedestrians, by for example maintaining bicycle routes and public transportation, to realize the creation of compact and citizen-friendly town planning.

In order to attract value-added industries and talented people, and to enhance the competitiveness of international business centers such as Tokyo or other cities, we will promote private investment in urban development and create a strategy for all urban areas to also promote foreigner support functions and city sales initiatives.

Furthermore, to simplify the access to information in the case of disasters, such as earthquakes or tsunamis, we promote safe barrier-free evacuation routes to ensure the secure evacuation of elderly and disabled people, children, pregnant women or others in need of assistance. Especially for people with difficulties in obtaining information, such as visually handicapped or deaf people, we will promote easy-to-understand information provision according to the actual situation, urgency and amount of information via various communication means such as letters, sounds, braille, symbols, sign language, recording, light or vibrations with consideration to the characteristics of various obstacles.

We will promptly establish the “Basic Law on Eliminating Electric Poles and Wires” and promote the conversion from electric pole and wires to a wireless system as a national initiative while disseminating the recognition, that the standard condition should not require electric poles and wires.

191. Strengthening water supply facilities

Water supply is an irreplaceable life infrastructure for citizens. We will proactively introduce a budget provide that the supply of “life water” will not be interrupted even in the event of a disaster, and we will further advance anti-aging measures and earthquake resistance of water facilities. In addition, we will secure a stable water supply by supporting wide-area water supply businesses and strengthen the operation base of water supply businesses.

192. Establishing an “Emergency Management Agency” (provisional name)

In light of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and in order to take every possible effort to respond properly to various areas simultaneously during disasters, we will consider establishing an “Emergency Management Agency” (provisional name) as an initiative for further preparation and coordination to mobilize and command the SDF, police, fire departments and Japan Coast Guards and conduct research on evacuation, rescues and restoration while also developing equipment and training personnel.

193. Enhancing and strengthening regional disaster prevention capabilities in preparation for large-scale earthquakes, landslides or volcanic disasters

In preparation for large-scale disasters, such as the Nankai Earthquake, we have greatly expanded the number of emergency fire department units and in order to reduce damage, we will arrange necessary vehicles and equipment.

Also, based on the newly enacted “Law on Enhancing Regional Disaster Prevention Capabilities Centered on Fire Departments”, we promote young people or women to join the fire department, playing a major role in securing the safety and security of local residents. At the same time, we will conduct training by using fire-fighting pump vehicles, equipped with rescue equipment, to improve disaster response capabilities. Furthermore, in order to ensure the safety of mountain residents and others close to volcanos, and in addition to promoting the development of volcanic disasters prevention information communication means, we will strengthen and expand the support for the maintenance of evacuation shelters in public facilities and the technology necessary for information gathering.

194. Promoting urban disaster prevention

In order to preserve the functions (including government functions) of large cities, especially the three densely populated metropolitan areas, we will advance energy independence necessary for ensuring communication networks, promote measures against difficulties to return home, improve the continuity of businesses, promote wooden housings and noncombustible and earthquake-resistant houses and buildings.

In addition to promoting disaster prevention measures for lifelines, such as measures against the flooding of residential areas or harbors and against the aging of water supply and sewerage system, we will improve river and underground pond controls in preparation for heavy rains. By utilizing PPP projects, we will jointly rebuild cities and expressways and carry out integrated measures against the aging of metropolitan expressways while advocating private urban development. In addition, we will promote the creation of a BCP system for ports and maintain port functions, in the case of large-scale earthquakes.

Additionally, we will complete the Sabo Dam to prevent flood damage in the Ichikawa area and to respond to the water demand in metropolitan areas.

195. Establishing a G-space disaster prevent system and L-alerts

In order to realize a safe and disaster-resistant society utilizing G-space information (geospatial information), we will promote the spread and development of the G-space disaster prevention system to issue disaster information by local governments. We will also promote the collaboration with the L-alert system (disaster information sharing system), as a common foundation for simultaneously broadcasting to various media, to realize the reduction of damage during disasters and improve the efficiency of disaster prevention measures of local governments.

196. Enforcing the foundation of regional industries by predicting environmental changes

In recent years, damage due to abnormal weather has occurred frequently, and since global warming is inevitable, there are concerns about the effects of climate change such as increasing average temperatures and changes in precipitation. Therefore, it is necessary to develop an observation and analysis system related to climate change which can be utilized for enhancing “town development” based on the creative ingenuity of regional industries from a mid- to long-term perspective in each region.

197. Promoting a research group to create a tough society against natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcano eruptions and heavy rain

Since natural disasters such as volcano eruptions, heavy rains, landslides and other unexpected disasters locally increased in recent years, and to protect citizens' lives and property, we will promote research and development, aiming at creating a tough society that minimizes damage and recovers fast, while also strengthening disaster prevention and damage reduction measures.

As countermeasures for earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic disasters, we will improve the observation and analysis system for natural disaster prediction. In addition to promoting the development of forecasting technology, we aim to establish safe and secure local communities by establishing a nationwide early disaster prediction system for natural disasters, such as torrential rain or tornados. By developing technology to minimize damage and accelerate restoration after disasters, we will strengthen the foundation of the toughening of the nation by promoting disaster prevention science and technology enabling fast reconstruction.

198. Promoting infrastructural management to enhance productivity and functionality

Regarding the future infrastructure development, we are facing four crises [(1.) Increasingly severe weather disasters and larger earthquakes, (2.) fast aging infrastructure, (3.) population decline, especially in local areas, (4.) intensified international competition] and therefore, we will make effective use of existing stocks to be able to thoroughly respond to these four crises. To realize this, we will secure stable and sustainable public investment, to promote structural reforms to secure the social, maintain and manage the social infrastructure and to secure skilled personnel, playing an important role during disasters.

In order to fulfill these imminent tasks, we will revise the social capital development priority plan and systematically aggregate necessary public investment for stable and sustainable prospects. We will also promote the development and introduction of advanced technologies, such as robots, that will be useful for rapid and accurate disaster responses and maintaining the social infrastructure.

199. Improving the core road network of our nation like promised to citizens

We will promote the maintenance and improvement of the road network, as the core network of our nation, like promised to citizens, including the elimination of missing links of expressways and constructing four lane roads, without being bound by conventional business evaluations. We aim to realize a smooth and safe transportation system by devising the use of the existing network and promote further measures to eliminate traffic jam hubs and introduce smart interfaces by ETC.

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Regarding expressway fees, we will offer clear and effective discounts for the purpose of emphasizing the use of expressways and to guarantee appropriate maintenance and renewal. As for the metropolitan areas, we will organize easy-to-understand fees according to the age of ring roads. Regarding road, indispensable for local life, we will proactively develop “life roads”, without being bound by conventional business evaluation, such as roads as evacuation routes to evacuation centers and alternative roads for the transportation of restoration and reconstruction materials as well as safe school roads, while also strengthening roads for possible floods during gigantic tsunamis. Since roads are a valuable asset of citizens, we will promote an inspection, maintenance and measures cycle, including the improvement of support for infrastructure inspections and repairs by local governments, maximizing the budget for human resources and the development of technology by cooperation the industry, academia and government.

200. Improving the comprehensive transportation system

By establishing a basic transportation policy plan based on the Basic Law on Traffic, we will comprehensively and systematically improve the convenience and security of the regional public transportation system.

In order to enable “life on foot”, in accordance with the revised Regional Public Transportation Revitalization Law, we will promote the reconstruction of the regional transportation network, and we will assist efforts of transportation operators and local governments to secure personnel with know-how by fiscal measures. Also, based on the revised “Special Measures Taxi Law”, we will

work on improving the drivers' working environment and improving the safety and service of taxis. We will steadily advance the creation of core networks, such as airports and expressways, and the development of a comprehensive transportation system contributing to our international competitiveness by improving the access to roads and railways connecting the center of Tokyo with Haneda or Narita International Airport or by improving the access and airspace of Yokota.

Concerning the maintenance of Shinkansen, we will take every effort to complete Nagano-Kanazawa line of the Hokuriku Shinkansen in next March and expect to start the operation of the Aomori-Hakodate-Hokuto Kitakai Shinkansen line in 2015. We will realize high-speed trains by time zone classification from spring 2018 onwards and will continue to study measures for a new driving system. In June 2012, the construction of the Hakodate-Hokuto-Sapporo, Kanazawa-Tsuruga and Takeo Onsen-Nagasaki line started, and we will work hard on consolidating the overall construction period and open the new lines as soon as possible. Likewise, we will promote the formation of a high-speed railway system, including the maintenance of bullet trains which are useful for the regional revitalization, and we will continue to extend the Osaka Shinkansen to Hokuriku.

Regarding super-conducting linear trains (superconducting magnetically levitated railways), we advanced the construction approval of the Tokyo-Nagoya line in October 2014. Upon construction, we will create an environment for local businesses to participate, based on the idea of "local production and local consumption". In addition, we will take all efforts to extend the line from Tokyo to Osaka as soon as possible. Furthermore, we will create access control for an effective utilization of the linear railways and offer preferential treatment to attract enterprises, while also supporting the export of the superconducting linear technology. We also aim to realize the free gauge train (variable train).

We will also review the aviation and transportation system in general to promote the modal shift and reduce CO2.

201. Maintaining the international competitiveness of airports, aviation, ports and the three major metropolitan area ringways

As for our aviation policy, we will promote various comprehensive measures aiming at the maintenance of the routes network, necessary for citizens' lives. In order to strengthen the international competitiveness of the Tokyo metropolitan area and to revitalize the local economy, we are expanding the slots of both Haneda and Narita airport, promote the introduction of LCC (Low-Cost Carrier) and enhance the CIQ system. We will try to revitalize airports by enhancing the hosting system and improve the usage of business jets. Also, in order to develop the Japanese aviation industry by strengthening international competitiveness, we aim for equal footing with other countries by strategically advancing air liberalization (open sky), reviewing the fees for airport use as well as promoting the training and securing of aircraft pilots, mechanics and manufacturing engineers so that a shortage of manpower will not become a bottleneck of the future aviation demand.

At the same time, we will work on improving aircrafts by using the certification system, expanding the manufacturing industry and promoting the MRO (aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul) industry. In addition to properly conducting safety reviews, we will establish a market for domestically produced passenger aircrafts (MRJ), and promote the aircraft industry by facilitating the export to foreign countries.

Furthermore, regarding the support of the regional economy and industry, it is necessary to secure port functions, improve the access to ports, improve port operation efficiency, improve the service level and improve the industrial location environment to respond to large standard ships. We will also strengthen logistic functions supporting the facilitation for bulk cargoes and implement an international container strategy and thereby aim to strengthen international competitive under leadership of the national government. By securing national investment in port management companies and port administrations, we aim to strengthen the disaster response capability of harbors as a lifeline of the Japanese industry and aim to maintain port functions even in the event of large-scale earthquakes. Furthermore, in addition to aiming to renovate aging port facilities and industrial complex infrastructure, we will secure the safety of industries and logistic infrastructure, by strengthening disaster prevention functions of coastal areas vulnerable to typhoons.

In order to strengthen international competitiveness, we will promote the improvement of the three major metropolitan area ring roads.

202. Strengthening infrastructure development and promoting quick disaster response capabilities

As the need for new radio wave transmissions, cellular phones and wireless access increases, the tightness of the transmission system is getting worse day by day. From the viewpoint of disaster prevention, we will minimize obstacles for the cellular phone network, that has become the most popular social infrastructure, while at the same time aiming for the decentralization and local industrialization of data centers and strengthen large-capacity communication networks. In addition to disseminating the government information systems currently concentrated in metropolitan areas, we will also urgently develop backup system and ultra-high-speed networks.

During the Great East Japan Earthquake, many of the submarine cables around the Boso peninsula were damaged. Currently, this poses the danger of hindering the overseas communication network and we will promptly add this system to other areas.

Furthermore, since the enormous information openness and big data analysis becomes increasingly important for the industrial world, the government and the public, it is essential to expand the information infrastructure and we therefore promote the development of super high-speed broadband. In addition, we will introduce an infrastructure of “public clouds”, contributing to regional management and creating vibrant regional areas, based on the utilization of ICT. In the whole country, including remote islands, disparities in the means of communication and information during disasters arises, so it is imperative to immediately develop an appropriate information infrastructure in all

regions. For this reason, we will promote the maintenance of super high-speed broadband and the enhancement of backup systems of local governments by cloud technologies. We will secure the necessary budget to financially support expenses of information distribution of companies and encourage industries to offer initial investment.

Establishing a social security system

203. Enhancing social security tax funds

The consumption tax, raised until April 2017, will be used as a reliable source for the social security system and will steadily enhance child support, child rearing support, medical care and nursing care.

Childcare and child rearing

204. Steadily implementing a new system for childcare and child rearing support

By enforcing the new “child care and child rearing support system” in April 2015, we will secure the necessary budget to support all child-rearing families in light of their actual circumstances and will improve the quality of school education in early childhood and childcare and expand the local child rearing support.

205. Accelerate efforts to resolve *taikijidou*

Regarding nursing care, by constantly endeavoring to improve the current nursing care system, we will secure child welfare, the healthy growth of children and the safety and security of approved nurseries by guaranteeing childcare and actively supporting parenting families.

In addition, to maintain and improve nursery facilities standards for all children in need of childcare, we will:

- Improve nursery qualification standards and improve the treatment of nursery teachers, while also securing personnel as well as training and establish a career-up system to ensure high-quality childcare.
- By establishing the “*taikijidou* elimination acceleration plan” in FY2014, we will secure about 200.000 nurseries for childcare within two years after 2015. Furthermore, the three years after 2016 will be the “accelerated action period” and will be the foundation to secure another 200.000 childcare workers.

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- Implement countermeasures against the crackdown of daycare centers in rural areas
- We will try to realize appropriate childcare hours, to enable children’s living and education regardless of the working hours and styles of parents.

Regarding the administrative expenses of private childcare centers, we will adhere to the obligation to provide municipal nursing care in accordance with Article 24 of the “Child Welfare Law”, and we will review national treasury subsidies concerning facility maintenance expenses.

206. Fostering the next generation by offering consistent support for families from pregnancy onwards

Since measures against the declining birthrate are the foundation of the entire Japanese economy and social security system, we aim to enhance our support based on the new childcare and child rearing support system. We will therefore carry out consistent support from pregnancy to child rearing via the following measures:

- Disseminating information and knowledge on pregnancy and infertility
- Enhance support for those who suffer from infertility such as subsidies for specific infertility treatment and consultation
- Continue to cover expenses for medical pregnancy examination and consider improving childbirth and childcare lump sums
- Improving comprehensive counseling support from pregnancy to child rearing
- Securing obstetric medical institutions in residential areas and developing perinatal care medical networks
- Improving and expanding the emergency medical care system for children
- Enhancing the care for mothers after childbirth and improving visiting childcare support according to developmental stages for newborns and children up to three years old
- Securing the necessary financial resources for free early childhood education until the age of three at national and public kindergartens or daycare centers and offering temporary childcare at regional childcare support centers and family support centers
- Constructing and improving the system to protect infants' lives such as infection prevention and pediatric medical care
- Improving infant health examinations and developing a system to early detect developmental disorders
- Promoting the improvement of after-school plans at elementary or junior high schools to support families
- In order to break down the barrier for families with both parents working, and to foster the talent of the next generation, all school-aged children will be able to participate in various safe activities. In order to enable these activities, we will promote systematic after-school children clubs, and plan the maintenance of classrooms for after school activities. We will prepare after-school clubs to admit 300.000 new pupils in 2019. We aim for integral and cooperative work in all elementary school districts (approximately 20.000 places) and aim to position 10.000 of them as one unit.

In addition to this,

- We will enrich "papa mama classrooms" and offer opportunities to learn the importance of life and growth development before giving birth
- We will improve the environment for childcare leave for fathers and the maternity leave system (8819 movement) to enable childcare leave for parent of zero-year-old infants

- We will improve the workplace environment to facilitate childcare leave until the children's age of three years and enable part-time work.
- We will promote living support and environmental improvement to enable mothers and parents to balance child rearing and employment.
- We will promote a family system for grandparents to support parents on child rearing
- Promoting multiple generations living together
- Promoting harmony between work and life (work-life balance)
- In order to support smooth returns to work after childcare leaves, including workers in small and medium-sized enterprises, we will try to develop a childcare environment according to the needs of individual employees by formulating a "support plan for returning after childcare leave"
- Since the foundation of our society is "self-help" and the role of the cooperation of family members has to be appreciated correctly, spousal deduction will be arranged in accordance with child allowances.

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207. Accelerating effort by local communities and the whole society for the early detection of child abuse

We will further strengthen the child consultation center, offering three common dials nationwide, secure appropriate people in charge and create a mechanism for regional councils to cooperate with related agencies, such as medical institutions and the police, on necessary child protection measures. Also, in addition to conducting training for the early detection by doctors or clinics, we also provide legal reforms necessary to quickly grasp the actual condition of child abuse and to receive notifications quickly. We also actively develop awareness-raising activities to prevent child abuse.

208. For abused children to smile again

In order to enable abused children or children growing up in orphanage facilities to smile again, we will expand the functions of the social care system, including childcare facilities and child guidance center, to enhance the employment and living support until the age of 18 and the cooperation of multiple generations and communities. Also, we will work on increasing professional staff and raising the placement requirement so that each employee can respond to each child in detail. Furthermore, we will expand our support measures, such as promoting group homes and the foster care system, so that abused parents and children can regain their smiles.

Pension and medical care

209. Establishing a pension system to relieve both young and elderly people

In order to curb the rise of the annual pension rate, we will cover one-half of the basic pension expenses based on the amended "National Pension Law" so that the youth will also be able to receive appropriate pension.

By making full use of the workforce and the motivation of the elderly people, we will review the social insurance system, including the pension system, to link the amount of pension payment to

salaries and thereby enable citizens to resiliently choose the timing of pension payments and the amount of payments according to life design.

Regarding the expansion of the scope of employee insurances (including medical and nursing care) to part-time and non-regular employees, and although we already revised the law, we will continue to examine the impact on employment and management.

As a measure for pensioners, we will shorten the period of eligibility requirements for pensions from 25 to 10 years and will implement measures for low pensions, such as welfare benefits separately from the pension system.

We will regain confidence in the pension system by further clarifying the pension record problem and promptly resolving it. We will introduce a social welfare and tax number system to improve the reliability, transparency and efficiency of social welfare services, including pensions.

Regarding the future pension system and based on the report of the National Congress on the Social Welfare System Reform, we will revise the current pension system as necessary and pursuant to the "Law on the Promotion of the Social Welfare System Reform".

210. Realizing sustainable medical care for citizens to use with peace of mind

The following measures will be implemented to secure the necessary medical care in communities to enable people to receive high-quality medical care when needed.

- Supporting the formulation and realization of regional medical plans by prefectures and establishing a system for patients to receive appropriate medical treatment in accordance with the condition of communities.
- Functional differentiation and cooperation of clinics by utilizing the regional medical care nursing extension fund to advance responses to medical problems in rural areas by promoting the enhancement of home healthcare and securing healthcare workers
- Supporting the revitalization of regional medical concepts and correcting the uneven regional distribution of doctors
- Reviewing the clinical training internship system
- Improving the treatment of medical staff
- Improving the working environment for female doctors
- Enhancing the functions of clinics (including permanent stay clinics)
- Based on a survey on necessities for local medical care, increasing the number of beds in clinics and hospitals for each medical treatment courses, secure proper placement and equipment in hospitals and enhance the collaboration system of medical institutions
- Nurturing and introducing parenting physicians
- Enhancing local medical institutions accepting patients in acute conditions
- Enhancing the functions of emergency medical institutions
- Enhancing and strengthening pharmacies for parenting
- Enhancing the training of community-based nursing staff
- Promoting medical personnel to use team medicine

- Promoting collaboration of industrial physicians and psychiatrists and enhance regional health centers

To protect the dignity of people, we will review necessary information for patients concerned with terminal and medical care and improve the environment in facilities and home services so that the final stage of life can be spent gently.

We will actively promote the prevention and early detection of diseases by implementing guidance measures, such as granting incentives to consulting people to formulate comprehensive preventive medical programs as well as active medical examinations, and we will promote the maintenance of specified health examinations and guidance to improve health and extend life expectancy.

We plan to expand the use of generic medicines, restrict double clinic treatment (overdose), and further optimize the range of medical treatment covered by insurances benefits, such as meal supply benefits (excluding medically necessary items), to suppress the burden on citizens.

In order to stabilize the operation of national health insurances and strengthen insurer functions, we will expand the financial support and broaden the operation unit from municipal to prefectural level. Regarding the correction of the gap between the public and private sector, we will promote the integration of mutual aid associations and Kenpo association and plan to level the rate of employee insurance while maintaining insurer functions.

By introducing the social welfare and tax number system, we aim to establish a comprehensive expense system covering all social welfare services, including medical and nursing care. In addition, we will consider raising the maximum monthly fee of the employee insurance and review the standard national health insurance fee.

We will protect the public's entire insurance system by reviewing the medical care system for elderly people according to burden ability, revising contribution and financial support to the health insurance union and expiring state subsidies to contravening associations. In addition to currently evaluations, we will expand patients' opportunities by the "new patient recuperation offer" (provisional name) so that most advanced pharmaceuticals, or medical equipment, that meet patients' needs, can be used as soon as possible. In addition, we introduce a mechanism (compassionate use) to enrich access to investigational drugs or clinical trials for patients. This will simplify the use of drugs not covered by insurances for suffering or struggling patients, on the premise of securing safety and effectiveness.

Regarding elderly people, we consider combining services, such as pension, medical care and nursing care, according to their own conditions and enable comprehensive use of these services. In addition, we will encourage and popularize, just like some medical insurers, self-help and self-health efforts of young and middle-aged people based on the Cafeteria Plan (selective welfare system).

Regarding the general taxation and consumption tax in the field of medical care, we will examine the tax burden of medical institutions and pharmacies and will continue consideration towards a fundamental solution.

Regarding public hospitals, playing a central role in regional medical care, we will offer financial

support via tax allocation for especially depopulated areas and the obstetric, pediatric and emergency medical care departments. We endeavor to improve the management soundness and enhance regional medical care by examining the medical corporation system and promoting cooperation of regional medical care facilities. We aim to improve the life-saving rate by establishing an emergency medical system ensuring that emergency patients are accepted by all medical institutions nationwide and by operating nationwide doctor helicopters, also at night.

In order to secure the safety of hospitalized patients, we will further promote the maintenance of fire prevention equipment (sprinkler, fire alarm system, etc.), especially at small and medium-sized hospitals and clinics.

211. Promoting research and development on medical instruments and devices

Based on the “Basic Law to Promote Research and Development and the Dissemination of Medical Equipment”, we will promote R&D on medical instrument, advanced medical devices and the improvement of buildings according to the characteristics of medical devices. Based on the “Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Law” (former Pharmaceutical Affairs Law), we will develop a system for R&D and approval reviews to eliminate the condition that overseas and domestic pharmaceuticals and medical equipment cannot promptly be introduced in Japan and to accelerate approval.

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212. Promoting comprehensive measures for a fast and safe reception of regenerative medicine

Clinical research using the world’s first iPS cells has been conducted and regenerative medicine in Japan has made steady progress toward practical application. Based on the “Law to Promote Comprehensive Measures for Citizens to Receive Regenerative Medicine Quickly and Securely”, our legislation enacted the “Basic Law on the Safety of Regenerative Medicine” in accordance with the “Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Law” (former Pharmaceutical Affairs Law). To accelerate the approval of products such as generative medicine, we promote comprehensive measures for R&D on the practical use of regenerative medicine ahead of the world. We will promote efforts to improve the quality of medical treatments as well as improved health and sanitation.

213. Enhancing cancer countermeasures

In order to respond to the needs of citizens for specialized medical care for cancer or heart diseases, we will enhance the functions of regional medical facilities and establish emergency and intensive hospitals (block-based cancer care coordinating central hospitals, palliative care centers, rehabilitation centers).

We aim to “reduce the deaths due to cancer”, “improve the quality of pain-mitigating treatments of all cancer patients and families” and “build a society for all cancer patients to live with peace of mind” by further enhancing radiation therapy, chemotherapy, team medicine and surgical treatments. Also, we will promote palliative care immediately after cancer diagnosis, enhance cancer control from childhood to working age, develop children cancer hospitals and construct a health care service

provision cooperation system of regional hospitals and medical institutions with a core function in cancer treatment. Via this cooperation, we will improve the training of specialists, offer cancer consultation support, maintain the information provision systems, improve employment support and promote the development of new cancer research as comprehensive measures for cancer control for patients and the public.

We will promote efforts to improve the rate of cancer screening examinations in order to early detect cancer and reduce cancer deaths. By establishing the “Law on Promoting Cancer Registration”, we will collect information on cancer patients by cancer medical institutions, analyze the occurrence of cancer, survival rate and early detection rate and will also provide appropriate cancer control and improved cancer medical care quality based on the gathered data. By enforcing this law, we will further advance our efforts to collect highly accurate information on cancer throughout Japan.

214. Enhancing and strengthening measures against infectious diseases

In recent years, the risk of infectious diseases has increased, such as the domestic occurrence of dengue in this summer, the overseas occurrence of the Ebola hemorrhagic fever, the bird influenza (H7N9) and the Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). As internationalization progresses, new infectious diseases are rising in our nation. In order to promptly strengthen countermeasures against infectious diseases in our nation and to ensure the safety of citizens, we have passed the amended Infectious Diseases Law.

Currently, regarding the Ebola fever and the like being prevalent in West Africa, it is necessary to strengthen the quarantine system, administrative responsiveness and the patient transportation system by local governments and create infectious disease designated medical institutions. We will also strengthen the admission structure of medical facilities, promptly supply protective clothing to preserve medical staff from infections and will consider further measure to fight infectious diseases. Also, regarding the domestic occurrence of infectious diseases, we will continue to provide accurate information on the Ebola hemorrhagic fever so that citizens can take appropriate actions based on correct knowledge.

Furthermore, to take all possible measures for the occurrence of infectious diseases with strong pathogenicity, such as Ebola, in our nation, it is essential to vigorously consult with local entities to obtain an understanding for the situation and to immediately operate BSL4 facilities.

In preparation for new threats, in accordance with the “Law on Special Measures Against the H1N1 Influenza”, we will develop a system for the protection of citizens and infected citizens by the cooperation of all administrative agencies, local governments and companies and to be prepared for a new strain of the influenza (derived from the highly pathogenic bird influenza).

215. Promoting vaccine measures

Based on the policy that vaccines actively respond to preventable diseases and from the viewpoint of health security, we will further utilize vaccines by promoting vaccine research and development and maintaining and enhancing the supply system.

In order to eliminate the so-called “vaccine gap”, since the number of vaccination compared to other developed countries is small, we aim to increase the number of vaccinated people by promoting new vaccines such as the cervical cancer prevention vaccine introduced in April 2013, pneumococcal and HIB vaccines as well as the varicella and elderly people pneumococcal vaccine introduced in October this year. In addition, we aim to establish a new vaccine policy and promote a system to prevent infectious diseases, including the periodic vaccination against hepatitis B, mumps and the rotavirus. After gathering information on possible reactions to vaccinations, we will periodically analyze and evaluate these by experts and actively publish the results.

216. Strengthening healthcare and medical information communication

It is an urgent matter to promote measures against diseases, including infectious diseases, to protect public health and ensure safe and secure lives. We will organize and evaluate the system to enhance communication on healthcare and medical information to share and widely disseminate these information to citizens.

217. Introducing a medical accident investigation system

In order to secure medical safety, it is essential to prevent the recurrence of medical accidents. For this reason, we will endeavor to smoothly enforce a medical accident investigation system, based on the revised medical law. We will also steadily review this system after implementation.

218. Promoting a death cause investigation system

We aim to resolve the “society of unknown death causes” based on the government’s plan to investigate death causes, to maintain and improve public health, prevent the overlooking of possible crimes and improve convictions as well as to support bereaved families and accelerate social and medical development. First, we will actively consider necessary measures, such as Ai (image diagnosis on deaths) as a model of death, especially children deaths, and enhance the nationwide anatomical structure.

219. Promoting psychiatric health practitioners and psychological welfare medicine

We will further promote psychiatric medical care and improve its quality to contribute to public welfare medical care.

In response to the expansion and deepening of new public needs for psychiatric medicine, including childhood or adolescence difficulties, dementia, suicides, depressions or other psychological complications, we will appropriately assess psychiatric medicine, introduce emergency medical psychiatry and disseminate correct knowledge on psychiatric diseases. We will support the promotion or research on mental health education at schooling facilities and workplaces, diagnostic methods and treatment modalities to ensure early detection and early treatment.

In addition, we aim to realize a symbiotic society ensuring stable lives, even if there are obstacles in local communities, and encourage support for disabled people’s independence and social participation. Furthermore, as a measure against long-term hospitalization, we will take effort to secure residence in communities and improve the efficiency and quality of psychiatric medical

welfare by appropriately differentiating the functions of psychiatric clinics to provide services that support local life.

220. Promoting dementia measures

We will formulate a comprehensive strategy to support the daily lives of people with dementia. In addition to an early and differential diagnosis of dementia, we will enhance appropriate psychiatric medical treatment capable of functionally differentiating on various disease stages, such as physical complications, mental symptoms or behavior problems, while also improving the rehabilitation of people with dysfunctions and terminal medical treatment of dement patients. We aim to establish a comprehensive system with a medical nursing model integrating regional and institutional care to improve the regional support system by the function cooperation of dementia disease medical centers and regional support centers. We will consider establishing a system responding to the consultation of elderly people and their families in cooperation with psychiatric medicine center and family doctors.

221. Promoting the improvement of nursing care and nursing treatment

We will promote measures to secure nursing jobs, introduce a mechanism to improve nursing jobs to enable continuing working and strengthen the support for reemployment of potential care nurses. In consideration of the necessity of enhancing nursing care and home health care, we will secure nurses engaged in nursing care facilities and visiting nursing and further improve their treatment. Also, in order to further improve the qualification of nurses (including midwives and public health nurses), we will promote education at universities as well as graduate schools and establish a system to support the expansion of nursing workers to enable the utilization of professional abilities at worksites. We will also enhance the support for nursing school training centers and people willing to become nurses.

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222. Enhancing the development of national dental care

We will promote consistent dental oral health and dental care throughout the lifetime of citizens and promote “food” as the foundation of daily life.

We will introduce dentistry examinations to specified health checkups (metabolic syndrome countermeasures) by promoting the 8020 movement.

We will also introduce dentistry examinations to general medical examinations of workers and therefore aim to clarify the role of industrial dentists.

We will enrich home dental care for elderly people, including the necessary support and care of patients.

Also, in order to stably maintain the dental health system, we will try to improve the working environment of dental professionals.

223. Promoting hepatitis countermeasures

We will endeavor to improve countermeasures against hepatitis, including the expansion of subsidies for medical expenses related to hepatitis. In addition, according to each agreement, we will carry out

further efforts to resolve hepatitis B and C lawsuits.

224. Enriching countermeasures against intractable diseases and chronic diseases of children

To take comprehensive measures for welfare and employment, we drafted a bill on the medical treatment of intractable diseases and revised the Child Welfare Law concerning chronic childhood diseases to subsidize medical treatment and secure further medical resources. We will greatly expand the scope of medical expenses subsidies for intractable disease patients to about 300 diseases and about 700 diseases for chronic childhood diseases. Furthermore, based on the afore mentioned laws, we will secure the consultation support system, improve the care environment, support employment in this field and carry out independence support projects as well as develop and expand the application of new pharmaceutical to improve the treatment of intractable diseases and specific chronic childhood diseases. Therefore, we will also promote research and development on diagnostic and therapeutic methods to enable early treatment.

225. Promoting measures against the human T cell leukemia virus, tuberculosis and kidney diseases

Regarding the human T cell leukemia virus, we will prevent mother-to-child transmission by nationwide standardized pregnancy medical examinations. We will advance the medical system to support the consultation and treatment of human T cell leukemia patients and people infected with HAM.

With 23.000 new tuberculosis patients per year, it is still a major infectious disease in our country and we therefore promote comprehensive tuberculosis control measures, including the implementation of reliable treatment and the reduction of patients.

In order to strengthen preventive measures for kidney diseases, diabetic nephropathy, kidney failure and dialysis treatment, we promote educational activities and research on the cause of kidney diseases. In addition, we will strive to improve the medical system to allow dialysis patients to receive treatment with peace of mind.

To extend the healthy life expectancy, we will promote measures against diabetes and lifestyle diabetes, including the improvement of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) diagnosis, rheumatoid allergic disease control and chronic kidney disease (CKD) research projects.

In preparation for the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, we will further strengthen passive smoking prevention measures.

226. Expanding the functions and roles of pharmacists and pharmaceutical institutions

We will actively utilize pharmacists and local pharmacies (about 57.000 nationwide) to improve national medical care and regional health and medicine care. As part of measure for drug safety and proper use of drugs, we will promote team medicine, the deployment of pharmacists in medical institutions and we will consider the institutionalization of postgraduate training of pharmacists. In order to ensure appropriate medication of patients, we will promote “electronic medication notebooks”, also usable during disasters.

Furthermore, based on Japan's reconstruction strategies, we will proceed with the diversion of medicines (including test drugs) from medical use to general use (OTC switch).

227. Promoting comprehensive drug abuse prevention

We will promote comprehensive drug abuse prevention measures, such as education, control, treatment of drug addicts and support for reintegration, to realize a more effective drug abuse prevention.

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In order to eradicate the risk of young children and others becoming drug victims, and as a result suffering from adverse effects on the mind and body, we will increase the number of drug regulators and customs officials and expand the inspection system by making maximum use of the "Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Law" (former Pharmaceutical Affairs Law) established by our legislation. Base on this law, we will also enforce effective sanctions by implementing inspections for dangerous drugs, ordering nationwide sales stops, requesting providers to delete webpages on the internet selling these drugs and implement further effective sale countermeasures.

We will also promote comprehensive organic drug abuse prevention measures, including education, regulation, treatment of drug addicts, support for social reintegration and more effectively implementing abuse prevention measures.

228. Promoting proper inspections to ensure safe and secure general-purpose pharmaceuticals

In order to comply with new rule on internet sale of OTC pharmaceuticals and to ensure that illegal internet sale will not be conducted, we will further improve the supervision and guidance by national and local governments.

We will also promote the provision of appropriate information to consumers of OTC drugs and general-purpose test drugs to ensure the appropriate shift to self-medication.

229. Promoting a growth strategy pharmaceutical industry to contribute to the health of citizens

In order to strengthen the creative power of the pharmaceutical industry for innovative value-added drugs and to further contribute to national medical care, we will promote industry-academia cooperation via a drug development support network, and to create new drugs, we will promote open innovations, the internationalization of the pharmaceutical industry, research and the use of the development tax system. We will take measures to contribute to a stale supply of fundamental medicines while at the same time aiming for the full and permanent introduction of new pharmaceuticals via a complementing tax system. In addition, we will adhere to the highly transparent drug pricing system based on market prevailing pricing, that appropriately reflects the role of generic products. Furthermore, to improve medical efficiency and maintaining public health, we will promote self-medication as well as generic pharmaceuticals.

230. Enhancing the distribution system of pharmaceuticals

To establish a safe and reliable distribution system of pharmaceuticals, we will establish the traceability of pharmaceutical products, promote measures against pandemic influenzas, and enrich the crisis management system to secure gasoline and electric power during disasters. In addition, we will improve the distribution of medicines to ensure the smooth operation of the medical insurance system.

231. Strengthening the rehabilitation system

We will strengthen the rehabilitation system and promote team medical care by the consistent cooperation of medical and nursing care, to realize a society for everyone to live comfortably and actively. We will also improve the home returning function of elderly health facilities and enhance home support.

232. Promoting *kanpou* medicine

We will promote research on traditional Chinese and Japanese medicine, enhance the education and training of practitioners and clinicians and establish a scientific basis for *kanpou*. We will create an environment to support the use and establishment of *kanpou*.

233. Promoting the consumption of general health foods to contribute to the self-health-management of citizens

Regarding the self-health-management of citizens, we will develop a mechanism for citizens to understand the functionalities of general health foods so that they can select their dietary based on appropriate information. We therefore aim to develop a health food market and thereby actively respond to the need of citizens wishing to live long and healthy.

234. Promoting integrated medicine contributing to an improved quality of life (QOL)

Integrated medicine aims at preventing diseases and promoting health, supporting the improvement of lifestyles and improving the quality of life (QOL).

Integrated medical treatment consist of the “medical model” and the “social model”, while the medical model comprises medicine that improves the quality of live by combining complementary alternative therapies and traditional medicine in addition to the premise of modern westerns medicine. The social model aims to remedy social impact on health by mobilizing various means, including not only medical treatment but also education, food, environmental city concepts and regards the community as the main unit to improve QOL.

The medical and social model complement each other and aim for effective utilization of social capital supporting local residents.

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In the future, we will establish an evaluation method on the safety and effects of integrated medical care, consider measures to maintain and improve the health of citizens, improve the collaboration system among ministries and agencies and establish an “Integrated Medical Care Promotion Law” and seek to enact a secretariat in charge based on this law to promote government-wide initiatives.

235. Promoting community development aiming for healthy and high-quality lives

The health problems of local residents include not only individual “mental or physical health problems”, but also a wider range of factors surrounding residents, such as society, culture and urban development. For an effective and comprehensive town planning, we will actively encourage health promotion spreading from individuals to families and regions, such as supporting and participating in local government activities, like stipulated in the “Healthy City Project” advocated by the WHO.

236. Improving long-term care insurance services and suppressing insurance fees by stabilizing the financial situation of insurers

As the aging of the population progresses, we will suppress the rise of medical care insurance fees which are expected to increase. Therefore, we aim to streamline and focus on nursing care services by optimizing the range of nursing care services covered by insurances, increase the public expenses burden and adhere to the sustainable long-term care insurance system. In addition, we will secure the necessary nursing care budget to construct a comprehensive care system.

Securing nursing care staff is an urgent task, and we will therefore formulate a supply and demand plan for care workers, aim to further improve the treatment of care workers, promote the entry of diverse human resources such as young people, women or middle-aged and elder people, create new career paths and improve the qualification of nursing care professionals while also improving the work environment.

By all these measures, we will enable all patients in need of nursing care to receive medical care with peace of mind. We will therefore also promote the development of specialized nursing care and geriatric care facilities, group homes and housings with services for elderly people. To respond to needs of local residents and governments, and while taking the protection of privacy into consideration, we will advance the development of “multi-bedroom intensive-care homes for elderly people” to enable elderly people to receive necessary care at an appropriate financial rate.

At the same time, in order to receive satisfactory nursing care services for elderly people in communities, we will enrich home care services by utilizing three long-term care insurance facilities, enhance the safety of network functions and improve 24-hours visiting nursing care and treatments to resolve regional nursing care insecurities and to build a comprehensive regional care system allowing everyone to continue living without worries. In addition, we will promote measure to mitigate the mental burden of family caretakers.

By reviewing and amending the “Long-Term Care Insurance Law”, we will extend the operation of nursing care facilities until 2018 and secure their function.

In preparation for the occurrence of a major disaster, we will promote the creation of a support team and improve the admission of other facilities to support those in need of nursing care and support after a disaster.

We will promote the nursing care support volunteer system using nursing-care insurances, that is being tackled by some local governments. We will also expand the application for volunteer activities to other nursing care fields such as child rearing.

237. Proactively utilizing long-term care support specialists

In order to ensure appropriate services for people in need of medical care, nursing care and other welfare services so that they can live an independent life in a familiar areas, we will create a system providing high-quality nursing care services by securing care assistance specialists (care manager), promoting the neutrality of the management of the In-Home Long-Term Care Support Office and revitalizing the independence support and home returning support of the three nursing-care insurances. We therefor aim to disseminate qualified nursing care assistance professionals responsible for the maintenance of the social security system nationwide.

Regarding the in-home nursing care support expenses, we will adhere to the current system covering the full amount by long-term care insurances to enable everyone to receive medical care fairly.

238. Enriching home care support

To provide a variety of high-quality home care services in communities, we will revise laws and regulations to strengthen the creativity and autonomy of related business operators.

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239. Enhancing athletic rehabilitation and early detection of the locomotive syndrome (exercise syndrome)

We aim to enhance athletic rehabilitation in medical treatments to prevent the necessity of support and care due to neglected exercises and the thereby rising risk of fractures due to falling. To ensure the early detection of the locomotive syndrome (locomo exercising syndrome) corresponding to the increased risk of bedridden patients (approximately 47 million people nationwide, including army reservists), we will promote the introduction of rehabilitation exercise equipment and health checkup plans.

240. Promoting measures for disabled people

By steadily promote the “Law on Comprehensive Support for Disabled People”, we will properly divide the roles and duties of the central and local government, based on local circumstances, and will enrich the welfare services for disabled people while reviewing support for elderly people with disabilities. We will thereby realize a symbiotic society for everyone to respect and support each other’s personality and individuality, regardless of the presence of absence of disabilities.

We will examine the use of sign language and other form of communication, including necessary legal steps, and endeavor to disseminate and enhance support for disabled people having difficulties to communicate.

By steadily implementing the “Disability Priority Procurement Act” (Heart Purchasing Law), we will strive to encourage the employment of disabled people.

In addition, we will take efforts to promote employment psychological disabled people, work on reforming the mental health medical welfare policy and further utilizing the adult guardianship system to realize welfare services enabling disabled people to continue living in their familiar region. To realize a symbiotic society, we will enact the “Disability Discrimination Law” to prevent the

discrimination of disabled people and work on amend the “Law to Promote the Employment of Disabled People”. We will continue to promote effort to enforce these laws while obtaining the empathy and understanding of a wide range of people.

We will thereby continue to actively promote measures for the independence and social participation of disabled people.

241. Expanding employment support for young people and living support for low-income and elderly people

We will advance measure for children poverty control to ensure that the future of children will not be negatively affected by the financial situation of their families.

For young people who can work, we will encourage employment by utilizing job seekers support system to urge prospective employees to get to work. In order to accurately offer living support for low-income elderly people, we are trying to utilize NPOs familiar with the support of people with severe living conditions and will implement countermeasures for low-income people, such as benefits. In addition, to respond to elderly singles in need of nursing care, we will promote the development of nursing homes, group home and special facilities for elderly people and aged singles.

We will enrich the adult guardianship system to prevent the suffering from disadvantages due to inadequate judgement abilities regarding for example contracts or the impairing of human’s preciousness in our society.

242. Social Security system and support system for poor people

We will improve the fairness of the social security and welfare system for people in need of support, to regain trust in the security of this system and gain the understanding of taxpayers.

Therefore, and based on the “Lifestyle Protection Law” revised last year, we will focus on health and living support measures for those who cannot maintain their livelihood by self-help efforts and will promote independence by working and according to the individual circumstances. We will steadily implement appropriate support for medical care, by improving adequate reception measures, clarifying designated requirement of the medical institutions system and promoting the use of generic pharmaceuticals.

In addition, we will broaden the range of welfare services and support as well as the manpower of case workers for junior high school students and prevent high school students from getting caught in intergenerational poverty by carrying out various efforts, such as living support.

In order to promote the self-reliance of people living in poverty, we will steadily implement the “Independence of People Living in Poverty Support Law” in 2015, and thereby implement self-supporting consultation projects in local governments, residential housing benefits for people with an income below a certain level and reinforcing the employment preparation support for low-income people.

243. Reforming social welfare corporations

Due to the aging of the society, the population decline and changes in local communities, such as people living in poverty and declining community support, social welfare needs are diversifying and become complicated and the importance of social welfare corporations achieving commercial profits is increasing.

Therefore, we will strive to strengthen the governance of the main social welfare corporations and improve their transparency to respond to the public's expectations and fulfill our mission to meet the welfare needs of communities.

244. Support for atomic bomb victims

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the airdrop of atomic bombs. Since Japan is the only nation in human history being hit by atomic bombs, we will promote support measures for A-bomb victims and survivors.

245. Supporting Japanese nationals residing in China

In addition to various kinds of support measures, including living support, for Japanese nationals residing in China, we established a spousal support fund in October 2014 and we will promote further detailed measures to encourage people to return to Japan.

246. Promoting a social labor system responding to the further commitment to citizens

Our party is working on revising the "Social Insurance Labor Service Law" to ensure a social labor system responding to the public's convenience and we will steadily promote its establishment in the future.

247. Promoting affordable living services to ensure the safety and security for a lifetime

In order to provide safe and secure living hygiene services, we will try to revitalize our sanitation sales guidance center and living health associations. In addition to ensuring the sanitary environment of buildings, we will endeavor to enhance financing by the Japan Finance Corporation to cope with rising energy costs.

248. Supporting *judo* therapy

We will aim to institutionalize postgraduate clinical training and properly review *judo* therapy medical expenses. We will strive to clarify calculation criteria and legal development concerning the work of *judo* therapists.

249. Enhancing acupuncture, moxibustion therapy, massages and acupressure therapy

We will take efforts to improve the medical system so that citizens can further use acupuncture, moxibustion therapy, massages and acupressure therapy as familiar treatments. We also actively support further technical improvements and strive to disseminate the qualification system.

250. Actively utilizing dietitians and nutritionists

We will establish a structure providing appropriate nutrition management for home care recipients and elderly people, who are supposed to increase, and therefore actively utilize dietitians,

nutritionists and nutrition manager helping to save lives.

251. Realizing a national qualification for psychologists

Since the contemporary Japanese society is becoming complicated, problems with people's minds, development and health are increasing more and more, and the training of specialized psychological professionals corresponding to these problems is an urgent task. In order to respond to the growing national crisis, we aim to realize a national qualification of psychologists compared to other developed countries.

252. Improving employment support and working environment according to each individual situation

We actively promote employment support according to the individual situation of each young person, elderly females, disabled people or people with intractable diseases by strengthening the functions of the Hello Work program to realize a society for everyone to participate. We will support hard-working individuals regarding the balance of work and family expanding the childcare leave system and will advance the globalization of the economy and the improvement of the working environment to realize a vigorous society.

253. Realizing diverse working styles making full use of workers' desires

We will encourage companies to introduce "various working styles for full-time employees" to convert temporary workers to full-time employment and will promote the full-time employment realization accelerating project to promote career improvements for those who wish to switch to regular employment. By reviewing the worker dispatch system, we will realize employment stability and career improvement by increasing permanent employment for dispatched workers.

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We will establish a matching system leading to employment by making full use of the vocational ability evaluation system, job cards and career consulting, vocational training based on industrial needs and vocational ability development.

We will also promote smooth recruitment to regain economic growth as well as to maintain and expand regular employment. Therefore, we will support grants and specialized efforts to support labor migration, promote reemployment via education and training benefits and the utilization of the career change support system.

We aim to improve the treatment of irregular workers on the premise of "equal labor – same wage" and thereby realize equal wages and treatment. We promote measures to ensure to balance the equal treatment of part-time workers.

Also, we will aim to increase the minimum wage while expanding support for small-scale business operators to improve productivity.

254. Promoting "work" and "people" to strengthen the creative ingenuity of local areas

In order to stop the sole concentration on the area around Tokyo and to create attractive local regions, it is necessary to create high-quality employment opportunities, a flow of new people and to secure

talents necessary for regional development. Therefore, we will promptly support efforts to develop creative and ingenious human resources and improve the treatment of reemployed workers by creating “work” and “people” by local governments.

Also, by improving the employment situation and recovering the economy, we will tackle the problem of manual shortages in the construction, nursing care and food service industry. For this reason, by improving employment management, we will expand the support for companies that work on establishing workplaces for new employees.

255. Reviewing working styles

To realize a society for each individual to work and shine, and in addition to tackling the reduction of temporary work, we will also review the working hours legislation to improve productivity and harmonize work and private life.

256. Promoting employment measures for young people and new graduates and improving youth employment opportunities

While the number of young workers decreases due to declining job recruitment, the number of job offer multiplier increases and the unemployment rate declines and this is an opportunity to improve the employment of young people. To realize 100% full-time employment at regular jobs as first position for young people, we will strengthen career education, strengthen matching with small businesses by improving the cooperation with universities and support small and medium-sized enterprise organizations working on vocational training for new employees. We will provide legal improvements to promote the consistent support for job-hunting undergraduate students and improve ability development after entering companies by supporting job cards.

Furthermore, we will strengthen measures to prevent the early termination of labor contracts of young people who have worked as full-time employees and to appropriately deal with companies suspected of “disposing” young people.

257. Securing an appropriate pension level

We will ensure an appropriate pension level as national compensation to support the living of people and their families who dedicated their lives and loyalty to the nation and the citizens.

258. Accelerating the return of the remains of soldiers killed in action

In the last great war, 2.4 million people were sacrificed and as the 70th anniversary of the end of the war is next year, currently the remains of 113,000 remains have not been returned yet. In view of this situation, we as the government will fulfill our responsibility to prepare a basic law and to take intensive efforts to return the remains of soldiers killed in action and citizens within the next ten years.

We will also offer support for memorial and funeral services.

259. Promoting smooth business revitalization by amending the Servicer Law

We will expand the range of handled servicer’s claims, promptly and smoothly revitalize business procedures and promote the revitalization of endangered businesses.

* Servicer Law: Special measures law on management claims and the recovery of businesses. During the financial crisis of 1998, financial institutions had a vast amount of nonperforming loans and to respond to the prompt processing of claims, the law has been established as a special part of the Lawyers Law to enable specialized private companies to manage and collect claims. By the end of last year, the total number of handled claims was 36 trillion yen and the total amount reaches 41 trillion yen.

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260. Improving legal education to resolve the nation's legal disputes

We will actively train Japanese companies for overseas development and will therefore develop legal professionals as specialists for solving international legal disputes of the Japanese citizens.

261. Enriching the policy to protect consumers

By turning back to the philosophy of the time of the establishment of the Consumer Agency, we will try to enhance truly conspicuous administrative functions, namely the commanding center (Consumer Agency), the monitoring function (Consumer Committee) and the over-center (National Life Center).

At the same time, we aim to strengthen regional consumer administration by enhancing the consultation system to provide high-quality consultation and relief in all regions and will build a network to monitor the services for elderly and disabled people.

In addition, to ensure food security, we have promoted the standardization of food labeling and established a system imposing surcharges on businesses carrying out unjustified labeling as a compensation for the small number of victims and consumer trials. We will try to revitalize the economy by constructing a relationship of trust between consumers and business operators while we proceed with the development of special procedures for companies.

Furthermore, by promoting "consumer education", we will foster socially autonomous consumers who will not be deceived and create a fair and sustainable social environment.

262. Realizing a money retail market of proper size and solving payment difficulties

By establishing the revised "Money Lending Business Act" in December 2006 and fully enforcing the Act in June 2010, various difficulties such as the contraction of the market, adverse effect on the macro economy, new black marketers and the neglect of repayments are becoming obvious. Therefore, we will ensure user convenience by optimizing regulations for the money lending market, such as maximum interest rate regulations and total amount regulation. At the same time, in addition to strengthening provincial consumer administration, we will promote consumer education and support systems for debtors, strengthen the detection of black market financial companies and establish sound borrowers to realize a money retail market of an appropriate scale with sound lenders and to salvage citizens having difficulties to repay debts.

263. Steadily promoting the "Second Crime Victims Basic Plan" and establishing a new crime victim compensation system

By steadily promoting the "Second Crime Victims Basic Plan", we aim to establish a new crime victim compensation system to restore the peaceful lives of victims.

264. Strengthening the functions of the legal system

We will strengthen the functions of the legal system to protect the rights and national interests of citizens by examining the establishment of the secretariat of the Ministry of Justice.

265. Soundly developing young people

We will utilize the “Revenge Pornography Countermeasures Law” established by our party to prevent damage by revenge porn.

In addition to strengthening the development a social environment to soundly develop young people, we will formulate the “Basic Law on Young People Development”.

266. Fortifying support for rehabilitation protection volunteers

In our nation, we will support rehabilitation protection volunteers across the nation who help people who committed crimes to not commit sins again. In order to ensure the activities of more than 230.000 rehabilitation volunteers, including 4.800 overseas officials, rehabilitation women’s associations and BBS associations, we will support the establishment of support centers, disseminate information for public awareness and to strengthen the understanding and cooperation in communities concerning the rehabilitation of people who committed crimes. We will also steadily secure talented people as volunteers, enrich the cooperation with employers and promote both mental and physical support for volunteers.

In addition, we will further strengthen our support for employment and housing for people who committed crimes to promote social reintegration, secure activities for social contribution activities conducted by probationers and support the rehabilitation facilities to protect relatives.

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267. Strengthening employment support for former prisoners

In order to realize the “safest nation in the world”, and as a prerequisite for the success of the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, it is absolutely necessary to prevent citizens from becoming crime victims, and in particular, to further strengthen employment support for former prisoners to prevent repeat offenses.

Therefore, while taking the past history of prisoners into consideration, we will support the hiring of former prisoners and establish a “employment consolidation payment system” and “incentive payment system” to support cooperating employers. In addition, we will promote the “Rehabilitation Protection Employment Support Project” to support employment opportunities at cooperating companies.

268. Amending the adult guardianship system

Since the existing legal system sets high requirements for people to be classified as not being able to judge for themselves anymore, arbitrary guardians can take over permanent dedication, the arrangement of funeral services and other aspects after the death of people. However, as the problem of elderly people living alone has become a common social phenomenon, legal guardians are increasing and we will therefore revise and further expand the adult guardianship system.

269. Civil code reform by enforcing the Electronically Recorded Claims Act

Under the current civil code, although explicitly stipulated (Civil Code Article 398-2, paragraph 3), claims for the repayment of mortgage are solely secured by notes and checks on the transaction of debtors, but these claims are not electronically recorded. To reform the present situation and spread electronic recording to grant the legal stability and facilitate financing, we will include “Electronically Recorded Monetary Claims” (electronic record assurance of claims) to the procedure of notes and checks on claims.

270. Amending the penal code to prohibit the damaging of the Japanese flag

In addition to penalties for the damaging of foreign national flags stipulated in the current penal code, we will add stipulated penalties for the damaging of our national flag. If the flag is damaged, destroyed or besmirched for the purpose of insulting Japan, people will be sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of two years or a maximum fine of 200.000 Yen.

271. Promoting the legal protection of individual human rights

In order to cope with human rights violations, our party has enacted precise laws to protect individual human rights, such as the “Stalker Control Law” (2000), the “Child Abuse Prevention Act” (2000), “Domestic Violence Prevention Act” (2001), “Comprehensive Support Law” (2004), “Legal Dispute Resolution Law” (2004), “Elderly People Abuse Prevention Law” (2005) and the “Disabled People Abuse Prevention Law” (2011).

We will continue to rescue people in difficult situations to protect their human rights by enriching individual laws on the discrimination or abuse of victims.

272. Halving the number of traffic accidents

In recent years, the number of traffic accidents and deaths has continued to decrease, but many people are still killed in traffic accidents, and half of them are elderly people.

Therefore, our party is working closely with volunteers to promote traffic safety measures, for residential or school roads, and traffic safety education for the elderly to ensure the safety of traffic, while aiming to realize a society for everyone to live safely and securely.

At the same time, we will promote comprehensive traffic safety measures such as countermeasures against disasters, improving the safety of public transportation, realizing a safe driving support system to enhance safety by the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), creating city development for traffic accidents to become unlikely to occur and developing cars and bicycles that minimize the damage even in the event of an accident.

Regarding accidents involving high-speed vacation busses, we will implement safety enhancement measures and will continuously work on improving their safety to prevent the reoccurrence of accidents and restore the trust of passengers.

Securing the safety and security of public transportation is an extremely important task and it is therefore essential for us to create and improve the safety management system of transportation companies and will continue to steadily promote comprehensive safety management systems in each

company.

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273. Strengthening suicide countermeasure

The number of suicide deaths in Japan has remained at a high level in recent years. In order to reduce the number of suicides, we will try to take measures for an early detection of depressions in our society by introducing industrial physicians, psychiatric specialists and psychologists to general health checkups. We will consider using psychiatrists and mental health care workers with the ability to respond to depressions.

Furthermore, in order to save as many lives as possible, we first promote visible measures such as the obligation to install home doors at stations in urban areas.

274. Deepening family ties and enriching households to realize an all-participation society

Based on the viewpoint that families are the basic units of our society, we will deepen family ties and enrich households. In addition, we will enhance the functions of families and local communities and advance social development to enable the interplay of working and living. In particular, we will promote a reform of the tax system allowing the formation of household assets by preferential treatment of three generations living together and high-quality owner-occupied houses or rental houses. We will promote the creation of a social environment for everyone, regardless of age, sex or possible disabilities, to play an active role at all occasions, such as the community, workplace or home.

As an effort to eradicate domestic violence, we will promote the strengthening of the consultation system for DV victims and strengthen consultation for women during nighttime as well as on Saturdays and Sundays.

275. Promoting cashless economic activities

By the advancement of IT technology and the diversification of services, cashless economic and social activities (utilization of credit card, debit cards, electronic money, etc.) progresses rapidly worldwide and Japan. We will strive to improve the convenience and transparency in the fields of consumption and sales by improving the infrastructure and adapting it to global standards to enable cashless economic activities.

By doing so, we will focus on sectors with comparatively weak responsiveness to promote the convenience for consumers, including elder people, encourage the efficiency of sales of small and medium-sized retailers in rural areas and promote the sound development and expansion of a cashless consumer society.

276. Utilizing dormancy accounts

So-called “dormancy accounts” are unused bank accounts with no deposition or withdrawal over a long period of time. We will consider using these effectively by transferring them from financial institution to appropriate institutions while paying due consideration to the account holder’s rights and the convenience of the refund procedure.

Environment

277. Promoting an “aggressive environmental policy” making full use of the world’s most advanced technology

We will select technology development fields with anticipated huge demand and development progress, such as storage batteries, fuel cells, next-generation automobiles or smart grids, as national projects.

We will also disseminate energy-saving technologies which are Japan’s strengths. For example, we are aiming to disseminate advanced technologies for manufacturing industries with excellent energy efficiency and therefore promote coal-fired thermal power plants showing the highest level of thermal efficiency, heat pumps, electric vehicles, storage batteries, smart grids as well as carbon dioxide capture storages (CCS) contributing to the worldwide reduction of carbon dioxide.

278. Realizing the world’s fastest popularization of eco cars and the modal shift

We will promote the increase the proportion of environmentally friendly eco cars of new car sales from 5 to 70% by 2030 by greening the automobile tax system.

In addition, we aim to contribute to global warming countermeasures, such as the mass marketing and mass production of electric vehicles by leading the development competition. We will expand the development of the Japanese economy by promoting the fastest spread and development of eco cars, including electric cars and plug-in hybrid cars.

Furthermore, by promoting the conversion of the circulation of goods to railroads and ships, improve the convenience of public transportation facilities, sidewalks and bicycle paths to realize the modal shift (conversion from automobile to transportation with less greenhouse gas emissions).

279. Accelerating the conversion to eco houses

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Until 2030, we will greatly advance the proportion of eco houses, including public buildings, to 80% of all newly constructed buildings by accelerating the construction of zero-emission building and energy-saving houses (eco houses). We will also promote healthy, comfortable and low-carbon lifestyles.

280. Promoting environmental businesses

To contribute to the preservation of the global environment while also contributing to superior environmental technologies and businesses, we will actively promote the spread and diffusion of “environmental finances”, including investment, to support the development of new technologies and environmental businesses as well as overseas development. Specifically, we will work on utilizing financial mechanisms to promote investment in environmental businesses contributing to economic growth and regional revitalization by working on renewable energy and energy conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Furthermore, we will promote the usage of eco points and the “visualization” of environmental information for each product or service to ensure a market with high-value environmental

performance. We will also promote the “carbon offset” system for citizens and business operators to offset their own CO2 emissions by purchasing credits.

281. Further promoting the “creation of a low-carbon society”

Based on the creation of an equal and effective post-Kyoto Protocol framework by the participation all major emitting countries, we aim to reduce GHG emissions by 80% as a long-term target until 2050.

On the other hand, Japan has set a new goal to reduce new greenhouse gas emission in 2020 by 3.8% compared to 2005, based on changing circumstances such as the nuclear accident. However, we will strive to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions by new policies such as the Low-Carbon Society Creation Finance Initiative and the Renewable Energy Introduction Acceleration Program.

In addition, we will strive to seriously prevent global warming by realizing a society for the environment and economy to grow together and stimulate each other. By promoting low carbonization, we will enhance the international competitiveness of the national economy and industry by encouraging changes in the living behavior of citizens, promoting emission reductions in all sectors due to the influence of the economic society on the environment, promoting the dissemination of low-carbon facilities and supporting economic regulatory measures. We will review the tax system in general, including a more comprehensive review of the environmental tax system, and promote the further greening of the whole tax system.

282. Contributing to a new international framework to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Japan will contribute to the creation of a new global framework on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in order to overcome the stagnation of the international negotiations on the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

283. Promoting adaptation measures to global warming

In Japan, in order to grasp the impact of climate change and to promote adaptation measures, we have formulated an adaptation plan last year to maintain the lives and health of citizens, preserve their living environment, maintain the productivity of agriculture, forestry and fishery, improve social capital, prevent disaster damages and will promote other necessary comprehensive and systematic measures.

In particular, we will enrich the observation and monitoring system on the impact of climate change, actively promote the prevention of infectious diseases, improve agricultural crops and prevent damages by floods, storms, landslides or droughts.

Based on the adaptation initiative advocated by Prime Minister Abe in a speech at the United Nations Climate Summit this September, we will work on supporting the planning and implementation of adaptation measures in developing countries, while taking advantage of domestic knowledge.

284. Promoting the provision of information on greenhouse gas emissions

We will establish and improve statistics on emissions and the removal of greenhouse gases as well as the progress of measures necessary for the creation of a low-carbon society while publicly

announcing the results.

In addition, we will promote information disclosure on emitted greenhouse gases and other business activities so that businesses taking the creation of a low-carbon society into consideration will be evaluated from a wide range of entities in the economic society.

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285. Promoting the utilization of green ICT

We will promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by utilizing information communication system, promoting the of employees in energy-related sectors and promoting the rationalization of the distribution, production and consumption of goods.

286. Promoting a national campaign on the creation of a low-carbon society

We will deepen the interest and understanding in the creation of a low-carbon society among business operators and citizens. Therefore, we promote the national campaign “Fun to Share” to create a low-carbon society by voluntary actions of each citizen. By utilizing the Cool Earth Day on July 7th, we will increase the appeal for changing lifestyles and business styles by various public relations events.

287. Promoting environmental education and human resource development to advance a low-carbon society

Based on the “Law to Promote Environmental Education”, we will accelerate the fostering of leaders of a sustainable society and education on sustainable development (ESD).

We will focus on promoting environmental education in cooperation with the “Global Action Program on ESD (GAP)” and “Aichi Nagoya”, which are initiatives based on the “UN Decade of ESD” and we will thereby continue to lead the efforts of countries around the world, mainly in Asia, and greatly contribute to the world.

288. Conducting international leadership based on the COP10

Based on the Aichi Goal adopted at the COP10 (10th Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity) held in Nagoya in the prefecture of Aichi in 2010 and the mid-term evaluation carried out at the COP12 (in South Korea) in October 2014, we will continue to implement the stipulated measures and aim to become a developed country ensuring biodiversity.

289. Creating a mechanism to regain a rich natural environment

By supporting ecosystem services (water source recharge, disaster prevention, food supply, etc.) we will regenerate forests lost in the course of the postwar development promotion, accelerate the revitalization of *satoyama* and ensure the biodiversity of forests, villages and rivers. We will challenge the creation of a magnificent structure that regains our rich natural environment while taking the declining population into consideration by examining new management methods and interregional cooperation for future town planning, infrastructure development and regional development required to be led by more environmentally friendly initiatives. Based on compact and environmentally friendly town development and community development, we will create sustainable

cities and residential areas in the 21st century where urban functions coexist with a rich natural environment.

290. Realizing a beautiful country by protecting the biodiversity national parks

In order to position national parks a natural representative of a more attractive Japan, and based on the amended “Natural Parks Act” established in May 2009, we will promote the maintenance and restoration of ecosystems in national parks and remote islands as well as the conservation of watershed areas.

In addition to promoting ecotourism in places enabling getting in contact with nature while protecting the natural environment and hot spring resources, we support the activities of environmental protection NPO and rangers (nature conservation officials).

291. Responding to changes in living habitats due to global warming

Environmental changes in habitats due to global warming lead to the increasing number of insects and this may have severe impacts on human health and the environment.

Therefore, we aim to establish a Draft Law on the Proper Control of Insects (provisional name) to create necessary measures for the promotion of an appropriate insect control and thereby protect human health and preserve the environment.

292. Protecting and managing rare animals and plants

We will promote the monitoring and improved management of habitats to protect endangered rare species of plants and animals and by wild acclimatization training, we encourage the return of rare animals, such as *toki* and the *tsushima* catfish, to their natural environments.

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We will also prevent damages of ecosystems by alien species.

Regarding rare animal protection, we have already strengthened penalties for illegal trading, and we will take even more effective measures by significantly increasing the number of species subject to regulations in the future.

We will furthermore enhance regulation for crossbred subjects, prepare alien species damage prevention action plans and formulate invasive alien species lists to further strengthen our countermeasures.

293. Realizing a society harmoniously coexisting with animals

We will enhance the guidance and correspondence to animal merchants based on the revised Animal Welfare Management Law to eliminate painful cases such as dead bodies of small abandoned dogs and animal abuse. In addition, to preserve the life of pets, we are considering introducing an information management system with microchips and we are also working on the prevention of common infectious diseases deriving from animals.

294. Promoting the greening of private owned areas

In addition to urban parks, we will promote measures concerning the greening of privately owned land (planting, lawns, roofing, wall greening, etc.) and various other measures to support the greening ratio.

295. Establishing a system to prioritize public institutions to acquire national parks

Over 40% of the Oze National Park are owned by a private company. If the sale of the property is targeted, Oze's valuable nature can be threatened.

Likewise, there are many cases in which private people own sites of parks originally managed by local governments, so for the purpose of "protecting our natural scenery and land" which is one of the objectives of the "Natural Park Law", it is necessary to create a system that prioritizes public agencies when private owners sell premises.

For this reason, we will strive to establish a system that allows public institutions to preferentially acquire privately owned land as well as national and prefectural natural parks.

296. Expanding the survey on the preservation of the natural environment

Japan's "Natural Environment Preservation Survey" and ecosystem maps operate with the world's top-class accuracy. For Japan, since having world-renowned ecological and biological resources, surveying and proper management of ecosystems contributes to our national interests and we intend to expand these projects.

297. Promoting measures against fluorocarbons

We will promote the development and diffusion of alternative substances contributing to the control of fluorocarbons which also causes global warming.

Based on the amendment of the "Fluorocarbon Recovery and Elimination Law", we will promote the reduction of CFC emissions by strengthening comprehensive measures aimed at the entire cycle, from the manufacturing to the disposal, of fluorocarbons.

298. Creating a recycling-orientated society making full use of local characteristics

To further advance the establishment of a recycling-orientated society in Japan, we will promote "wastefulness" and an appropriate use of waste by reduction, reuse and recycling ("3R"). In addition to expanding our efforts, the government and municipalities cooperate to promote the utilization of waste energy as well as biomass and encourage cooperation via national and regional networks. Thereby, we will accelerate the creation of a low-carbon and recycling-orientated society.

299. Promoting the recycling of waste

We will enable the receiving of eco points by bringing clothes, electronic equipment, books or reusable PET bottles to resellers and recyclers. In addition, we will nurture and encourage second-hand markets and rebuild these as an industry while keeping in mind that unreasonable recycling will not impair the original purpose of "reducing the environmental burden".

Furthermore, to promote the conversion to business operations treating waste as valuable resources and to not only dispose and recycle waste in the waste disposal industry, we will promote a

certification system for effectively performing industrial waste disposal companies and promote the transmission of the best practices to nurture excellent reuse businesses and to actively implement green purchasing as well as environmentally friendly contracts.

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300. Promoting domestic wastewater measures and eradicating illegal dumping

In order to promote efficient domestic wastewater measures, we will increase the dissemination of merger septic tanks and improve the system to optimize the management while obtaining the understanding of municipalities.

In addition to ensuring proper disposal of industrial waste, we will promote efforts to prevent and promptly deal with illegal dumping to protect Japan's beautiful land. Furthermore, we will effort to promote the industrial waste disposal industry to convert into a recycling-orientated a low-carbon industry contributing to the future green growth of our nation.

301. Children's health and environment

It is a basic duty of the government to preserve a safe and affluent environment allowing people to live in peace. Therefore, we will try to elucidate the influence of chemical and radioactive substances on the environment to realize an environment enabling children, responsible for the next generation, to grow up healthily. We will also promote safety assessment and management taking into all chemicals, radioactive materials and international trends into account.

302. Preserving a safe and secure environment including the atmosphere, water and soil

Regarding environmental preservation, we respond to new issues such as fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), photochemical oxidant tending to be gradually increasing or poor oxygenation in the bottom layers of lakes and bays. In particular, we will try to revitalize the rich lake environment in accordance with the creation of coastal areas with abundant natural blessings (so-called *satoumi*) and the characteristics of each lake. In addition to promoting efforts based on the "Coastal Landfall Disposal Law", we will promote measures to preserve the marine environment in prioritized areas. Additionally, we will steadily implement countermeasures against soil contamination based on the revised "Soil Contamination Countermeasure Act".

303. Responding to transboundary pollution

There are great concerns about the impact of cross-border pollution, such as PM 2.5, originating from Japan's neighboring countries. In order to take measures to prevent health damages and to promote fundamental correspondence to sources of emergence, we will investigate the mechanism of environmental pollution in East Asia.

We encourage voluntary responses of neighboring countries and, if necessary, provide assistance.

304. Steady implementation of pollution health damage countermeasures

We will steadily implement pollution health damage countermeasures including solving problems, supporting asbestos victims and taking general measures against asbestos.

We will continue to promote necessary countermeasures such as environmental investigation on

domestic gas emission.

305. Asbestos countermeasures

Based on the amended Air Pollution Control Law, we will continue considering damage prevention and remedies for victims, including measures to prevent asbestos scattering.

306. Amending the “Inland Sea Special Measures Law”

We will aim to establish a legal bill to revise the “Inland Sea Special Measures Law” to introduce a councilor to regulate the proper management of nutrient salt in inland seas where biological diversity and productivity deterioration are progressing due to landfilling or revetment constructions.

Educational Revitalization

307. Enhancing direct investment to realize the world’s top human abilities and academic abilities

Based on the philosophy of the “Basic Education Law”, we will examine measures to secure stable financial resources to realize the principles of “self-supporting autonomous citizens”, “citizens embedded in families, communities and the nation”, “national citizens valuing good history, tradition and culture” and a “national citizens thinking, judging and motivating themselves”. Therefore, in order to steadily implement the Second Education Promotion Basic Act and the new “course of study”, which were formulated in accordance with the “Basic Education Law”, we will secure the necessary budget for educational revitalization and to realize educational investment and public finance expenditures comparable to other OECD countries.

By 2020, we aim to realize a society for every young person with the motivation and ability to learn to receive high-quality education, regardless of the economic situation of households and development. In addition, we will consider measures to secure stable financial resources to enhance educational investment by further utilizing private funds.

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We will continuously conduct nationwide academic achievement and learning situation surveys as a nationwide academic ability test (for everyone). We will thereby grasp and analyze the academic achievement situation broadly and will enhance children’s support for children in an economically difficult situation and school guidance to enable all children with the motivation and ability to learn to receive high-quality education while also further disseminating Saturday lessons.

308. Fundamental change in school education to realize the youth’s dreams and aspirations

In an era in which fixed predictions are difficult to provide, it is essential to drastically review school education to enable all young people to embrace dreams and aspirations. Therefore, we thoroughly revised the course of study, including subjects and courses, and changed the teaching and evaluation method to emphasize active and collaborative learning (active learning). In addition, we will promote an integrated reform of high school education, university entrance selections and university education to not only focus on knowledge and skills, but also on thinking abilities and an “attitude to cooperate with diverse people with judgment power, expressive power and subjectivity”. We will

cultivate people with leadership abilities, planning, creativity, rich sensibilities, kindness and compassion.

309. Nurturing global human resources contributing to our growth strategy

It is an urgent task to train human resources who can play an active role in the world and contribute to our growth strategy. In order to fundamentally expand education contributing to the development of global human resources, we have formulated the “Global Human Resource Development Promotion Act” (provisional name) and will concentrate investment on practical English education, innovation and the active utilization of ICT.

For our children’s future, it is also a very important issue to further develop the acquisition of English communication skills, an international common language, in our nation. We will continue to enhance foreign language education by improving the qualities of teachers and supporting international studies.

Regarding English education at elementary, middle and high schools, we will enrich the English education as a subject in the curriculum at elementary schools, implement English taught classes at junior high schools and will enhance the conduction of presentations, discussions and negotiations in English at high schools. In addition, we have expanded the teacher placement and guidance system to ensure English education for small children, introduce hands-on English education by English camps and will drastically reform, strengthen and enhance the JET program inviting young people whose mother tongue is English.

Furthermore, to nurture future global leaders active in the economic world, political circles and academic circles from high school level onwards, we will support “super global high schools” making efforts to acquire international education by remarkably increasing the opportunities to use English.

In addition, to nurture human resources capable of globally playing active roles, we will work on subjects such as geographical history and enhance education on traditional culture necessary to understand Japanese history, tradition and culture and to acquire a Japanese identity. Children living in foreign countries are expected to be active global human resources in the future and we will enrich their educational environment including the expansion of the dispatching of Japanese teacher to enable all children to learn with confidence.

In order to improve the practical English skills of students, it is necessary to promote the further utilization of the TOEFL exam or other external examinations in college entrance tests, to promote graduation requirements with a score above a certain level, and we will support universities implementing educational programs to develop human resources capable of practically using English. Moreover, we actively pursue fast internationalization beneficial for nurturing global human resources, by continuously giving priority support to “super global universities”.

Regarding mathematics education, we respect the diversity of children and nurture creativity to develop children with clear goals and consciousness being the future leader and innovationists. In

order to increase the number of children who like science and mathematics, it is necessary to enhance experiencing activities and experimental classes by utilizing external human resources such as students, corporate officials or member of scientific and technological faculties. By improving the leadership skills of teachers involved in science and mathematics, we will greatly enhance science and mathematics education at elementary and second level schools. In addition, we conduct periodic surveys on the national academic abilities and learning situation concerning mathematics and science. In addition to promoting Super Science High Schools (SSH) and Global Science Campus to increase the number of science teachers, we will develop science facilities and advance science education at middle schools to let schools become the place for talent education. We will also promote the enhancement of Science *Koshien* and other contests and promote a significant increase in the number of students participating in the International Science Olympics while also expanding international exchange opportunities. Also, regarding higher education, we support efforts emphasizing the importance of science as a scholastic ability necessary for the admission aside from literacy, and will develop educational programs for literary science, construct a vocational education system to train professional human resources in the fields of science and engineering.

Regarding ICT education, by developing support according to the situation of each local government, we will expand initiatives throughout the country and develop a leading educational system utilizing state-of-the-art technologies, such as clouds. We will also advance the ICT environment, including tablet PCs, electronic blackboards and wireless LAN, for each student at elementary, junior high, high and special support schools. Via the teacher training curriculum, faculty recruitment selection and license renewal courses, we will work on ensuring that all teachers acquire leading ICT skills and aim to arrange ICT support staff at all schools. We will advance technological development, such as the planned maintenance of tablet PCs, the development of digital textbooks and teaching materials and the standardization of diverse information terminals. To create the world's best ICT educational content system, we will promote ICT education suitable for all developmental stages and children and will thereby realize the world's best information literacy education.

310. Promoting education on sustainable development to foster leaders of sustainable society

Based on the UNESCO World Congress on "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" held in Nagoya and Okayama in the prefecture of Aichi in November this year, we will increase Japan's UNESCO activities and promote the education on sustainable development both domestically and abroad to realize an international sustainable society and will therefore develop businesses contributing to human resource development.

311. Establishing a national responsibility system for public education

Based on the principle that the state will fulfill its responsibilities regarding compulsory education, we will work to thoroughly raise the quality of public education to not let regional disparities in education arise. Therefore, we will standardize education and enable children to receive the same education regardless of where they were born or raised in Japan and will take efforts for hometown education, to create an environment for all children to realize their dreams.

Results of international academic achievement surveys show that Japanese children's academic abilities are at the top level. It is the mission of public education to maximize the skills of all children and enable them to acquire the necessary skills for the future. Therefore, we guarantee the quality of education by setting standards for school education, including teaching guidelines and the enrichment of the guidance system to ensure the supervision of each child.

In order to prevent the occurrence of education gaps due to the economic situation or environment of families, we will work on reducing the financial burden of educational expenses and will consider covering the full expenses to not let disparities in educational conditions due to the financial strength of local governments arise.

312. Promoting education cultivating citizens that love our nation with all their heart

We will promote education to respect our national flag and national anthems and to nurture sovereigns who will bear the future of our nation. We will not allow inappropriate sexual education, gender free education or mortification by biased history education.

By promoting volunteer activities and internships at middle and high schools, we will actively nurture public minds and sociality.

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We will promote career education, vocational education and long-term experience learning in agricultural and mountainous villages that encourage children's strong growth backed by rich experiences. In addition, we will support efforts to protect and deepen regional ties, such as traditional culture classes, sports clubs, circle activities or "traditional culture parent-child classes".

313. Promoting education that cultivates the awareness of norms and establishing the new subject "community"

Regarding moral education to learn normative consciousness and social rules and manners necessary for person to live as a citizen, we will enrich guidance rooted in Japan's tradition, including teaching the biographies of our ancestors we should be proud of, and will add new moral education to the framework of curriculums. In addition, in order to promote social participation and consumption education at high schools, we set up the new subject "community", returned the number of units of home economics education to the former level and increased the number units of modern home education.

314. Promoting food culture and healthy food to ensure healthy lives

Among the five pillars of education intellectual training, physical education and food education comprise basic living education and will be permeated into all generations by the "Basic Law on Education".

Also, we will take necessary measures to disseminate Japanese food culture, registered as UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage, correctly to the world.

Furthermore, in order to reduce food loss in various forms, we will work on raising the awareness of consumers.

315. New teaching reform responding to a turbulent era (great *heisei* school reform)

In order to become the world's top educational nation, we will diversify and improve the school system to realize equality and respond to the social situation and different growth situation of children. Regarding "Compulsory Education Schools" (provisional name) which have been improved immediately after the end of the war, the until now unchanged 6-3-3-4 system has become more flexible and from the age of six until 15, nine years of consecutive education are guaranteed. We will carry out the "great *heisei* school reform" to accelerate compulsory education and examine the school philosophy. At the same time, in order to facilitate these efforts smoothly, we will create a comprehensive support system for leading initiatives, including financial support.

Moreover, it is also important to improve the environment of school education by introducing free schools or international schools, promoting the establishment of night junior high schools, introducing a charge system for the 5th and 6th grades of elementary schools, institutionalizing early grading and graduation from high schools and thereby realizing a learning guarantee system enabling various opportunities according to ambition and ability. Furthermore, we will institutionalize new higher education institutions that practice vocational education in addition to five-year consistent vocational education in specialized high school colleges and vocational schools. We will also conduct double-tracking of secondary education and enable young people to think about their own dreams and intentions and can acquire practical vocational abilities with at set goal while also responding to changes in the industrial structure.

We will implement academic achievement evaluations at elementary and junior high schools to secure academic abilities necessary for graduation. In addition, we will fundamentally reform the scholastic ability test (provisional name) at high schools and establish an academic ability evaluation test (provisional name) for university education as well as university admission candidate academic ability evaluation (provisional name) to standardize high school education, university education and the university admission selection. Therefore, we will develop an implementation system at all national universities to ensure these new tests and university entrance examinations.

We promote experiential activities of college students (in addition to studying abroad, working to protect the country, home or environment or working for NGOs) by using the gap term (half a year) after high school graduation until enrollment for activities or internships in the fields of agriculture, welfare, SDF or firefighting departments since these activities can be used for job hunting later on.

Even after once entering the society, we will enhance financial support for skill upgrade via training, the change of occupation or reemployment after child rearing for motivated worker. In addition to strengthening the functions of universities, we will develop an easy-to-learn environment by establishing courses at universities and flexible certification programs. In addition, we will also expand the system allowing people to learn again at universities, graduate schools or vocational schools designated for specialized practical education and training and will provide support for facilities offering practical educational programs based on the needs of the industry.

In addition to institutionalizing new higher education institutes conducting practical vocational education, we will promote opportunity guarantees and career shifts in response to changes in the industrial structure. Especially for women and elderly people, we will promote the collaboration of related regional organizations engaged in re-learning and create a mechanism linking local activities and employment entrepreneurs.

316. Preparing textbooks that are truly conform with the Basic Education Law, the Course of Study and Guidance

Even if textbooks have already been adopted numerous times since the Basic Education Law was revised and new guidelines for learning were established, many textbooks still teach biased descriptions, such as a self-directed historical perspective.

Based on the Basic Education Law, we will establish suitable guidelines and verification criteria for textbooks teaching children “to respect tradition and culture and respect our country and the local folk having brought them together”. Additionally, the Textbook Grant Aid Measures Law, setting up the textbook adoption system, was revised and the commentary on the Course of Study has been revised to that textbooks correctly state our secured national territory.

In doing so, the government views will be properly reflected and we will proceed with the drastic reform so that children do not misunderstand aspects by only learning specific theories and we will also review the so-called “neighboring country clauses”. Furthermore, by thoroughly publishing the results and reasons of each board of education, we will revise the current situation that certain textbook companies have not changed the contents adopted for a long time. Also, we will promote proper handling of supplementary materials so that children will not use biased auxiliary teaching materials.

317. Reducing educational expenses to support children’s dreams

In order to thoroughly support children’s dreams and aspirations regardless of the economic situation of families, we will strengthen our efforts to reduce the burden of educational expenses. Regarding pre-school education, we are working on free early childhood education and endeavor to enhance school attendance grants for higher education stages. Regarding income restrictions on high school tuition fees, we have set income limits by creating benefit-type scholarships which do not need to be refunded, expanding school attendance grants for high schools and private schools and offering special support for students having difficulties to finance studying. We are seeking to enhance income support and resolve disparities between public and private schools. We will continue to endeavor enhancing support for low-income people by steadily implementing school attendance support and considering the expansion of scholarships.

Regarding higher education, it is necessary to expand enrollment fee and tuition exemptions, to introduce income-linked scholarships, to create benefit-type scholarships and to enhance support for vocational school students having difficulties to finance studying. For doctoral students, we will

consider financial support, such as fellowships of teaching and research assistants, and we will create an environment for all students to learn with confidence.

318. Realizing a society enabling everyone to receive education to fulfill their dreams

In order to provide high-quality education and detailed guidance, we reviewed the general principle of faculties and staff according to the “Law on Classroom Organization of Staff and Staff Qualifications of Public Compulsory Education Schools” which was accepted and amended by our party. In addition, we will continue to take measures such as providing faculties and staff to the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and enhancing school counselors. Also, we will also take care of the minds of teachers in the affected areas.

To solve the problem of bullying and school refusal, we will strive for an early detection of these problems by enriching school counselors and creating a system responding appropriately. In FY2013, 175.000 young people did not attend elementary, junior high or senior high schools and the number of high school dropouts exceeded 59.000 and therefore, we will lower these numbers.

In addition, we will further advance the cooperation of schools, families and communities as stipulated in the “Basic Law on Education” and will support children by enriching our support for after-school learning and schools by creating school support headquarters in different areas. We will build a system of collaboration in all school district. At the same time, we will introduce a school supporter system by involving external workers such as retirees with abundant knowledge and social experience for after-school activities and Saturday classes to guarantee sufficient learning time and morality.

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We will develop educational activities on Saturdays nationwide in order for students to acquire the necessary skills to participate in our society and aim to implement this structure at 12.000 schools in 2015. We will also support efforts by municipalities and schools such as the cooperation on Saturday lessons led by regional organizations.

319. Eliminating bullying and emphasizing the importance of each individual

We will eliminate bullying by sharing the consciousness that “bullying is absolutely not allowed” throughout Japan and realize education with neither perpetrators nor victims or bystanders. The first step is protecting victims from being harmed. We will implement immediate measures on moral education, such as suspension of students repeating bullying, reporting to the police (clear distinction between bullying and crimes) if the act is classified as crime. Based on the “Bullying Prevention Measures Promotion Law”, we will implement integrated bullying measures and financially support local government tackling bullying measures.

320. Expanding subsidies to correct disparities between public and private education

In consideration of the importance of both private and public education, and while fully respecting the spirit of private schooling, we will fully realize the objectives of the “Private School Promotion Funding Act” which encompasses the maintenance and improvement of educational conditions while lowering the economic burden for schools. We will try to resolve disparities between the public

and private sector by increasing the number of employees, alleviating disparities and improving management soundness. In addition, we will enrich private school grant to halve the financial burden.

321. The “Three New Laws on Education” to ensure political neutrality of education

By establishing the “Educational Civil Service Ethics Code” (provisional name) educational civil servants are clearly positioned as “educational professionals and are entrusted with disciplined duties. Penalties are set up by the “Special Law on Educational Civil Service” to ensure the political neutrality of faculties and staff unions (such as the Nichiren Group) and to prevent illegal activities including election activities and compulsory campaigns. We will oblige faculties and staff unions to exclude illegal activity groups from registered bodies like specified in the “Local Public Service Act” and lay open private and public funding in income and expenditure reports. The amended “Law on Temporary Measures to Secure Political Neutrality of Education at Compulsory Education Schools” manifests the obligation of the committee to survey related objectives.

In the case of illegal donations by the Hokkaido Teachers Association, the survey conducted by the Board of Education revealed the actual situation of many unlawful acts being done such as union activities during working hours. Our party pointed out that there are misconducted salaries (compulsory education expenses as national treasury burden), and we conducted a survey by the Board of Audit. Furthermore, we will conduct a nationwide survey about the unauthorized use of PTA membership expenses discovered by our party and we will prevent recurrence. Our party will continue to thoroughly address political neutrality and standardization of education.

322. Improving the “New Human Resource Securing Law” (improving teachers’ skills, securing appropriate educational content and realizing team schooling)

Education depends on people. Currently, we will examine a mechanism to exempt scholarship refunds [“Teacher Scholarship Refund Exemption System” (provisional name)] to support people aiming to become teachers and securing many excellent talents. In addition, to secure diverse human resources, we aim to double the number of appointed teachers (about 10% of the number of hired teachers) by recruiting social workers as teachers and expanding special licenses. Furthermore, to eliminate problems in the operation of the teacher license renewal system, we will closely work together with teacher graduate schools (teaching postgraduate schools) to improve the training.

In order to train teachers who are capable of fostering Japanese as world leaders, we will further encourage the introduction of a system to rigorously evaluate appropriateness by practical training conducted at school sites before licensing, such as the “teacher intern program”, and promote adoption of the emphasis on fitness and people by utilizing evaluation at teaching graduate schools and during selection processes. Schools must not be a closed world. For teachers in service, it is necessary to create an environment to receive appropriate training according to career stage concerning teaching, work and life and to broaden the perspective. Therefore, we will also systematically promote the enhancement of the core functions of the National Institute for Educational Training, the strengthening of the functions of teacher training bases in each region and will establish a strategic training system for academic advisors.

Also, to create an environment for universities and the Board of Education to cooperate on the training of teachers, we will promote the nationwide deployment of “Teacher Cram Schools” provided by each Board of Education and with certain responsibilities to composite and create a core base to improve the comprehensive training and recruitment of teachers.

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We will not allow strong weaknesses of teachers. By the “long-term social experience training project” by faculties, we will expand the view of teachers by dispatching incumbent teachers to private enterprises, social welfare facilities or training sites. In order to secure appropriate educational content and to ensure the educational revitalization, we plan to improve the guidance system by systematic teachers and staff by revising the obligatory standards to connect the improvement of educational quality with lesson innovations, active learning, lesson guidance, special instructions, special support education and responses to bullying problems. To allow teachers to devote themselves to educational activities, we will develop institutional and financial measures to promote the deployment and utilization of diverse professionals. We will establish responsibilities of educational chiefs and principles to ensure proper teacher’s service evaluation and treatment. In addition, we clarify the role and responsibilities of educational chiefs, supervisors, principals and teachers by establishing a legal system for responsibilities. Thereby, we will manage team schooling, train motivated managers who truly do their best and plan the training, and increase the morale to advance the school governance reform. We eliminate the intervention of teachers and staff unions in faculty personnel affairs and realize balanced teacher placement.

In addition, we will create a sense of trust and respect between the society and teachers and we will improve the treatment of teachers to attract talented personnel to the educational sector based on the Human Resource Securing Law. Also, to reward enthusiastic teachers, we reflect the results of teacher evaluations, establish a profitable salary model including departmental work allowances and create social contribution allowances. We build an educational system to enable teachers to focus on children and thoroughly support teachers doing their best. To carry out the objectives mentioned above, we examined including the burden of compulsory education to the national treasury and established the “New Human Resource Securing Law” aiming at securing high-qualified personnel from a long-term perspective.

323. Creating a safe and secure school environment for protect the lives of children

Since school facilities and public gyms are used as local evacuation centers during disasters, we will accelerate aging maintenance measures, including earthquake resistance and the longevity of facilities and materials to secure the safety of children in the case of disasters. Moreover, in order to further promote earthquake resistance of private schools, we will secure the budget necessary for seismic reinforcement and earthquake resistant remodeling. In addition, In addition, since schools facilities are used as evacuation centers in the event of disasters, we will proceed with establishing communication networks to ensure the regional contact, and we will also install in-house power generators and proceed with the maintenance of stockpiling, water tanks and disaster prevention

centers in general. Furthermore, due to financial difficulties of local governments, we will endeavor to strengthen the national financial support.

Based on the lessons learned from the Great East Japan Earthquake, we will establish a disaster response system based on the perspective of parents and children, including keeping children at schools and safe facilities if parents have difficulties to return home. Regarding disasters with possible hazardous effect on families such as earthquakes, typhoons or fires, we will enrich disaster prevention education tailored to local circumstances and prepare drills to prevent disaster damages. In addition, we will maintain a school environment for children to go to school with confidence, by ensuring the safety of school routes.

324. Improving and enriching the quality of early childhood education and enforcing early childhood education free of charge

Like stipulated in the “Basic Education Law”, early childhood education is an essential pillar to cultivate the foundation of life-long personality formation and we will therefore improve the quality of free early childhood education.

For this reason, based on the development and characteristics of children, we will work on improving the quality of early childhood education by improving the treatment of teachers, as well as kindergarten teachers or daycare teachers, enriching the content of early childhood education and improving the acquisition of qualitative abilities to achieve a smooth gradation to elementary schools. In addition, regarding children with a difficult financial family situation, we will strive to offer education free of charge to secure the opportunity for all children to receive early childhood education.

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325. Strengthening the support system for education at home

The starting point of education is always the family, and the “Basic Education Law” emphasizes that parents have the primary responsibility for children’s education while the national and local governments support home education. While respecting the autonomy of family education, we will enrich learning opportunities to support the growth of parents and children, especially young parents who tend to be isolated, and will enhance the rich connections of communities, schools and families on education. Thereby, we will strengthen our support system by fine-tuning the functions of familiar facilities such as schools to support family education.

In addition, we will cooperate with enterprises to promote the dissemination and awareness of desirable basic lifestyle habits of children, such as going to bed early and having breakfast on a daily basis.

326. Strengthening Japanese language education to enhance reading comprehension

Japanese language skills composite the precondition to learn all other subject and we therefor aim to enhance Japanese language education at elementary, middle and high schools. Based on this fact, we will improve Japanese language classes to nurture children’s language abilities, such as expressive

skills, judgement and listening and reading comprehension, based on the standards of the OECD/PISA survey that stipulated the principle of “learning → thinking → transferring”.

327. Japanese education enabling friendship with foreigners

Since foreign children often do not attend public schools because they cannot keep up in class due to a lack of Japanese language skills, we will establish a detailed school acceptance system according to Japanese language skills and creating arrangements to enable the school entrance of foreign children.

The system for Japanese education for foreign adults cannot be said to be well developed. In order to fully secure the quality and quantity of Japanese language education for foreigners, it is necessary to expand the opportunities to learn Japanese. By enacting the “Japanese Language Education Promotion Law”, we will develop an environment for nurturing “Japanese language education as a lifestyle for foreigners” and enable true friendships with foreigners. We will also work on spreading Japanese in overseas country.

328. Special support education to cherish each other's strength

We will improve the pluralization of nursing school teachers and strengthen the functions of special support education coordinators as well as the placement of support staff at high schools to improve the educational environment necessary for individual students' progress and children with developmental disabilities. By conducting research on teaching materials and using ICT as well as other technologies, we will improve the ingenuity of contents and instruction method, implement high school entrance exams with consideration for disabled students, improve the career guidance by collaboration with the industry to enhance employment support as well as especial support education and position employment support coordinators at affiliated schools, national universities and corporations.

We will also ensure that all teachers at elementary, junior high and senior high schools can acquire licenses and basic skills for special support education and promote appropriate education according to educational needs of each disabled child.

329. Education with diverse options without swamping

In order to respond to the need of the society for human resource development, we will enable diverse options and expertise by preparing special high schools providing state-of-the-art vocational education in addition to ordinary high schools. In addition to strengthening industry-academia cooperation on higher education, we are working on further quality assurance and improvement based on the achievements of vocational schools responding to the need of companies for human resources. We will fully recognize the significance of various schools and aim to eliminate institutional differences between universities, vocational schools or industrial colleges by providing financial and public support for the enhancement of educational content.

By broadening the cooperation of universities, vocational schools, industries and communities, we will work on training professional human resources playing a major role in the future. We will also support skill acquisition and employment by establishing community colleges.

330. Promoting the independence of young people and career education for self-reliance by vocational education

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We will promote career education so that people can develop the ability and attitude to live autonomously and self-reliant in accordance with changes in the industrial structure and socio-economic situation. Therefore, we established the Career Education Promotion Act to set out the philosophy and basic means to promote career education.

We will carry out various measures on the national and local level, such as establishing teaching methods according to developmental stages, promoting experiential learning activities at schools and universities, considering disabled children and adding internships to the curriculum to reduce the number of NEETs and improve teaching methods and materials.

In addition, in order to comprehensively, systematically and effectively promote career education, we will set up a Career Education Promotion Council composed of staff of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and other related administrative agencies. To promote career education in local areas, we will establish Prefectural Career Education Promotion Councils composed of prefectural related institutions, educational officials, business operators and business associations.

Also, we will carefully consider measures to not let internships become a virtual job hunting activity. We will therefore take measures such as reducing the financial burden for recruitment by rural as well as small and medium-sized enterprises. We will furthermore take appropriate consideration to get rid of busy school schedules.

By establishing the Career Education Promotion Act, we will realize a system to promote career education and vocational education throughout Japan.

331. Promoting our higher education and university policy (university big bang)

The “power of universities” is a national strength itself and it is necessary to enhance both its quality and quantity. We will accelerate educational reforms to fundamentally strengthen the educational functions of universities and to train students for the entering of our society. Therefore, we will strengthen the support for university or faculty members working on educational reforms, such as promoting active learning by qualitatively transforming learning methods, visualizing student achievement results, improving the educational skills of university and faculty members and improving the educational environment in general. In addition to this policy, we will enrich the overall system (installation of standards and university evaluations, etc.) to ensure the quality of university education and will allocate funds for the reforming of university education.

Moreover, by reviewing the system to strengthen universities, we will establish a new admission approval process meeting the needs of the society and students and improve the management and quality of universities, currently greatly deteriorated, and if it is found that no achievements are expected, we will establish a mechanism to encourage leaving.

Regarding national universities, in order to respond to expectation of the society, including the contribution to local revitalization, globalization and the creation of innovations, we will optimize resource allocation for universities including the budget for human resource acquisition, reform the personnel and salary system by introducing an annual salary system and cross payment (mixed salary) and strengthen educational functions, research activities and social contributions of national universities by accelerating the reform of faculties and graduate schools in 2015.

We will abolish regulation to achieve global top level universities. We will oblige the establishment of open laboratories (open research institutions) as well as research support staff. We will intensively scout and fund young Ph.D. researchers from other world top level universities.

In addition, to create an open education and research system and to strengthen the leadership of university presidents, we conduct fundamental governance reforms, clarify the role of university presidents, faculty meetings, personnel supporting university presidents (also directors, vice presidents, professional staff and the finance department) and strengthen the president's discretionary expenses.

Approximately 80% of private university's budget derives from student's payments and this financial burden is heavy. Therefore, we reconsider the system of fiscal expenditures by reviewing the management of expenses in public and private universities. Also, in order to enable a stable management by ensuring diverse financial resources, we will improve the environment to procure private funds voluntarily and actively by, for example, expanding donations. We actively support regional cooperation (of universities, regional and local communities and industries) and provide information on various initiatives by domestic and foreign universities.

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Furthermore, in order to secure students' learning time and study opportunities such as studying abroad, universities and other institutions will revise the time of job hunting to foster personnel responding to social demands.

Moreover, we will focus on supporting technical college promoting reforms such as enhancing practical and creative engineering education based on regional and industrial needs and strengthening globally working technologists.

332. Overcoming the population decline by revitalizing rural universities

In order to resolve the concentration of young people on the area of Tokyo, it is essential for local universities and technical colleges to become more attractive. Therefore, by cooperating with municipalities and local companies, we will consider expanding the "basis (knowledge) of universities" fostering human resources responsible for the future of local regions and will support efforts to strengthen research functions and efforts to revitalize the region by utilizing public universities to realize an education system taking advantage of the strength of regional public and private universities. We will furthermore provide support to encourage urban university students to use their gap year for internships in local companies. In addition, we will also support for efforts to enable classes conducted by superior universities in urban areas to be taken in rural areas.

Furthermore, regarding primary and secondary education, we will cultivate human resources supporting communities with affection and pride of regional areas and promote initiatives to strengthen regional capabilities via the collaboration of schools and communities.

333. Securing stable subsidies for the operating expenses of national universities

The core of Japan's science are universities where diverse human resources gather and conduct educational and research activities. But recently stable subsidies covering operational expenses for education and research (national universities' administration expenses subsidies, facility maintenance fee subsidies and private scholarship subsidies) are on a declining trend.

Thereby, it is pointed out that a great deal of difficulties arises in maintain the number of faculty members and the management of facilities and we will therefore secure stable subsidies for basic expenses to strengthen our scientific bases. In addition, we will offer strategic and prioritized support to strengthen the functions of each national university to realize "the world's best education and research bases" and "core bases for regional revitalization", and to additionally achieve sustainable competitiveness, we have implemented a national university evaluation to allocate grants for operating expenses in the third midterm target period from FY2016 onwards. We will focus on and support the universities in the areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, so that they can advance their research and education practiced as the foundation for the recovery of disaster areas.

334. Drastic reform of graduate school education

Regarding graduate schools, we will not only strengthen research and education activities but will also ensure the diversity of sciences and other fields and systematically develop efforts to advance human resources. In particular, in order to nurture and secure human resources active in various sectors of our society, we will strengthen educational activities at graduate schools by maintaining the close collaboration with industrial corporations and establish a systematic doctoral course beyond the boundaries of specialized fields.

To nurture world-class doctoral education courses at domestic and overseas universities, excellent graduate students and young researchers, we will set up the "Excellent Graduate School Group", cooperating with companies and public research institutions to form a hub for exchanging personnel and conducting collaborative research. Therefore, it is indispensable to concentrate funds for developing the best education and research environment in the world and we will provide assistance on the widespread arrangement of faculties and staff as well as on creating a research environment and financial support for excellent independent graduate students.

Also, in order to eliminate the exclusiveness of education and research activities, we will promote a reform of the academic societies by subdividing them into academic disciplines.

335. Promoting the appreciation of young researchers

We will greatly increase permanent employment for young researchers and also create an environment for researchers to be active beyond the boundaries of universities, public research institutes and industries. In addition, in order to diversify career paths, we will promote the success of entrepreneurial innovations by young researchers and graduate students in cooperation with the

industry, and we will also provide professionals engaged in research support, such as industrial research and intellectual property management. We will support opportunities for active research in public research institutes to support the development of human resources as leaders. As a new research funding system enabling young researchers to concentrate on independent research, we will create the “crown projects” bearing the name of the researchers.

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336. International exchange of students and researchers based on the “300.00 international students plan”

By aiming to realize the “300.000 international students plan” (targeting 200.000 people for the time being), we will strategically acquire excellent international students while paying attention to our country and regions. In order to increase the number of international students and researchers studying in Japan, we will promote information publication on local education and research using overseas bases and local entry examination. Furthermore, to improve the quality of the studying environment, it is necessary to expand the government-sponsored international student scholarship system and to improve the living support by the cooperation of local governments, universities, private organizations and NPOs. We will promote social acceptance after completing enrollment, internships or graduation. On the other hand, in addition to increasing the number of accepted international students, we will devise concrete strategies to win truly excellent talent.

In order to revitalize the Japanese economy, it is necessary to cultivate “strong” Japanese who can play active global roles and we will therefore promote an environment giving students the opportunity to study abroad to become motivated and competent students. For this reason, we plan to foster studying abroad by promoting the “Campus Study Abroad JAPAN Campaign” and cooperate with public and private universities to support expenses necessary for overseas studies and promote overseas experience activities during gap years. By improving the environment for studying abroad, including the improvement of language skills, we will double the number of Japanese students studying abroad by 2020 while also avoiding negative impacts on employment activities.

To develop world-class educational and research activities, it is essential to accept excellent overseas researcher and improve cooperative research activities. We will therefore promote scholarships, improve the system of host institutions and improve the living environment to greatly expand the acceptance of international students and researchers. In addition, it is important for Japan to strategically create a structure to encourage student exchanges by introducing a flexible academic calendar, including the admission during autumn terms, and enhancing the study abroad support system. We will promote the internationalization of local universities by encouraging international education collaboration.

337. Realizing a “sports nation” by the “Basic Law on Sports”

In order to manifest sports as a national strategy, we strongly promoted various measures to realize a “sports nation” based on the “Basic Law on Sports” established by our legislation, and at the same time, we will consider reconstructing sports agencies and sport-related ministries. By taking

advantage of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, we will promote educational, scientific and technological efforts to revitalize the Japanese sports culture and promote health via sports. We will promptly establish a sports agency to act as a commanding center to comprehensively promote sports policies, revitalize local communities, realize “national economic development” and encourage the international exchange.

To enable Japanese athletes to play an active role in international competitions such as the Olympic Games, we will standardize and enrich the financial support for competitors and improve the National Training Center. In addition to promoting policies to improve international competitiveness, we will double the officials at international federations of each sports organization to enhance our international presence. Furthermore, to succeed at the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan, we will do our utmost to fully rebuild the National Kasumigaoka Stadium.

We will enrich physical education at schools, eradicate corporal punishment in exercise departments and enrich exercise department activities. Parallely, we conduct surveys on national physical fitness and exercise capacity and promote efforts to improve the physical fitness of children by using the results of this survey. Furthermore, it is important to increase the number of people familiar with sports from childhood to seniority. Therefore, we will enhance various sports promotion projects such as National Sports Festival, Regional Sports Clubs and Training projects. In addition to promoting health by sports, we will take efforts for regional revitalization by promoting sports and regional sports commissions as a touristic resource. We also consider developing an environment enabling the easy use of school grounds and gyms by everyone, including women, elderly people and disabled people.

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338. Enhancing and strengthening the sports promotion system

In order to secure further financial resources for sport promotion, we revised the “toto Law” last year and expanded the scope of the “sports promotion lottery (toto)” conducted by the Japan Sports Promotion Center to European soccer teams. In the future, we will consider developing a system that facilitates the application by eligible organizations for grants and promote donation.

In order to realize lifelong and regional sports promotion and improving competitive skills, we aim to further revitalize sports-related organization, promote the employment of professional and amateur athletes and secure the lives of athletes after retirement. In addition to promoting second careers, we aim to secure superior human resources and financial resources as well as a virtuous cycle of athletes contributing to the promotion of sports in communities and the whole society. To that end, we will provide support for athlete’s sports careers.

339. Realizing successful and legendary Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020

The whole government is working on realizing successful and legendary Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020, and we have established a full-time Olympic and Paralympic minister. We will also organize a governmental support system, including the establishment of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo Promotion Headquarters.

We will promote international exchange via sports by implementing Olympic and Paralympic Games education and cultural programs and will promote sports volunteers to let the 2020 Tokyo Games be a festival throughout the nation and not be concentrated only on Tokyo. We will therefore also disseminate the Olympic and Paralympic Movement nationwide. This will position sports culture rooted in various parts of the nation as a legacy (heritage) of the 2020 Tokyo Games infrastructure, such as stadiums and transportation networks.

We also carry out “Sport for Tomorrow” programs for international contribution in the field of sports by promoting international anti-doping procedures, supporting the formulation of physical education curriculum at schools, dispatching sports professionals to developing countries and improving sports facilities.

Regarding the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo, we will steadily promote the development of transportation services, including buses and taxis, introduce next-generation cars (advanced driving support systems, fuel cell cars, etc.) and realize an Olympic Special License Plate.

340. Creating a “cultural and artistic nation” the world should be proud of

The Tokyo 2020 Games are not only positioned as a sport but also as a cultural festival and we will hold cultural events all over the nation and thereby attract people with our worldwide unique cultural resources. In order to realize this and to systematically strengthen the cultural power of Japan, we have formulated the “Basic Policy on the Promotion of Cultural Arts” and support artistic activities as well as the succession of traditional culture. We aim to become a “cultural and artistic nation” the world should be proud of by developing, preserving and utilizing cultural properties, renovating national cultural facilities and actively fostering young artists and related professionals. We will activate theaters and music halls to promote the demonstration of arts, support planned cultural projects of local government and revitalize communities via arts. In order to strategically disseminate Japanese culture to other countries, we will continue to pursue the succession of traditional culture and art while also promoting media art, such as new Japanese brands and animation, develop human resources and improve the treatment of producers. Furthermore, we will prioritize cultural exchange partners and contents, promote international exchange of excellent arts and expand the overseas Japanese language education.

We will support “culture and art creating cities” promoting the creativity of cultural art that leads to the revitalization of the industry and region by its dissemination all over the nation. In addition, by recognizing that cultural art experiences will contribute to the rich sensibility and creativity of children responsible for the future of our nation, we will include high-quality cultural art activities to compulsory education to enable children to appreciate and experience cultural art (traditional arts and contemporary performing arts) at least twice. We will enrich the “traditional culture parents and children classroom” to enable the experience of tradition and arts rooted in communities. We will promote efforts to archive cultural materials since these will be the social foundation for creating new cultures and values.

Also, since Japan's cultural budget cannot be said to be at a high level, we will secure the necessary cultural budget to create a "cultural and artistic nation".

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341. Supporting cultural and artistic activities and the inheritance of cultural assets for future generations

We will greatly support regional revitalization via cultural properties and will therefore train professional experts for motivated cultural and artistic groups and advance motivated cultural and artistic activities. We will also consider tax incentives to foster cultural donations. There are many cultural facilities, such as the National Theater in Tokyo, but by strengthening the network of cultural facilities in each area, we will enhance the opportunities to appreciate them across our nation.

By promoting immediate and proper reparation to inherit cultural assets for future generations, we will restore cultural assets damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake while furthermore promoting disaster prevention measures to protect cultural properties from disasters, such as earthquakes, fires, heavy rains and landslides. We will promote video recording (digital data) in order to securely inherit valuable folk cultural properties to future generations.

Regarding tangible and intangible cultural property across our nation, we will establish a system to recognize the history of Japan's culture and tradition as "Japan Heritage" to preserve integral regional cultural assets. We will support initiatives, such as information dissemination, awareness raising and facility development, to promote public utilization of cultural properties and parallelly revitalize each region via cultural assets.

342. Preserving and utilizing world heritages and intangible cultural heritages

This year, the "Tomioka silk industrial site" was registered as "UNESCO World Heritage Site". We currently have 14 cultural heritages and four natural heritage sites. Regarding "intangible cultural heritages" symbolizing the diversity of our culture, such as tradition and regional customs, Washi: Japan's Handicraft Paper Technology has been registered this year and *nogaku*, *ningyo joruri bunraku*, *kabuki* and Japanese cuisine: Japanese traditional food culture together with 22 other assets have already been registered. In addition, Sado (Niigata prefecture), the Noto peninsula (Ishikawa prefecture), the Kakegawa region (Shizuoka prefecture), the Aso region (Kumamoto prefecture) and the Kanto region (Oita prefecture) are registered as "World Agricultural Heritage" by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. By preserving and utilizing these World Heritages and Intangible Cultural Heritages, we will disseminate the Japanese culture to foreign countries and will thereby promote mutual understanding with different countries, reaffirm our culture, cultivate citizens who respect history and culture with their heart and pass our cultural properties down to the next generation.

Diplomacy and Defense

We will actively promote global peaceful diplomacy and contribute to world peace and stability.

With an unwavering security policy centered on the Japan-US Alliance, we firmly defend the

lives of our citizens and our national interests.

[Strategic Diplomacy]

343. A strong Japan-US Alliance

The strong Japan-US Alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy and also for peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Since the Japan-US summit meeting during President Obama's visit to Japan this April, Japan and the US closely communication on all levels. We will continue to cooperate in all fields, including security, politics and economy, and further strengthen the relationship.

In addition, in order to secure the peace and security of our nation, we will constantly carry out efforts to maintain and strengthen our deterrence capabilities under the Japan-US Security Arrangement, along with developing our own defense capabilities. In particular, we will steadily review guidelines and progress.

Furthermore, to alleviate the burden on Okinawa while listening closely to local voices, we will steadily advance the relocation of the Futenma Air Station in Nago based on the Japan-US Agreement and restructure the US forces in Japan.

344. Realizing a free, rich and stable Asia

We will endeavor to promote friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries to realize a free, rich and stable Asia. We will improve the relations with China, Korea and Russia and will promote cooperation with the ASEAN countries, India and Australia on security and energy policies.

Besides these countries, we will establish broad cooperative relationships contributing to peace, stability and development in Asia and the world. Especially, in addition to advancing efforts to tackle environmental problems and protect intellectual property rights, we will further promote security cooperation in the region based on the first round of the Japan-ASEAN Defense Ministerial Roundtable held in November this year, and will also promote regional security cooperation in the South China Sea and East China Sea. Regarding the current challenges to the rule of law, we will work on maintaining the status quo and common values in cooperation with related countries.

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345. Strengthening the relationship with a dynamic Africa

In response to the expectations of Africa and the international community indicated at the 5th Africa Development Council (TICADV) in June last year, we will strive to strengthen the comprehensive and reciprocal relationship of Japan and Africa. Also, we will prepare to hold the Japan TICAD Summit Meeting for the first time in Africa.

Especially, we will strengthen our support by utilizing Japanese technology, knowledge and experience, promote the development of infrastructure and human resources in Africa, improve the investment environment and take measures on security and environmental problems. We will also promote efforts for regional economic communities leading to the creation of wide-area markets.

In addition, we will continue to take all necessary measures as a responsible member of the international community to end the epidemic spread of Ebola and will continue to provide support to strengthen the health system in the long run.

Furthermore, by utilizing the Africa Economic Strategy Council set up at the official residence of the Prime Minister this year, we will encourage Japanese companies to invest in Africa, since the continent offers abundant natural resources and will become the center of global growth in the future and thereby also lead to the vitality of the Japanese economy.

The transfer of employment and technology initiated by investments of Japanese companies will not only support the further growth of Africa but will also strengthen our position in the international community with the strong partner Africa. We will contribute to the prosperity of the international community via our efforts for growth and development in Africa.

346. Continuing the fight against terrorism

The “fight against terror” contributes to the national interests of Japan and is an important issue to be addressed by the whole international community.

Our party will spend enough money on this issue but opposes the so-called “check diplomacy”. As a member of the international community, we will strengthen countermeasures on international terrorism, including the implementation of necessary measures to secure Japan’s safety as well as peace and stability of the international community.

347. Strengthening anti-piracy measures

For our nation, safe navigation and securing maritime safety are directly linked to the survival and prosperity of our state. Anti-piracy measures are therefore an important issue to protect the lives and properties of Japanese citizens.

For this reason, we have been working on anti-piracy measures, such as the strengthening of the nation’s coastal and maritime crackdown capacity and the development of related professionals, and we will establish legal measures allowing armed security guards to board the Japanese flag, but will continue to cooperate with the international community to actively work on measures for the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden.

348. Developing marine resources and securing our marine interests

Based on the “Basic Law of the Sea” formulated by our party, we will promote the development and utilization of marine resources, such as energy resources, as well as the development of exclusive economic zones and the extension of the continental shelf to secure our national interests.

Furthermore, we also promote intensive exploitation and utilization while promoting environmental preservation and harmony. We also promote the growth of the marine industry to become a truly maritime nation, including comprehensive legislation on exclusive economic zones. We will strengthen our efforts to use the Marine Day to gain a deepened understanding of citizens about the benefits of the ocean for the prosperity of Japan.

We will support the development of technologies related to the exploitation of marine resources and will develop a training system for engineers who are the foundation to foster marine resources and

related industries. We will also develop an environment to encourage private enterprises to participate in field related to the exploitation of marine resources by collecting and managing marine monitoring data and establishing common rules on disclosure.

349. Reinforcing international cooperation concerning disasters

We appreciate the support received from the international community after the Great East Japan Earthquake and we will continue to actively promote international support and cooperation in the event of disasters, such as the typhoon disaster on the Philippines last years. At the same time, regarding the maintenance of necessary equipment and facilities, we will also consider the required functions and roles of hospital ships. Also, based on lessons learned from disasters in Japan, we will disseminate our know-how on disaster prevention, disaster responses and evacuations system as a soft power to the world.

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In addition, based on the 3rd UN World Congress on Disaster Reduction held in Japan, we will lead the formulation of a post-Hyogo action framework to further promote disaster prevention in the international community and to implement effective disaster prevention measures based on Japan's knowledge and experiences.

Natural disasters, such as the Philippine typhoon in November 2013 or other earthquakes and typhoons, are becoming more frequent and severe in various parts of the world. In the case of such a disaster, Japan will assist the governments of affected countries by providing humanitarian and material emergency aid by dispatching an international emergency relief squad to alleviate the suffering of people and protect their lives as well as to maintain and protect human dignity.

350. Contributing to the reform of the United Nations Security Council

Since the times change, we will promote the participation in permanent decision-making of the Security Council by countries with the intention and ability to play a major role in maintaining international peace and security and will thereby improve the adequate representation and effectiveness of the Security Council. Especially in 2015, which marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, we will continue to work on ensuring concrete results of the reform of the Security Council, including the entering of our nation as a permanent member.

In addition, aside from dispatching female self-defense officers to the NATO headquarters in February this year, we intend to strengthen the role of Japanese cadres at various international organizations and will enforce an effective support system for the recruitment and nurturing of professional staff.

351. Promoting nuclear disarmament

We will take the initiative to strengthen the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Particularly in the field of nuclear disarmament, we will promote realistic and concrete measures, such as proposing to improve the transparency of nuclear forces and further reducing the number of nuclear weapons, to improve Japan's security environment.

Also, in order not to give rise to security concerns, we will start a fundamental discussion on our “nuclear deterrence policy” and establish our basic policy on this issue.

352. Utilizing overseas diplomatic missions to support the overseas deployment of Japanese companies

We will utilize overseas diplomatic and public facilities as well as ODA to promote the overseas deployment of Japanese companies, including exporters, small and medium-sized enterprises and infrastructural related companies. Aside from promoting trade and investments, we will also promote top sales and will steadily conduct follow-ups on the results and progress.

We will manifest the support for Japanese companies to enter foreign markets as the primary task of overseas diplomatic missions, maximize the support by forming networks and provide information and will strengthen public-private partnerships.

353. Strengthening the relationships with developing countries by aggressively and strategically utilizing ODA

By utilizing Official Development Assistance (ODA), which we offer since 60 years, is an indispensable tool in advancing diplomacy. We will formulate a new development cooperation outline, aim to secure peace, stability and prosperity in the international community and secure Japan’s international interests via ODA. Also, in order to position ODA as an effective international strategy, we will allocate 0.7% of the GNI for ODA and thereby strengthen our ties with developing countries.

In particular, we will support the overseas development of Japanese companies and local governments, including SMEs, on infrastructure system exports and resource diplomacy. Therefore, we will grand aid and technical cooperation by ODA loans and include the JICA into the strategic use of overseas investment and loan. We aim to contribute to the revitalization of the Japanese economy by incorporating the growth of developing countries and emerging countries into the growth of Japan.

In addition, we aim to establish a desirable international environment for Japan by offering legal, developmental and governmental support to share universal values, such as basic human rights and women’s rights. Furthermore, to secure peace and stability in the international community, we will support the development of peace, strengthen our security maintenance and countering terrorism capabilities, promote cyber space security and strengthen the capacity of developing countries related to international public goods, such as oceans, by establishing a mechanism to maintain smooth relationships with developing countries via ODA.

354. Strengthening resource diplomacy

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Securing a stable and cheap supply of resources is the foundation of the Japanese economy and daily life. To diversify the resource supplying countries to our nation, we will focus on diplomacy, including daily efforts by overseas embassies and the utilization of international frameworks as well as the diplomatic tool ODA, to strengthen the ties with major resource countries. Parallely, we will

establish a win-win relationship with partner countries by providing human resources for developing countries.

355. Strengthening strategic overseas dissemination of information

Since neighboring countries are strengthening diplomatic augmentation and information dissemination, they let the international society penetrate Japan's position and regarding territorial integrity, historical recognition and active pacifism, we will therefore fundamentally strengthen our information dissemination to foreign countries contributing to the national interests of Japan, while also contributing to the enhanced understanding of Japan's diverse attractiveness, including our traditional culture, pop culture, world heritages, Japanese cuisine, the importance of democratic rule as well as Japan's high ethical standards.

Specifically, we will strengthen Japan's "correct image" and the dissemination of our diverse attractiveness by considering establishing the "Japan House" as a major cultural diplomatic base for public relations. In order to cultivate a diplomatic society, we will consider an invitation program for youth exchange around the world, to support research on Japan and to fundamentally expand Japanese language education.

In addition, to drastically strengthen Japan's diplomatic think tank, we will increase the number of professionals in leading think tanks with knowledge on security and foreign countries, and who are actively involved in the formation of the international public's opinion, and we will support overseas intellectual exchange and strongly promote the creation of a related network.

Furthermore, for the success of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, we will continue with active initiatives with to promote the exchange with foreign countries in the fields of sports and culture. At the same time, we will continue to enrich the budget and personnel for the public and private sector.

356. Strengthening efforts to address global issues

In accordance with the philosophy of human security, we will strengthen our cooperation with UN related organizations on global environment issues, such as climate change and disaster prevention, on universal health coverage (UHC), such as infectious diseases, and also on gender equality, women's development, water, sanitation, resources and food security.

In particular, we will accelerate our efforts to formulate and achieve international developmental goals ahead of 2015 (the post-2015 developmental agenda) and ahead of the achievement deadline of the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDGs) in all countries. We actively contribute to the formulation of an international framework on global warming countermeasures (Post-Kyoto Protocol) from 2020 onwards.

357. Strengthening the security of Japanese overseas businesses

In order to strengthen the security of Japanese overseas enterprises, we will enhance information gathering, analysis and dissemination systems, strengthen cooperative relations with the public and private sector as well as with foreign nationals in a case of emergency. Also, since many Japanese nationals play an active role abroad, there is the possibility of being affected by emergency cases,

such as terror attacks, and we will therefore promote a consistent security legislation to rescue overseas Japanese by our armed forces in consent with foreign countries.

358. Implementing a system to reinforce foreign relations

In an ever-changing international society, it is essential to further strengthen our comprehensive diplomatic power to secure peace and prosperity, while also taking the national interests of Japan into consideration. Therefore, our party has compiled the “10th action plan to strengthen comprehensive diplomatic capabilities” (nurturing human resources to become the cornerstone of diplomacy, realizing the 150 embassies system, etc.) and we will realize the “five concrete efforts for diplomatic revitalization”, including the drastic expansion of the diplomatic implementation system, the consideration to introduce a medium-sized government machinery, the improvement of the facilities of overseas diplomatic institutions and the securing of local staff due to the consolidation of facilities and overseas public bases (JICA, JBIC, cost reduction, etc.) and will base further recommendations of the diplomatic revitalization strategy meeting interim summary.

To this end, and in order to strengthen the diplomatic implementation system and the activities of overseas diplomatic bases, we will steadily increase the number of newly-appointed members of the Embassy and Consulate General, and we will establish a diplomatic implementation system comparable to other major countries, such as European countries or the United States.

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359. Intensively developing a legislative diplomacy

We will actively develop diplomatic lawmakers and utilize experienced personnel from ministries to improve the range and thickness of Japan’s international relations.

[Promoting economic partnerships with the national government]

360. Promoting free trade

The promotion of free trade is the foundation of Japan’s foreign trade policy. In order to maintain and strengthen the multilateral trading system, we will continue to work on an early conclusion of the WTO Doha Roundtable negotiations. At the same time, we aim to establish rule to enable the coexistence of diverse agricultural activities in each country and to promote the sustainable use of forestry and fishery resources in agricultural negotiations.

Regarding economic partnerships (EPA or FTA), in line with our national interests, we actively promote to maintain necessary border protection measures for goods with great merits.

Regarding TPP, we will utilize our bargaining power to pursue the best outcome meeting our national interests, by protecting what we should protect and attacking what we should attack as a nation. In particular, sacred areas (vital interests), such as the five important items of agriculture, forestry and fishery that are restricted by natural and geographical conditions, as well as the national public health insurance system, that we have built up so far, are prioritized and we will withdraw from further negotiations if either of these field cannot be secured. Therefore, the government and the ruling coalition partners are closely working together to proceed with the negotiations on:

- Securing sanctuaries for the important five goods in the agriculture, forestry and fishery industry restricted by natural and geographical conditions (rice, beef, pork, dairy products, sweetening resource crops)
- We will not accept numerical targets for automobiles or other industrial products.
- We will protect the national insurance system.
- Maintaining standards for food security and safety
- We do not agree with the ISD clause that would hurt the sovereignty of nation.
- Governmental procurement of financial services taking into account the characteristics of our nation

361. Promoting international cooperation

While Japan is said to be a trading nation, our actual export rate is only about 10% of the GDP. In order to achieve strong economic growth driven by domestic and foreign demand, it is essential to establish a multilateral free trade system while prioritizing our national interests and to incorporate the vitality of various countries into the growth of our nation. Therefore, Japan will demonstrate international leadership.

We will strategically select priority countries with whom we will actively negotiate Economic Partnerships Agreements (EPA) and Free Trade Agreements (FTA). We will promote free trade via initiatives such as the Pacific Rim Partnership Agreement (TPP), the Japan-China-Korea FTA and the East Asia Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and will enhance our efforts for further economic partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region and with the EU. We will build mutual cooperative relations based on the needs of foreign countries, including emerging and developing countries, to intensify the global trade competition and stabilize Japan's trading system.

362. Promoting the conclusion of investment and tax agreements

In order to realize new value-added creations via profits gained in overseas markets, we will promote the liberalization of capital transfers by bilateral investment and tax agreements. We aim to completely eliminate the double taxation of refundable capital, such as dividends and royalties of overseas subsidiaries.

Therefore, and in line with the actual demand of the business world, we will strive to improve the quality of Japan's current investment agreements with 32 countries (as of November 26th) since we are lagging behind other developed countries.

[Strengthening our security system]

363. Adapting a Board of Defense

Since the security environment of Japan is becoming more severe, including the expanded activities in the maritime airspace of Japan, North Korea's nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches and China's invasion of Japan's territorial waters and airspace infiltration, we set up a new "Defense Outline" and "Medium-term Defense Capability Development Plan" in February 2013 to strengthen the defense posture of Japan.

Via these new outlines and protection plans, we strive to build “integrated mobility defense capabilities” to secure the necessary and sufficient “quality” and “quantity” of our defense capability and to enhance our deterrence abilities.

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In doing so, we emphasize securing maritime superiority and airspace superiority and will develop mobilized defense capabilities. Specifically, while paying attention to further enhancing integrated functions of our warning and monitoring system, we will expand our information and communication capabilities, our transportation capacity as well as command and control to respond to attacks on our islands and ballistic missile attacks. We will also emphasize functions and abilities to cope with airspace and cyberspace correspondence, to respond to large-scale disaster and to contribute to international peace keeping activities. By steadily improving our defense capabilities, we will definitively protect the territory of our nation, including our territorial waters and skies, and will actively contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity in the international community more than ever.

364. Strengthening the role of the Self-Defense Forces based on the new US Defense Strategy

In line with the United States and the framework and objectives indicated in the interim report published in October 2014, we will continue to review the guidelines to enhance the deterrence capabilities of the Japan-US Defense Cooperation.

In addition, we will conduct bilateral and multilateral joint exercises in a visible manner, promote the conclusion of agreements for the interchange of goods, services and information gathering and will also advance our security and defense cooperation with allies and friends to increase the deterrence power of the whole Asia-Pacific region.

365. Preparing a consistent security legislation

Based on the cabinet decision in July 2014 to establish a consistent security legislation to protect the lives and property of our citizens, we will advance the development of a security legislation.

In addition, we will carefully and transparently explain such efforts to concerned countries.

366. Reforming the Ministry of Defense

We will accelerate the reform of the Ministry of Defense. In particular, we will enrich the staff office to strengthen integrated operations, establish a Defense Equipment Agency (provisional name) to acquire efficient equipment, establish a Self-Defense Officer (U) and Civil Servants (C) according to the expertise of the Ministry of Defense and SDF who will proceed to work more aggressively and function more actively and efficiently.

367. Strengthening our crisis management system

In order to promptly respond to emergency situations (including armed attacks) as a nation, we will strengthen the cooperation among related ministries and agencies and establish a legal system and organizations for emergency situations in the constitution.

368. Defending Japan from various threats

To achieve the required level of defense capabilities, we will promote the deployment of highly responsive ballistic missile defense systems and take measures against large-scale terroristic and guerrilla attacks and will furthermore establish measures against weapons, such as NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) weapons.

Especially, we will promptly improve the capability to respond to attacks in the cyberspace and thereby contribute to our security. We will also promote Japan-US cooperation on this matter.

369. Protecting the security of important facilities such as nuclear power plants

In order to protect important facilities, such as nuclear power plants, from unforeseen circumstances, including terroristic attacks on important facilities, we will strengthen the cooperation of the police, Coast Guard and the SDF and will enrich the necessary personnel, organization and equipment.

In addition, the NPA, Japan Coast Guard and SDF cooperate with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and business operators to conduct joint training to ensure the security of nuclear power plants and improve our general coping capabilities.

In addition, and in order to strengthen our comprehensive crisis response posture, we will continue to examine various issues in relevant ministries and agencies that are required to verify the response procedures and we will also review the division of roles and legal aspects of realistic simulations and collaborative training.

370. Enhancing training for severe earthquake disasters

The SDF, police, fire departments and Maritime Safety Agency have devoted their fullest efforts for the damage mitigation, relief of victims, restoration and reconstruction after the Great East Japan Earthquake, without looking at their own dangers. We will create a system to cope with large-scale disasters in the future by enriching joint training by local governments.

371. Defense collaboration with regional areas

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Defense facilities are the foundation of various activities of the SDF and US Army in Japan and are indispensable for supporting the SDF and the Japan-US security system. In order for these facilities to fully demonstrate their functions, it is necessary to cultivate the awareness of protecting the nation as a whole, strengthen countermeasures around bases sufficiently taking the need of local communities into account and cooperate with related local governments and resident support organizations.

372. Alleviating the burden on residents living around military bases

Since residents living around military bases face various burdens, we will consolidate and reduce US military bases in Okinawa, relocate the US marine Corps and will promote various policies to alleviate the burden on residents, improve their living environment and create employment.

In particular, in addition to eliminating the concern of Okinawa about the not yet relocated Futenma Air Base, we will consider special measure for the affected local governments.

373. Maintaining and strengthening the technical infrastructure and protection of technology related to the national defense of Japan

We will strive to maintain and strengthen the technological infrastructure and production of our domestic defense industry based on our national defense policy. We will promote voluntary technological R&D by actively utilizing superior consumer technology as well as improving the contract system by introducing long-term contracts. Regarding defense equipment and technical cooperation, we will also promote participation in international joint development and production based on the achievements of domestic enterprises involved in the manufacturing of the F-35 jet.

Regarding the overseas relocation of defense equipment, we will promote peace contribution and international cooperation on security and defense with other countries by appropriately implementing the “Three Principles of Defense Equipment Relocation”. In addition, we will carry out drastic reforms, such as the international dispersion of outstanding domestic technologies and products and the dispersion of equipment developed by the Ministry of Defense to other government agencies, other ministries, local governments and private enterprises.

374. Utilizing the G-space project (geospatial information) to create a strong social infrastructure

We will utilize the G-space project (geospatial information), with an autonomously positioning satellite, to collect electronic information on our territorial land and waters. Thereby, we strive to secure Japan’s diplomacy as well as economic and defense security and toughen the country by building a social infrastructure disseminating information on our nation.

We will also contribute to strengthening the security, disaster countermeasures, marine surveillance and national territory management of Japan and ASEAN countries by linking the operation of satellite systems possessed by each country based on a semi-zenith satellite system.

375. Constructing a space system to improve Japan’s Diplomacy and Defense

While paying close attention to the trends of major space hegemony countries, we will promote the stable utilization of the space as a global common directly linked to the national interests of Japan. Specifically, we will accelerate the necessary research and development for high-resolution and high-frequency information gathering satellites and early warning satellites necessary for Japan’s missile defense and will use satellites for various other purposes, such as communication, weather observation or reconnaissance for the SDF. In order to maintain and improve the transportation system to support these operations, we will create the required ground system, including the establishment and maintenance of new launch sites and technology, and will promote the development of a dual-use space system to create a comprehensive domestic system linking the space with the monitoring of the earth.

Regarding information collecting satellites, we will expand and strengthen our functions by increasing the number of related aircrafts to ten and intending to strengthen the information collecting capability of satellites.

In addition, we will promptly establish a seven-quadrant satellite system and promote its positioning as a policy to secure the stability of Asia and Oceania and thereby enhance Japan's international presence. Furthermore, since effective collaboration with foreign countries is necessary, we will hold a "Comprehensive Japan-US Dialogue on the Space Field" and will continue to cooperate in grasping the space situation between Japan and the United States.

[The North Korea issue]

376. Preventing North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and carrying out missile launches

It is essential to find solutions for the abduction issue, nuclear weapons development and missile launches. North Korea's nuclear tests and missile launches pose a serious threat to Japan's security and a challenge to the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) regime. Aside from continuing to take measures against North Korea, we will take actions based on UN Security Council resolutions and in consent with concerned countries.

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377. Realizing a fast return of all abducted victims

Regarding the abduction issue, as a result of pressure of the second Abe administration by applying various measures and based on a re-investigation without paying attention to past investigations, North Korea promised that the issue was resolved and the Japan-North Korea talks began. But since there is no progress so far, we will not mitigate sanctions and will not offer support but will take decisive actions, including the strengthening of sanctions.

Abduction is a serious crime committed by a "state". We will continue to urge North Korea to ensure the safety of all abducted victims, instantly release them, investigate the truth and hand over all offenders regardless of government approval.

By cooperating with the United Nations and other nations, Japan aims to resolve these problems in its own accord and will thereby realize the returning of all abducted victims to our prestigious state.

[Securing out territory and territorial waters and airspace]

378. Establishing a governmental organization responsible for territorial sovereignty issues

As part of strengthening efforts as a nation to rebuild our policy of territorial sovereignty, we will further enhance our internal and external dissemination of information by the newly established "Territorial Sovereignty Planning and Coordinating Office" and will strengthen the position of this governmental organization to deal with all territorial and sovereignty issues. Regarding the issues of the Northern Territories and Takeshima that continues to be occupied, we will revitalize the negotiations and show our strong will.

379. Establishing third-party research institutions for academic research on territory, sovereignty and history

We will establish a third-party organization to conduct academic research on new territorial issues and our history. We will disseminate public awareness and public relations activities on Japanese

claims based on law and history to our domestic and the international society.

Moreover, unfair claims contrary to historical facts have been made publicly, and the honor of our nation has been severely impaired by the recent trial on post-war compensations and the discourse on comfort women. We will therefore utilize the research of the new institution to accurately refute and disprove these statements.

380. Legal foundation to secure remote islands at our border

We will establish the “Boundary Remote Island Preservation and Promotion Act” and the “Law on Unmanned Border Remote Islands Management” to contribute to the appropriate promotion and management of border islands.

381. Strengthening the effective control of the Senkaku Islands and keeping them under diplomatic rule

We will maintain our policies to strengthen the effective control over the Senkaku Islands which fall under our uninhabited islands policy but are still part of Japan’s territory. We strive for a stable maintenance of the islands and surrounding waters by considering deploying public officials protecting the islands and will implement support measures for the surrounding fishery environment.

382. Strengthening regional security

In order to ensure the safety of the world’s sixth largest exclusive economic zone and 852 islands, we will prepare a system to protect our territory and territorial waters by expanding the personnel, equipment and coverage of the Japan Coast Guard. In particular, regarding the Nansei Islands, the role of the police, Japan Coast Guard and Self-Defense Forces is emphasized and we will enhance their ability to monitor and counter illegal acts of foreign fishing vessels in the waters surrounding remote islands as well as their responsiveness to foreign ships in the waters surrounding the Senkaku Islands.

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Administrative and governmental reforms

We will implement real public administrative and governmental reforms based on our political responsibility towards the citizens.

383. Promoting administrative reforms

Since changes in our society create new administrative demands, an administrative reform plays an essential role. We will advance this reform by creating, eliminating and reorganizing administrative roles to realize the original purpose to improve administrative functions and policy effects by utilizing limited human and material resources most efficiently and flexibly.

One of the most important objectives of the administrative reform is “improving the quality of administrative services” beneficial for citizens. Parallely to supervising the administration not to divert from the common sense of the private sector, we will maximize the administrative capacity and realize high-quality administration trusted by the people.

Our party will clarify the role sharing of political officers, and promote an administrative reform based on our political responsibility and mutual trust.

384. Central government agency reform

Our main goal since 2001 is the reorganization of ministries and agencies. We will verify whether the goal has been attained in more than ten years to strengthen the functions of the official residence of the Prime Minister and eliminate harmful effects of a vertically divided administration. For this purpose, we first reviewed the organization and operations of the administration under the political leadership of our party so that Cabinet Secretariat and the Cabinet Office can serve as the primary institution to assist the Prime Minister.

We will continue with the verification of the reorganization of ministries and agencies, while considering changes in administrative demands and future trends and will consider reforming central governmental ministries including their reorganization.

385. Slimming the Cabinet Office and Cabinet Secretariat

Our party compiled a recommendation, also addressed by the Prime Minister, on the slimming of the Cabinet Secretariat and Cabinet Office to flexibly respond to policy challenges. We will submit this recommendation to the next ordinary Diet session, and will thereby unify the Cabinet Office's 20 operations and transfer functions to each ministry and agency to eliminate duplicating work by the Cabinet Secretariat and Cabinet Office.

Additionally, in order to improve the overall coordination of policy planning, each ministry will establish a system to fulfill general adjustment function by not letting the whole state administration being limited by the interests and constraints of individual projects. We will carry out the first major reviews since the central government reforms have been established.

386. Promoting the elimination of squandering

Politicians have to take responsibility for expenditure reforms. Therefore, in conjunction with the process of reviewing the government budgeting of administrative projects, we conducted hearing, based on the "administrative project review sheet", on projects to identify operations that are not effective and efficient and thereby seek to abolish squandering. Therefore, the "squandering project eradication team" has been established by our "administrative reform promotion headquarters". We will also promote the eradication of squandering by the political leadership in the future.

387. The Administrative Business Review Sheet

The "Administrative Business Review Sheet" sets a formula to check on the current enforcement status of each business as well as the flow of funds and to evaluate the likelihood of results and goals since there are many projects that do not follow the quantitative indicators of "actual results (outcome)" and "actual effects (output)". Thereby, it is impossible for the public to check the outcome and effects of projects in the PDCA cycle.

In the future, we will not approve budget for businesses that cannot provide the quantitative indicators of outcome and output and we seek to realize the correction of inadequate descriptions in

all ministries based on the “Administrative Business Review Sheets”. Even if a project is accepted, it will only be a model project with a minimum budget and will be abolished if the results and effects of the project cannot be verified in the following fiscal year.

388. Civil servant system reform

In the regular Diet session this year, the law to revise the civil servant system was established, which our party promised in the last general election campaign, and the public servant system reform has greatly advanced.

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In May, the “Cabinet Personnel Bureau” was established to realize strategic talent placement corresponding to important policies of the Cabinet and to eliminate the hindrance of vertically divided administrations as well as to secure a unified administrative management in each ministry.

In order to be able to respond to citizens’ demands from now on, we will foster excellent worker who feel the significance of working for citizens and will establish a system that rewards hard-working people, will offer awards base on ability and achievements and will implement strict punishments on personnel affairs. Furthermore, to promote women’s active performance as national civil servants, we will advance work-life balance by the “Working Style Reform” while also expanding the recruitment of women, nurturing women’s achievement goals and supporting women’s career development.

389. Correcting the age structure of civil servants

The age structure of civil servants is turning into an inverted triangle due to advanced aging, as well as the reduction of work and capacity until retirement and the suppression of new hiring under the Democratic Party’s administration. Therefore, we will promote an organizational conversion and will improve the vitality of the civil servant system via appropriate retirement management by the rigorous supervision of the monitoring committee and via utilizing the early retirement system to systematically recruit talented personnel.

To create an environment for people to work until retirement, and in addition in expanding the placement of professional staff, we will take immediate response measures to expand the reappointment system for retirees since the starting age for pension payment is rising. Thereby, while taking the trend of the private sector into consideration, we will develop an environment for people to work until they reach the age 65, including the introduction of the retirement age system. In addition, regarding current reemployment restrictions, we will strictly deal with *amakudari* and dispel the public’s doubt about *amakudari*. Concerning reappointment, we will ensure thorough personnel management via awards and punishments based on abilities and achievements.

390. Reforming independent administrative agencies and special accounting

Based on the recommendation of our party, the “Law to Revise Parts of the Law on Special Accounting” was issued in an extraordinary Diet session last year, and at an ordinary Diet session this year, the “Law to Revise Parts of the Law on Independent Administrative Agencies” was established.

Regarding the special accounting reform, we are steadily progressing with the consolidation and revision of accounting to utilize surpluses and revise expenditures. Thereby, we will continue to thoroughly eliminate squandering in the future, and we will constantly review the necessity of segmental accounting.

Regarding the reform of independent administrative agencies, we have drastically reviewed systematical and organizational aspects to maximize the policy implementation function of each agency and to improve the quality and efficiency of operation in the future. In accordance with the recommendation of our party to consolidate and eliminate individual businesses in April, we will continue implementing the reform of these agencies and to further improve the planning function of the administration by considering the businesses of independent administration as the remaining execution department.

For specific agencies expected to achieve global top-level results among R&D agencies, we will adopt special laws by separate legislations, but strictly judged by the agency reform progress.

391. The Board of Audit

We will prevent illegal use and squandering of money by a reform that clarifies the responsibilities of civil servants. Therefore, we will establish the “Reform Act of the Department of Audit and Inspection”, expand the affairs and authority of the Board of Audit, promote the correction of unfair matters, and clarify the responsibilities of budget execution officials. At the same time, we will set up penalties to prevent the backing of money and aim to establish the “Penalties Bill to Prevent Civil Servants and Public Officials to Be Falsely Punished” which will prevent civil servants from storing illegal funds. Also, the Board of Audit is independent and can monitor securely.

392. Regulating the political neutrality of local civil officers

By promoting decentralization, it is essential to recognize that local government official, with administrative responsibilities, are servants of the entire population and need to maintain political neutral. Therefore, we will implement penalties for local civil officials, just like for national civil servants, and we will amend the “Local Civil Service Law” to regulate certain political activities.

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393. Promoting the reform toward decentralization

We will promote the decentralization reform to create a framework for local governments to resolve local issues in line with local characteristics as an important foundation for regional revitalization. In order to support enthusiastic and wise regional provinces, we will propose the transfer of authority to provinces and promote the deregulation of the recruitment system to encourage the maximum realization of the reform achievements by also addressing information dissemination and the formation of good practices.

We will furthermore secure basic finances, such as local tax allocation, indispensable for the stable fiscal management of local governments.

394. Enhancing regional functions by promoting decentralization

We will conduct in-depth discussions between the national and local governments by utilizing

regional organizations, such as the National Governors Association and the National Consultants Association. In addition, we will strengthen the functions of local councils, whose roles are expanding with the promotion of decentralization. We aim to clarify and legislate the distinction of political activities as well as the responsibilities and duties of local assembly members to grasp residents' intentions.

395. Promoting the *doshu* system

We will advance the introduction of the *doshu* system, based on a national consensus. Until the introduction, to realize regional revitalization, we will organize the role division of the state, prefecture and municipalities and we will try to strengthen the functions of local municipalities, which are most familiar to citizens.

396. Respecting the recommendation system of national personnel authorities

We will respect the recommendations of national personnel authorities to secure a proper salary level for national civil servants as a compensatory measure based on the constitutional basic labor rights.

397. Reforming the number of members of the House of Representatives and the election system

Regarding the House of Representatives, we first realized “0 increase, 5 decrease” and avoided an unconstitutional situation by achieving halving the gap between electoral districts based on the “immediate census” determined by law. As a further constraint reduction, our party has already summarized the proposal to reduce the proportion of members by 30 and but did not reach an agreement with other parties. Therefore, we will respect the report of the “Election System Investigation Committee” consisting of experts and established by the Chairman of the House of Representatives and will continue to work on the election system reform.

398. Securing the transparency of political funds

We will ensure even greater transparency of political funds. We also try to realize transparent revenues and expenditures of political activities, such as labor union. In addition, we will promote individual donations by expanding tax incentives for a wider support by citizens.

399. Fundamentally reinforcing the public document management system

We will strengthen the organizational structure of National Archives and build a new facility in the Kasumigaseki area to preserve official documents, which are active records of the state's operations, for eternity and will be used as intellectual resources shared with the public and accessible for citizens.

400. Commemorative ceremonies at the “Day of Recovering Sovereignty” and the “*Takeshima Day*”

On April 28th, we will hold a ceremony to celebrate the emperor's appointment and the “restoring of sovereignty and international integration”. It will be held each year from now on. Also, we consider holding a commemorative ceremony on “Founding Day” (February 11th) and consider establishing the “*Takeshima Day*” (February 22nd) in the Shimane prefecture.

The Constitution

The constitution is the highest legal regulation and precise foundation of the nation. We will amend and restore the constitution for the citizens.

401. Submitting the amended draft constitution to the National Assembly and implementing a referendum

Since our party has voluntarily formulated a constitutional law, we regard it as a party policy. In order to break out of the occupational regime and to realize Japan as a sovereign state, we have stipulated many recommendations for revising the constitution.

In the meantime, our party established the Constitutional Investigation Committee in the House of Representatives in 2000, a Constitutional Referendum Law in 2007 and a Constitutional Review Board at the House of Representatives, while implementing law to revise the constitution.

On June 20th, 2014, the Partial Amendment Act of the Constitutional Reform National Referendum Act was promulgated as well as enforced and submitted the “Draft Constitution Reform” to the House of Representatives. We will enable the revision of the constitution by submitting the amended “Draft Constitution” to the Diet, implementing a national referendum to revise the constitution and while also obtaining the wide understanding of the public.

At the same time, due to the enactment of the Partial Amendment Act of the Constitutional Reform National Referendum Act, the legal voting age for amending the Constitution will be 18 years or older after four years. Therefore, we will lower the legal voting age to 18 or older ahead of the schedule.

402. Proposing a revised constitution draft

Our party announced the “draft amendment of the Japanese constitution” in accordance with the 60th anniversary of the San Francisco Peace Treaty (April 28th, 1954) on April 28th, 2012, which is the day when our sovereignty has been restored.

- (1) In the preamble, we will clarify the three basic principles of “national sovereignty”, “respect for basic human rights” and “pacifism” and will announce that the foundation of our societies are families as well as the respect of the Japanese people’s history and culture and that local citizens should mutually help each other.
- (2) The Emperor is the head of the state, Japan and the Japanese people as an integrated symbol of “public activity” by attending national and local events. We will also add provisions of our national flag, national anthem and era names.
- (3) We will clearly state our right of self-defense, establish a defense army prescribed to the obligation to preserve our territory.
- (4) We will stipulate the respect for families and mutual help.
- (5) We have newly stipulated the obligation to “protect the environment”, “protect overseas Japanese”, “protect crime victims” and “improve the educational environment” in our nation.

- (6) We prescribe the authority of the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's delegation.
- (7) We stipulated to ensure fiscal soundness.
- (8) We clarified the main points of local autonomy and the cooperative relationship of the national government and local governments.
- (9) We have formulated an "emergency provision" to respond to armed attacks and large-scale disasters.
- (10) We relaxed the requirement for the revision of the constitution to a "simple majority of the citizens" and made it easier for citizens, as sovereign owners, to gain opportunities to participate in constitutional decisions via a "referendum".